



Transcending Boundaries

66th Annual Meeting Guide

The Southern Power Plan:

Strategic Resources. Shared Advantages.



Welcome

Governor Tate Reeves and the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) welcome you to our 66th Anniversary Celebration.

We owe thanks to our Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Board Members, and Associate Members for their support and guidance in event planning and preparation.

If you need assistance or have any questions, do not hesitate to ask our staff.

Meeting Locations

Plenary Sessions..... Hard Rock Live Room
Associate Members Meeting &
Board Business Session.....Rock 'N' Roll
Breakfast & Lunch.....Satisfaction Event Center
Monday Reception Tequila's Cabana Area
Tuesday Reception.....Ground Zero Blues Club
Registration Presley

Social Outreach

Want to increase your reach online? Use **#SSEB66** to discuss the Annual Meeting on social media. We encourage you to tag us on LinkedIn, X, Threads, Facebook, and Instagram!

Recording

At various times, we may record and/or broadcast guest speakers and discussion panels online. Please keep this in mind when moving around the meeting room.

Credentials

Conference credentials are required for admittance to all SSEB program sessions and social events. Credentials must be worn in clear view during all meeting activities. Credentials are color-coded as indicated below:

	Maroon	Board Member
	Jewel Blue	Associate Member
	Pink	Planning Committee
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	Saddle Brown	Bronze Sponsor
	Royal Blue	Exhibitor Sponsor
	Seafoam Green	Guest Speaker
	Green	Guest
	Red	SSEB Staff
	Red and White	Media

Media

Members of the media are invited to all plenary sessions. Press will receive a striped ribbon on their credentials that must be visible at all times. Media credentials may be revoked at any time at the discretion of SSEB staff.

Agenda

Monday, September 21

7:00 AM Networking Breakfast

8:00 AM Associate Members Meeting

Presiding: Wes Robinson, Senior Director, State Affairs, American Chemistry Council, SSEB Associate Members Chairman

Welcome New Members

Roundtable Discussion on Policy Priorities

Business Session

**9:30 AM Associate Members Meeting
Adjournment**

**10:00 AM Annual Business Session &
Executive Committee Meeting**

Presiding: The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor of Mississippi, SSEB Chairman

Chairman's Remarks

The Honorable Tate Reeves

Treasurer's Report

Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

2026–2027 Nominating Committee Report

Incoming Chair's Remarks

Proposed Policy Resolutions

Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee, Vice Chair

Remarks by Secretary Emeritus

Kenneth J. Nemeth

12:00 PM Welcoming Luncheon

1:00 PM OPENING SESSION & WELCOME THE SOUTHERN POWER PLAN: STRATEGIC RESOURCES. SHARED ADVANTAGES.

Presiding: Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

Presentation of Colors

Army JROTC, Ocean Springs High School

National Anthem

Lundy Cheramie

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Welcome to Biloxi & the Magnolia State!

Pedro Cherry, Chairman, President, & CEO,
Mississippi Power

Chairman's Address

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor of
Mississippi

1:50 PM SESSION II | THE GOVERNORS ENERGY CAUCUS

Moderated by: Patrick Sullivan, President,
Mississippi Energy Institute

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor of
Mississippi

The Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón,
Governor of Puerto Rico

2:30 PM Keynote Address

John Eunice, Principal Deputy Associate
Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency

3:00 PM Media Availability

Held in the Twitty Room

3:00 PM Experience Biloxi & Gulf Coast Treasures (On Your Own)

5:30 PM Governor's Reception

Location: Tequila's Cabana Area

Featuring a performance by Breeze Cayolle & New
Orleans

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 AM Networking Breakfast

9:00 AM Call to Order

SESSION III | THE SOUTH AS A LEADER IN NUCLEAR & ADVANCED GENERATION

Keynote Speaker

Keith LeChien, Ph.D., Co-founder & Chief
Technology Officer, Pacific Fusion

Panel Session

Moderated by: The Honorable Chris Brown,
Northern District Commissioner & Chairman,
Mississippi Public Service Commission

Marc Nichol, Vice President, Nuclear Deployment
& Fuel Cycle, Nuclear Energy Institute

Scott Hunnewell, Vice President of the New
Nuclear Program, Tennessee Valley Authority

Nick Irvin, Director, Research Strategy, Next-Generation Nuclear & Cross-Cutting R&D, Southern Company

10:30 AM Networking Break

**11:00 AM SESSION IV | SOUTH'S NEXT
ECONOMIC BOOM: BUILDING A
STRATEGIC RESOURCE ECOSYSTEM**

Moderated by: John Higginbotham, Vice
Chancellor for Research & Economic Development,
The University of Mississippi

Benjamin Wernette, Ph.D., Principal Scientist &
Strategic Partnerships Lead, Southern States
Energy Board

Joe Hagerman, Director, Energy & Natural
Resources, Mississippi Development Authority

Steven Schmitz, Managing Partner, Oleo-X Critical
Minerals

12:00 PM Networking Luncheon

**Special Luncheon Presentation: The Chevron
Pascagoula Refinery and America's Energy
Security**

Alan Sudduth, Manager, Global Public Affairs for
Mississippi and East Gulf Coast, Chevron

**1:30 PM Optional Field Trip: Chevron Pascagoula
Refinery**

**1:30 PM Experience Biloxi & Gulf Coast
Treasures (On Your Own)**

**5:00 PM Optional Field Trip Returns to Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino**

**8:30 PM The Gridkeeper's Last Set:
An After-Hours Celebration of Kenneth
Nemeth's 54 Years of Service to SSEB**

Location: Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi

Featuring a performance by Super Chikan & The Fighting Cocks

Wednesday, September 23

8:00 AM Networking Breakfast

9:00 AM Call to Order

**SESSION V | ENERGY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT – A STATE DIRECTOR'S
PERSPECTIVE**

Keynote Address

Drew Marsh, Chair of the Board & Chief Executive Officer, Entergy

Haley Fisackerly, President & CEO, Entergy Mississippi

Panel Session

Moderated by: Gray Swoope, President & CEO, VisionFirst Advisors

Harry Coker, Jr., Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

Bill Cork, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority

Ellen McNair, Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce

Clint O'Neal, Executive Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission

10:20 AM Keynote Address

Dominic Genetti, Senior Vice President, Carbon Capture & Storage, ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions

10:45 AM SESSION VI | STRATEGIC INTERSECTIONS: DEFENSE, ENERGY SECURITY, & CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Panel Session

Moderated by: Jace Ponder, Director of the Mississippi Governor's Office of Military Affairs
Tigerron Wells, Vice President, Government Affairs – SC, Duke Energy Corporation

Robert La Branche, Alabama Director of State & Local Government Relations, Lockheed Martin Space

Sean Morrell, Nuclear Energy Portfolio Manager, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems

11:45 AM Closing Remarks

12:00 PM Farewell Luncheon (Grab & Go)

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