



UPMG

UTILITY
PURCHASING
MANAGEMENT
GROUP

Serving the Utility Industry since 1924

UPMG 2026

Sept 13-16 | Austin, TX

Utility Supply Chain
conference led by Utility
Supply Chain
professionals

Content that
resonates: 20+ timely
and relevant topics
and counting

150+ attendees from
35 Utilities and both
local and national
suppliers

Procurement Outlook, Tariffs, EPC Contracting, Reporting Automation, Demand Planning and Forecasting, Contractor Performance, Grid Evolution, Economic Outlook, AI Use Cases, State of Water Infrastructure, Labor Shortages, Talent, Intelligent Infrastructure, Supplier Risk Management, ESG Strategy, Supply Chain Sustainability

Our Valued Partners

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POWER LOGISTICS

HOWARD
POWER SOLUTIONS



UPMG 2026 Conference Agenda

Sunday, September 13th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome Reception	East Grand Foyer

Monday, September 14th

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast	Buffet in East Grand Ballroom, seating in Ballroom 7
8:35 am - 8:45 am	Welcome Remarks: UPMG Chair Brandon Zimmerman, Southern Company	Ballroom 8
	Safety Moment: David Cottenden, General Manager, Ardmore Logistics	Ballroom 8
8:45 am - 9:45 am	General Session: The Next Era of Utility Procurement: Five Priorities for Building a Resilient Utility Value Chain Conrad Snover, CEO, ProcureAbility	Ballroom 8
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 am - 11:15 am	General Session: The Future of AI-Empowered Robotics in The Utility Industry Colleen Zupan, GEP Ben Ford, AEP Aaron Michaels, Pacific Gas & Electric	Ballroom 8
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Lunch	Buffet in East Grand Ballroom, seating in Ballroom 7
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	General Session Panel: Additive Manufacturing & Power Generation Michael Douglass, Lincoln Electric	Ballroom 8
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Power in Partnerships: Peer-to-Peer Exchange I	Ballroom 7
	1. Breaking Through the Bottleneck: Managing Long Lead Times, Material Availability, and Supply Risk (Dan del Sobral, Senior Executive Advisor, GEP)	
	2. From Aging Assets to Intelligent Infrastructure: The Next Chapter of Grid Evolution (Whitney Woods, Director of Utility Procurement, CenterPoint Energy)	
	3. From Disruption to Advantage: Turning Supplier Risk into Strategic Resilience (Casey Fallon, Director Supply Chain Strategy & Fleet Operations, SMUD)	
	4. The Talent Pipeline: Building the Next Generation of Supply Chain Leaders (Melanie Farrell, Vice President Supply Chain, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA))	
	5. From Bid to Build: Optimizing Contractor Performance Across the Project Lifecycle (Brandon Zimmerman, UPMG Chair, Southern Company)	
	6. Balancing Affordability and Reliability: Supply Chain's Strategic Role (Stacy Ritchey, Director, Generation Procurement & Warehousing, PPL Corporation)	
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Break	
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Breakout Sessions Day 1: Impact on the Utility Supply Chain	
	A. From Data to Decisions: Advanced Analytics and Supply Chain Visibility Jason Hairston, BPA Quentin Furrow from Eugene Water & Electric Board	Breakout 401
	B. Water Utilities at a Crossroads: Resilience, Growth and the Water-Energy Nexus Jennifer M. Capitola, Executive Director, California Water Association	Breakout 404
	C. The AI-Enabled Utility: Accelerating Digital Innovation and Performance Stacy Ritchey, Director, Generation Procurement & Warehousing, PPL Corporation Victoria Baker, TVA	Ballroom 7
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	General Session: Project Delivery in a Constrained Marketplace Amanda Hinett and Stephen White, WSP	Ballroom 8
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Day 1 Remarks: Conrad Snover, CEO, ProcureAbility	Ballroom 8
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Evening Networking Event Sponsored by Prysmian	Speakeasy (412 Congress Ave D)

Tuesday, September 15th

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast	Ballroom 7
	Women in Utilities Breakfast: Sponsored by Ferguson	Breakout 402-403
8:35 am - 8:45 am	Welcome Remarks: UPMG Chair Brandon Zimmerman, Southern Company	Ballroom 8
	Safety Moment: David Cottenden, General Manager, Ardmore Logistics	Ballroom 8
8:45 am - 9:30 am	General Session: Navigating Tariffs: Strategies for Multi-Utility Resilience in Evolving Markets Scott Wilezol, Duke Energy	Ballroom 8
9:30 am - 10:15 am	General Session: The Future of Nuclear Paul Lorskulsint Chief Nuclear Officer, Urenco US	Ballroom 8
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 am - 11:15 am	General Session: Economist Steven Eisen	Ballroom 8
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Lunch	
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Breakout Sessions Day 2:	
	A. The Peaks and Pains of a Progressive EPC program: A Case Study and Lessons Learned Cindy Kolecki and Paula Pell, Clarity Consulting Group	Breakout 401
	B. The New Risk Landscape: Geopolitical Challenges Reshaping Utilities Casey Fallon, Director Supply Chain Strategy & Fleet Operations, SMUD	Breakout 404
	C. Powering Results: Bridging Strategy and Execution in a Dynamic Utility Landscape Andrew Bosley, Senior Manager, ProcureAbility Claire Hime, Senior Manager, Pacific Gas & Electric	Breakout 402-403
	D. AI Supporting Affordability in the Utility Industry Rahul Gujral and Katherine Arnold, Alix Partners	Ballroom 8
1:15 pm - 2:10 pm	Power in Partnerships: Peer-to-Peer Exchange II	Ballroom 7
	1. Breaking Through the Bottleneck: Managing Long Lead Times, Material Availability, and Supply Risk (Dan del Sobral, Senior Executive Advisor, GEP)	
	2. From Aging Assets to Intelligent Infrastructure: The Next Chapter of Grid Evolution (Whitney Woods, Director of Utility Procurement, CenterPoint Energy)	
	3. From Disruption to Advantage: Turning Supplier Risk into Strategic Resilience (Casey Fallon, Director Supply Chain Strategy & Fleet Operations, SMUD)	
	4. The Talent Pipeline: Building the Next Generation of Supply Chain Leaders (Melanie Farrell, Vice President Supply Chain, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA))	
	5. From Bid to Build: Optimizing Contractor Performance Across the Project Lifecycle (Brandon Zimmerman, UPMG Chair, Southern Company)	
	6. Balancing Affordability and Reliability: Supply Chain's Strategic Role (Stacy Ritchey, Director, Generation Procurement & Warehousing, PPL Corporation)	
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	General Session: How to Partner with Suppliers in an Ever-Increasing Transactional World Moderator: Casey Hicks, K D Johnson Inc.	Ballroom 8
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Break	
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	General Session CPO Panel: Moderator: Brandon Zimmerman, UPMG Chair, Southern Company Panelists: Adrienne Collins, Chief Procurement Officer, Southern Company Melanie Farrell, Vice President Supply Chain, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Elissa Ouyang, Vice President, Facilities, Fleet & Procurement, California Water Service Mike Rich, Chief Procurement Officer, American Water	Ballroom 8
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Day 2 Remarks: Conrad Snover, CEO, ProcureAbility	
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Break	Ballroom 8
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	Supplier Networking	Ballroom 5

Wednesday, September 16th

7:15 am - 8:00 am	Board Meeting	Boardroom (next to 404)
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Attendee Breakfast	Buffet in East Grand Ballroom, seating in Ballroom 7
	CPO Breakfast (invite only)	Breakout 402-403
9:05 am - 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks: UPMG Chair Brandon Zimmerman, Southern Company	Ballroom 8
	Safety Moment: David Cottenden, General Manager, Ardmore Logistics	Ballroom 8
9:15 am - 10:10 am	Utility-Only Networking	Ballroom 8
	Supplier Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting (all suppliers welcome)	Breakout 402-403
10:15 am - 11:15 am	General Session Panel: The 'New' Supply Chain Sustainability: Define It, Adapt to It, and Improve the Bottom Line: Moderator: Helen Gao, Responsible Sourcing Manager, San Diego Gas & Electric Panelists: Rahul Gujral, Partner, AlixPartners Caroline Larose, Sustainability Leader, Accenture Sustainability Strategy Practice Greg Tellier, Director of Utility and Demolition Accounts, Alpert & Alpert Iron & Metal, Inc.	Ballroom 8
11:15 am - 11:25 am	A Look Ahead to UPMG 2027	Ballroom 8
11:25 am	Conference Concludes	Ballroom 8
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	Benchmarking Lunch (for Benchmarking participants only)	Breakout 402-403
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Benchmarking Session TJI Energy (for Benchmarking participants only)	Breakout 402-403