



NOW 2026 – Full Agenda

Building Momentum. Shaping the Future of Nuclear

August 4, 2026

DAY ONE – From Strategy to Deployment

8:00 – 8:10 AM | Welcome & Local Leadership Remarks

Bob Morris, *NOW 2026 Emcee, Board Chair, Tennessee Nuclear Network*

Tracy Boatner, *President & CEO, East Tennessee Economic Council*

Mayor Indya Kincannon, *City of Knoxville, Tennessee*

Mayor Terry Frank, *Anderson County, Tennessee*

Mayor Wade Creswell, *Roane County, Tennessee*

8:10 – 8:30 AM | Congressional Perspectives

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, *U.S. Representative TN-03*

Video Remarks: **United States Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty**

8:30 – 9:25 AM | Securing America's Nuclear Future: What's at Stake

Featured Speaker: **Brandon Williams**, *Undersecretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, U.S. DOE and NNSA Administrator*

PANEL

Moderator: Martin Williamson, *Senior Director of Global Security and Strategic Partnerships, CNS*

Todd Ailes, *President & CEO, CNS*

Joseph Miller, *President of Government Operations, BWXT*

Brandon Williams, *Undersecretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, U.S. DOE and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration*

Moe Khaleel, *Associate Laboratory Director for National Security Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

9:25 AM | Featured Speaker: Fusion Industry Perspective

Featured Speaker: **Christofer Mowry**, *Chief Executive Officer*, Type One Energy

9:35 AM | WELCOME TO TENNESSEE

Featured Speaker: **Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally**, State of Tennessee

9:40 – 10:10 AM | Tennessee's Nuclear Leadership

Featured Speaker: **Governor Bill Lee**, State of Tennessee

Fireside Chat with: **Commissioner Deniece Thomas**, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

10:10 – 10:25 AM | Networking Break

10:25 AM – 11:20 AM | Advanced Reactors in Action

Moderator: **Dan Stout**, Advanced Nuclear Advisors

Rita Baranwal, *Chief Nuclear Officer*, Radiant

Ed Blandford, *Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder*, Kairos Power

Patrick Looney, *Senior Vice President of Advanced Nuclear Market Development*, GE Vernova Hitachi

Bryan Dorsey, *Senior Director of APX Development*, Westinghouse Electric Company

Clayton Scott, *Chief Commercial Officer*, NuScale

11:20 AM – 12:10 PM | Oak Ridge in Action: Three Missions, One Future

Featured Speaker: **Tim Walsh**, *Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management*, U.S. DOE

Moderator: **Jim Blankenhorn**, *President & CEO*, UCOR

Mary Helen Hitson, *Y-12 Field Office Manager*, National Nuclear Security Administration

Trey Wheeler, *Oak Ridge National Lab Site Manager*, U.S. Department of Energy

Erik Olds, *Manager, Oak Ridge Environmental Management*, U.S. Department of Energy

12:10 – 1:00 PM | Lunch & Featured Speaker:

12:10 PM | Lunch Buffet

12:45 PM | Featured Speaker: **Xyla Foxlin**, Social Media Influencer

1:00 – 1:15 PM | Featured Industry Perspective

Featured Speaker: **Felice Presti**, *Manager of Nuclear Power Operations*, Bechtel

1:15 – 2:00 PM | Fueling the Future: Enrichment and Fabrication

Moderator: **Michael Russell**, *Vice President of Nuclear & Quality Services*, Strata-G

Jean-Luc Palayer, *President & CEO*, Orano USA

Ben Jordan, *Director*, Centrus Energy

Joel Duling, *President*, TRISO-X

Christo Liebenberg, *President, Co-Founder, and Chief Technical Advisor*, LIS Technologies

Keeley Marrocco, *Chief Operating Officer*, Standard Nuclear

2:00 – 2:45 PM | Fuel Cycle Spotlight: Recycling Used Nuclear Fuel

Moderator: **Seth Kirshenber**, *Executive Director*, Energy Communities Alliance

Marla Morales, *Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition*, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy

Jean-Luc Palayer, *President & CEO*, Orano USA

Leigh Martin, *Section Head, Integrated Fuel Cycle Section*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Ed Petit de Mange, *VP of Fuel Recycling*, Oklo

2:45 – 3:00 PM | Networking Break

3:00 – 3:45 PM | Tennessee's Advantage: Resources for Nuclear Growth

Moderator: **Bill Tindal**, *Director*, Tennessee Nuclear Network [TN²]

David Salyers, *Commissioner*, Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation

Gale Hauck, *Acting Deputy Director*, Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN);
Technical Area Lead, DOE Microreactor Program, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Braden Stover, *Senior Advisor for Nuclear and Quantum Strategy*, Tennessee Dept. of
Economic & Community Development

Meryl Harris, *Target Market Specialist*, Tennessee Valley Authority

3:45 – 4:15 PM | From First Pour to First Power: What It Takes to Succeed

Moderator: **Peter Newby**, *President*, MS Technology

Will Wagner, *Vice President of Nuclear Power*, Bechtel

Greg Wilkett, *SRPPF Project Director*, Fluor

Joshua Patterson, *Sr. Vice President Market & Strategy*, DOE, Kiewit Nuclear Solutions

4:15 – 5:00 PM | The U.S. Epicenter for Nuclear: Will We Deliver?

Moderator: **Hash Hashemian**, *President & CEO*, AMS

Stephen Streiffer, *Director*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Mike Laufer, *CEO and Co-Founder*, Kairos Power

Brandon Gibson, *Chief Operating Officer*, State of Tennessee

Matt Rasmussen, *Chief Nuclear Officer*, Tennessee Valley Authority

5:00 PM --ATOMIC AFTER PARTY--

August 5, 2026

DAY TWO – Innovation, Workforce, and What's Next

8:00 – 8:05 AM | Welcome to Day Two

Bob Morris, *Board Chair*, Tennessee Nuclear Network

Mayor Warren Gooch, *City of Oak Ridge*

8:05 – 8:25 AM | Fireside Chat: Reclaiming Nuclear Leadership

Featured Speaker: **Annie Caputo**, *President*, Caputo Energy Advisory, LLC

Interviewed by: **Steve Jones**, *Steve Jones & Associates*

8:25 – 9:20 AM | Fusion: From Physics to Power Markets

Featured speaker: **Scott Hsu**, *Fusion Partner*, Lowercarbon Capital

Moderator: **Troy Carter**, *Director of Fusion Energy Division*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Matt Miles, *Senior Vice President External Affairs*, Type One Energy

Bibake Uppal, *President*, Kyoto Fusioneering

Dominick Bindl, *Chief Operating Officer*, Realta Fusion

Beth Shelton, *Director of the State of Tennessee Division of Radiological Health*, TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation

Guin Shaw, *Partner*, Rutherford Energy Ventures

9:20 – 9:50 AM | Fireside Chat: Genesis Mission: Using AI to Win the Race

Stephen Streiffer, *Director*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Jason Remer, *Nuclear Policy Advisor*, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

9:50 – 10:05 AM | Networking Break

10:05 – 11:05 AM | Powering the AI Future: The Need for Reliable Power

Moderator: **Scott Atchley**, *Chief Technology Officer* for the National Center for Computational Science and the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Paul Artman, *Fellow System Design*, AMD

Soumyendu Sarkar, *Senior Director & Senior Distinguished Technologist of Artificial Intelligence*, HPE

Michelle Vincenti Urpi, Intel

Levi Patterson, *Director of Energy, Science, and AI Infrastructure Policy*, NVIDIA

Andy Roehr, *Managing Director -Energy*, Baker Tilly

Erin Henderson, *Director of Energy Infrastructure*, Microsoft

11:05 – 11:25 AM | Featured Speaker: Powering the Deployment Decade

Introducer: **Congressman Chuck Fleischmann**

Featured Speaker: **Mike Skaggs**, *Interim President & CEO*, Tennessee Valley Authority

11:25 AM – 12:10 PM | From Oak Ridge to the World: The Power of Isotopes

Moderator: **Julie Ezold**, *Technical Advisor for the Radioisotope Science and Technology Division*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Jeremy Busby, *Associate Laboratory Director, Isotope Science and Enrichment Directorate*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Sarah Schaefer, *President and Project Manager*, Isotek Systems, LLC

Carolyn Anderson, *UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Nuclear Medicine: Radiopharmaceutical Therapies*, UT-Knoxville, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Dave Frate, *Radioisotope Power System Deputy Program Manager*, NASA Glenn Research Center

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Student Breakout Session: Networking with Confidence

Session Lead: **Dr. Naomi Asher**, *Founder & Principal Consultant*, The Maven Consulting

- What: Learn practical strategies to network with confidence, make lasting professional connections, and create new career opportunities.
- Where: Room 301D
- Time: 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

12:10 PM – 1:10 PM | Lunch & Featured Speaker

12:50 PM Featured Speaker: The Talent Equation

Featured Speaker: **Commissioner Deniece Thomas**, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

1:10 – 2:25 PM | Workforce Demand

Featured Speaker & Moderator: **Michelle Goodson**, *Director, ORAU STEM Accelerator, Oak Ridge Associated Universities*

Will Trumm, *Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative, Human Resources and Federal Affairs Officer, TVA*

Jason Hatfield, *Vice President and Chief of Staff, TRISO-X*

Sonya Johnson, *Public Affairs and Stakeholder Management Director, UCOR*

John Langford, *Chief Technology Officer Enrichment Operations, BWXT*

Kristin Ellis, *Associate Principal Deputy Under Secretary for the Office of the Under Secretary for Science, U.S. Department of Energy*

2:25 – 3:15 PM | Workforce Supply

Moderator: **Teresa Duncan**, *Nuclear Strategist, Tennessee Board of Regents; VP of Workforce and Community Development, Roane State Community College*

Nicholas Brown, *Professor and Pietro F. Pasqua Fellow Nuclear Engineering, University of Tennessee*

Randy Steele, *Nuclear Power Engineering Technology, Chattanooga State Community College*

Kelli Chaney, *President, TCAT Knoxville*

Ben Di'Chiara, *Director of Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, Battelle*

Sue Magidson, *Executive Consultant, Vanderbilt University*

3:15 – 4:00 PM | Student Breakout Session: From First Day to First Promotion

Session Lead: **Dr. Naomi Asher**, *Founder & Principal Consultant, The Maven Consulting*
Guest Speaker: **Kylie Julius-Schumacher**, *Communications Manager, Strata-G*

- What: Prepare for career success with practical tips on interviewing, starting strong in your first role, and setting goals for future advancement.
- Where: Room 301D
- Time: 3:15-4:00 PM

3:15 – 4:00 PM | Where Nuclear Gets Built: The Role of States

Moderator: **David Terry**, National Association of State Energy Officials

Molly Cripps, *Director, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs*

Kenya Stump, *Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy*

John Williams, *Chief Policy Officer, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority*

Emy Lesofski, *Director, Utah Office of Energy Development and Energy Advisor to Governor Spencer Cox*

4:00 – 4:30 PM | FIRESIDE CHAT: Clearing the Path - Accelerating Deployment

Moderator: **Nathan Capps**, *Senior R&D Staff, Nuclear Energy and Fuel Cycle Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

Dr. Mehdi Reisi Fard, *Director of the Division of Advanced Reactor Engineering in the Office of Advanced Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*

Jason Remer, *Nuclear Policy Advisor, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy*

4:30 PM | Wrap-Up & Adjourn

Bob Morris, *Board Chair, Tennessee Nuclear Network*