

The Aspen Institute  
Energy and Governance Forum

September 15-18, 2017  
Aspen, Colorado

AGENDA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Morning/Afternoon Participant Arrivals and Check-In

6:30 – 9:30 PM Opening Reception and Dinner – *Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort*

Featured Panel: The Aspen Institute Series on Energy Governance Report

A special conversation moderated by **David Monsma** discussing the newly drafted report from the Aspen Institute Dialogue Series on Energy Governance.

Panelists:

**Evan Michelson**, *Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

**Matt Lepore**, *Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission*

**Scott Anderson**, *Environmental Defense Fund*

**Amy Pickle**, *Duke University*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

*All sessions take place in the Lauder Room of the Koch Building on the campus of the Aspen Meadows Resort.*

7:00 – 9:00 AM **Breakfast** – *Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort*

9:00 – 9:15 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

A brief introduction to the initial focus of this convening and the procedural ground rules for the ensuing sessions.

**David Monsma**, *Executive Director, Energy and Environment Program, The Aspen Institute*

9:15 – 10:30 AM

**Session One: Values, Leadership, and Governance**

To orient the thinking and discourse for this forum, participants are invited to engage in a brief level-setting seminar using readings selected from the time-honored Aspen Leadership Seminar. These readings have been selected to encourage a joint exploration through open discussion of ideas, concepts, and values regarding leadership and governance.

Moderator: **David Monsma**

Aspen Leadership Seminar Readings:

- **Aristotle**, *Nicomachean Ethics* (350 BC)
- **Arthur Okun**, *Equality and Efficiency: The Big Tradeoff*, The Brookings Institution (1975)
- **Karl Popper**, *The Paradoxes of Sovereignty*, from *Popper Selections*, edited by David Miller (1985)

10:30 – 10:45 AM

**Break**

10:45 – 12:00 PM

**Session Two: Assessing Research Quality, Span and Replicability in Decision Making**

The *intensity* and *scale* of oil and natural gas production from shale resources is different from most traditional production and it often occurs in close *proximity* to communities and population centers – creating new types of risks. The potential risks include but are not necessarily limited to: water resources, air quality, climate change, public health, and community socioeconomic quality. Though all producing states manage risks to human health and the environment posed by this production, not all states manage the same risks or manage them to the same degree. How can scientific research be used to better inform regulatory decision-making?

Moderator: **David Monsma**

Discussants: **Alan Krupnick**, *Director, Center for Energy and Climate Economics, Resources for the Future*

**Donna Vorhees**, *Director of Energy Research, Health Effects Institute*

**Barry Rabe**, *Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy, University of Michigan*

**Evan Michelson**, *Program Director, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

12:00 – 1:30 PM

**Lunch** – *Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort*

1:30 – 3:15 PM

**Session Three: State and Federal Research Priorities**

Some risks have received considerable research attention while other risks have received considerably less than they might warrant. Operators, academics, government regulators, NGOs, and impacted communities each have an important role to play in determining the nature, extent, and response to these risks but they have differing and often competing obligations, constituencies, and tolerances. Where are the knowledge gaps about these risks? How might sustained interactions between different actors improve the identification and prioritization of research?

Moderator: **Ali Zaidi**, *Precourt Energy Scholar, Stanford University; Senior Advisor, Morrison & Foerster*

Discussants: **Matt Lepore**, *Director, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission*  
**Rick McCurdy**, *Manager - Corrosion, Chemicals & Water, Chesapeake Energy*  
**Scott Tinker**, *Director, Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin*

6:30 – 9:30 PM

**Forum Reception and Dinner – bb’s Restaurant (525 East Cooper Avenue, Aspen)**  
*Transportation will be available from the Doerr-Hosier Center area starting at 6:15 PM or it is a beautiful 25 minute walk. Maps are available from the Aspen Meadows Reception team.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 – 9:00 AM

**Breakfast – Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort**

9:00 – 10:30 AM

**Session Four: Regulatory Decision-Making in the Absence of Certainty**

There are instances where regulators are compelled, or otherwise obligated, to act swiftly in spite of factual or empirical uncertainties due to a lack of research or data. This challenge is not unique to the context of oil and gas development from shale resources, but this development is particularly controversial and therefore more prominent in the public eye, heightening scrutiny. Can policies and procedures be developed to encourage the timely production of useful research and data from those best able to produce it?

Moderator: **Matt Lepore**, *Director, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission*

Discussants: **Ken Harris**, *State Oil and Gas Supervisor, Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources, State of California*  
**Cal Cooper**, *Director, Special Projects & Emerging Technology, Apache Corporation*  
**Lori Wrotenbery**, *Director, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas*  
**Clark Miller**, *Professor and Associate Director, Arizona State University*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

**Break**

10:45 – 12:00 PM

**Session Five: Effective Stakeholder Engagement – Purpose and Process**

There are many different ways to examine and describe the involvement of the public in civic and political life. Yet, effective public engagement can provide more nuanced and collective views about an issue by a broader spectrum of the public and present opportunities for the public to better understand a question, values at stake, and potential impacts. How is public engagement influenced and enabled in the shale context? How can public engagement be used to ensure that public decisions are optimal and the best fit for local conditions and needs?

Moderator: **David Monsma**

Discussants: **Tanya Heikkila**, *Professor, University of Colorado Denver*  
**Bruce Baizel**, *Energy Program Director, Earthworks*  
**Joe Lima**, *Director, Environmental Sustainability, Schlumberger*  
**Kim Blanchette**, *Vice President National/International Relations and Public Affairs, Alberta Energy Regulator*

12:00 – 1:30 PM

**Lunch – Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort**

1:30 – 3:00 PM

**Session Six: Breakout Sessions**

**Breakout A:** State and federal research priorities

**Breakout B:** Effective stakeholder engagement

**Breakout C:** Assessing scientific research in regulatory decision-making

**Breakout D:** Establishing an academy for regulatory excellence

5:30 – 7:00 PM

**Reception – The Grey Lady (305 South Mill Street, Aspen)**

*Transportation will be available from the Doerr-Hosier Center area starting at 5:15 PM or it is a beautiful 25-minute walk. Maps are available from the Aspen Meadows Reception team.*

*No formal dinner is planned this evening to allow participants to meet in small groups and/or explore Aspen – restaurant suggestions and reviews are available at: [www.eataspen.com](http://www.eataspen.com)*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 – 9:00 AM      **Breakfast** – *Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort*

9:00 – 10:15 AM      **Session Seven: Breakout Reports**

**Breakout A:** State and federal research priorities

**Breakout B:** Effective stakeholder engagement

**Breakout C:** Assessing scientific research in regulatory decision-making

**Breakout D:** Establishing an academy for regulatory excellence

Moderator: **David Monsma**

10:15 – 10:30 AM      **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 AM      **Session Eight: Moving the Conversation Forward**

Building upon discussions in the preceding sessions and looking forward strategically, what are the priority needs that this group can identify or help clarify?

Moderator: **David Monsma**

***\*\*Forum Adjourns\*\****

11:30 – 1:00 PM      **Optional Lunch** – *Doerr-Hosier Center, Aspen Meadows Resort*

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generosity:



**ALFRED P. SLOAN**  
**FOUNDATION**

**Schlumberger**



**Alberta**  
**Energy**  
**Regulator**

