

Raab Associates' Restructuring Roundtable Looks Back on 30 Years

By Jon Lamson

BOSTON — Raab Associates held its final New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable on Dec. 5, bringing reflections from speakers about the legacy of restructuring and the future of the power sector in the region.

Several speakers praised the Roundtable for consistently bringing together a wide range of perspectives and interests, and helping to promote collaboration and consensus among stakeholders.

"The diversity of perspectives that are at the table is pretty incredible," said David Cash, former EPA regional administrator for New England. "There are people here who have sued each other; there are people here who are competitors."

Dan Sosland, president and co-founder of the Acadia Center, said the Roundtable has been somewhat unique among power industry events for its inclusion of climate and environmental perspectives.

"At the Roundtable we were co-equals," Sosland said. "We were included, and that's a testament to" Raab Associates

President and Roundtable convenor Jonathan Raab.

The Roundtable was founded in 1995 to bring stakeholders together to discuss the details and challenges of electricity industry restructuring. It opened to the public after Massachusetts passed its restructuring law in 1997, and Raab Associates formally took over the event from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources in 2000.

As the states worked through the kinks of restructuring, the Roundtable gradually became "much more of a policy forum," said Raab, who helped found the Roundtable and moderated the events for most of the 30-year run.

In 2026, the consulting firm Apex Analytics will take control of the Roundtable. The company was selected through a competitive request for proposals and plans to hold its first event in March.

"The Roundtable's strength lies in its adaptability and commitment to discussing meaningful substance around the evolving energy landscape," said Matt Nelson, principal at Apex and former

What's Next

The consulting firm Apex Analytics will assume control of the Roundtable in the coming year, with the first event planned for March 2026.

chair of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. "Our team is committed to maintaining that core while thoughtfully exploring ways to evolve and provide relevant content as industry needs change."

Reflections on Restructuring

The event also may mark ISO-NE CEO Gordon van Welie's last public appearance at the helm of the RTO he has led since 2001. (See [Retiring ISO-NE CEO van Welie Reflects on 25 Years at the RTO.](#))

He emphasized the progress that has been made around collaboration in the region, saying, "Even when things do seem a bit tense, we've developed mechanisms to deal with those frictions."

Restructuring and the move to wholesale markets have brought customers significant savings, though not all initiatives have worked as well as he would have liked, he said.

"I would say we made a mistake in going to the Forward Capacity Market back in 2004," van Welie said, adding that it "became too much of a crutch" for ensuring resource and energy adequacy.

ISO-NE's proposed move to a prompt capacity market will "hopefully stimulate bilateral contracting," he said. "The market needs to invest more on a foundation of bilateral contracting with the spot capacity market really being a deficiency charge for somebody who's not fully hedged."

Rebecca Tepper, secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, praised ISO-NE's reliability record.



Phil Giudice (left), board chair for FirstLight Power, and Jonathan Raab, president of Raab Associates | © RTO Insider

