

WESTERN TURBINE USERS, INC.

To All Conference Attendees of WTUI:

On October 26, 2021, a special Board of Directors/Officers/Conference Support Staff meeting was held to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the upcoming 2022 WTUI Conference scheduled to be held at the Long Beach Convention Center in March 2022. Due to the continued uncertainties and ongoing restrictions described below, the WTUI Board voted by unanimous vote to cancel the 2022 in-person conference and proceed with a virtual conference having a modified format and agenda as to past in-person conferences. Information regarding the virtual conference will be posted on the www.wtui.com website as plans progress. The following considerations were discussed which resulted in this decision.

COVID-19 AND VARIANTS

Effective September 17, 2021, the Long Beach Health Officer Order has issued Health Order (Order) for Control of COVID-19 within the City of Long Beach. The Order was issued to require masking indoors in public settings and businesses regardless of vaccination status. The Order also required all indoor and outdoor mega event operators to ensure guests are tested negative or are fully vaccinated. Self-attestation cannot be used as a method to verify an attendee's status as fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or as proof of a negative COVID-19 test result.

The uncertainty of the spread of COVID-19 and its variants presents a high risk to in-person conferences sponsored by WTUI. Furthermore, we are now faced with the threat of virus variants and the current spikes that have manifested due to these variants. What we thought would be the ending of the pandemic early this year still has the CDC closely monitoring the outbreaks of variants.

COMPANIES RESTRICTED TRAVEL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Board/Officers/Staff have polled the major sponsors of our conferences. Most of these sponsors are international companies. As a note, conference attendees are represented from 22 countries. Many of these companies/individuals have stated that there is a travel ban issued by their companies and it is uncertain if and when their policy will allow any travel. As a result, the conference will produce a reduced attendance with poor in-person networking outcomes.

INTERNATIONAL/DOMESTIC TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

There are travel restrictions/guidelines issued by the CDC for state-to-state and country-to-country travel. While these restrictions/guidelines are slowly being relaxed, any outbreaks of virus variants could quickly reinstate travel restrictions.

The decision to cancel the 2022 in-person conference by the Board and Officers is disheartening, and not taken lightly. We strive to make WTUI events safe and successful. The 2022 conference will be virtually presented, and the next in-person conference will be held in March 2023 at the San Diego Convention Center. Until 2023, we wish all your families a safe and healthy 2022 and look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego.

If you have any questions concerning this decision, please reach out to any Board of Director, Officer, or conference staff member at info@wtui.com.

John Hutson
President