

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY
CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

2016 MID-YEAR MEETING

**HOTEL MONTELEONE
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

JUNE 5-8, 2016

AGENDA

Registration and all sessions will be in the Vieux Carre Room - Rooftop Level, unless otherwise noted in the agenda.

Proposed Resolutions

1. Natural Gas Committee: "Opposing the use of Lost and Unaccounted for Gas to Measure Emissions"
2. Telecommunications Policy: "Urging Federal Officials to Ensure the Privacy Rights of Customers Using 21st Century Telecommunications Services"

Schedule

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Noon -1:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting (Lunch Provided) <i>(Cabildo Room-Mezzanine 2)</i>
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Registration
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	<i>(Closed Session-NASUCA Members only)</i> Introduction of Resolutions Roundtable of States
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break-Light Refreshments
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<i>Closed Session -NASUCA Members and By-Invitation Only</i> Dialog with Representatives of the Solar Industry.
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	<i>Dinner Event: New Orleans School of Cooking</i> <i>(Riverview Room, Jax Brewery, 600 Decatur Street, 4th Floor)</i> The Fun, Food & Folklore of New Orleans. Come take a walk through the history of Louisiana while learning to make Gumbo, Jambalaya and Bread Pudding. And don't forget the Pralines!

Monday, June 6, 2016

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 am -10:15 am *Closed Session for Members of NASUCA*
Association Business:
 -Welcome: Robert Nelson-NASUCA President
 -President's Report
 -Officer Reports
 -Executive Director Report
 -Committee Reports
 -Work Resolutions
- 10:15 am -10:30 am Break-Coffee and Tea
- Open Session Begins
- 10:30 am – 10:35 am Welcome: Robert Nelson, NASUCA President
- 10:35 am -12:00 pm ***“After EPSA and Hughes: the New Federal/State Jurisdictional Boundary?”***
In the recent case Electric Power Supply Association v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (EPSA), the Supreme Court determined that demand response (not selling energy) within the RTO framework was properly FERC jurisdictional because it “directly affected wholesale rates.” In the Hughes v. Talen Energy Marketing case, (Hughes) the Supreme Court recently ruled states are legally preempted from making certain decisions that support local generation if that decision also affects wholesale rates. Do these decisions expand FERC jurisdictional authority at the expense of traditional state jurisdictional authority? If so, what does that mean for state regulators and state consumer advocates?
- Moderator:
William Fields-Senior Assistant People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel
- Panelists:
John E. Shelk - President & CEO - Electric Power Supply Assn.
Seth Hollander - Attorney, Connecticut Office of the Attorney General
Jon Wellinghoff - Chief Policy Officer, Solar City, Inc. (Former FERC Chair)
Kristin Munsch - Director of Policy and Senior Attorney, Illinois Citizens' Utility Board
- 12:00 pm -1:30 pm Heads of Office Lunch (All others- lunch on your own)
(Royal A Room - Lobby Level)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

“Funding for Consumer Advocate Participation in RTO’s and at FERC”

RTO funding for CAPS is an important first step in ensuring consumer voices are heard in the RTO stakeholder process. The panel will review the CAPS funding model and discuss other avenues of providing advocate funding to participate in RTOS and FERC proceedings.

Moderator:

Jackie Roberts - Director, West Virginia Consumer Advocate Division

Panelists:

Ruth Ann Price - Deputy Public Advocate, Delaware Division of Public Advocate

Dan Griffiths - Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS)

Jennifer C. Easler - Attorney, Office of Consumer Advocate of Iowa

Jon Wellinghoff - Chief Policy Officer, Solar City, Inc. (Former FERC Chair)

2:35 pm - 3:45 pm

“Utility Mergers: Where is the Beef?”

Over the last few years, public utilities have engaged in diversification mergers or acquisitions whose primary purpose is to diversify their earnings streams to mitigate against a variety of market and policy risks. Ratepayer benefits or synergy savings are marginal or non-existent. The panel will discuss whether utility mergers and acquisitions which do not produce (or produce minimal) ratepayer net benefits are in the public interest.

Moderator:

Joseph W. Rogers - Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Office of Ratepayer Advocacy

Panelists:

Stefanie A. Brand - Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

David E. Dismukes - Professor & Executive Director, Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University

Sandra Mattavous-Frye - Washington DC Office of People’s Counsel

Kevin Lemley - Arkansas Office of the Attorney General

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Break - Classic New Orleans Beignets

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

“Protecting Consumers from Supplier Fraud and Abuse: Recent Achievements and Next Steps”

This panel will address the consumer battles in retail competition states both before and after the "polar vortex" winter. Panelists from New York, Connecticut and Maryland will talk about how their state commissions or legislatures responded, and highlight some clear wins, some helpful reforms and the challenges still ahead.

Moderator:

William D. Yates, CPA - Director of Research, New York’s Utility Project

Panelists:

Richard Berkley, Esq., - Executive Director, New York’s Utility Project

Lauren H. Bidra, - Staff Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Paula M. Carmody, - People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Wine and Cheese Reception
(Iberville Room - Mezzanine 1)

Dinner on your own

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Optional Event: French Quarter Walking Ghost Tour
(Hotel Monteleone Lobby-7:45pm)

(Optional Ghost Tour Event: \$25/person. Register and Pay at the NASUCA Meeting web page: <http://nasuca.org/event/2016-nasuca-mid-year-meeting/>)

Tuesday: June 7, 2016

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Executive Committee Meeting (Breakfast Provided)
(Ursuline Room-Mezzanine 2)

9:00 am -9:25 am

“An Alternative to Net Metering: The Maine Approach”

Net Metering policy has become a flashpoint in states. Maine is pursuing a new idea to increase solar distributed generation while moving away from the net metering framework. Maine Public Advocate Tim Schneider will present the new framework and a white paper as well as provide an update on the status of the new approach.

Timothy R. Schneider - Maine Public Advocate

- 9:30am - 10:00 am ***“The Electric Power Research Institute’s (EPRI) Integrated Grid and IG Benefit Cost Framework:”***
Successful integration of distributed energy resources depends on a robust electric grid. EPRI’s Benefit Cost Framework presents a transparent, consistent, four-part methodology for assessing the benefits and costs of transitioning to a more Integrated Grid. This approach quantifies the impacts of distributed energy resources on the distribution and bulk power systems, and monetizes these impacts to inform decision-making.
- Salvador A. Casente, Jr. - Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- 10:05 am - 10:25 am ***“An Update on the Utility Evaluator™ Software”***
Advocates are beginning to get experience using the Utility Evaluator™ software in cases. Update on recent testimony filings”
- Paul Alvarez - President, Wired Group
- 10:25 am - 10:45 am Break - Coffee and Tea
- 10:45 am -12:00 pm ***“Rate Design for DG Customers”***
A discussion on rate design trends: How to encourage cost effective distributed generation while protecting non-DG customers. A closer look at Arizona and Hawaii.
- Moderator:
Robert G. Mork - Deputy Consumer Counselor for Federal Affairs,
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
- Panelists:
Tim Woolf - Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.
Lon Huber - Director, Strategen Consulting, LLC
David Tenney - Director, Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office
Jeffery Ono - Executive Director, Hawaii Department of Commerce and
Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy
- 12:00 pm -1:30 pm Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS) Meeting. (CAPS Members Only - Lunch Provided) (*Cabildo Room-Mezzanine 2*)
- 12:00 pm -1:30 pm Lunch on your own.

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm

“The FCC’s New Broadband Lifeline Program”
A Dialog with USAC on possible implementation issues.

Moderator:

Regina Costa - Telecommunications Policy Director, The Utility Reform Network

Speaker:

Michelle Garber - Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

2:25 pm - 2:45 pm

“Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF)”
Update on the 2016 CCIF process, meetings and final report

Katrina McMurrian - Executive Director, Critical Consumers Issues Forum

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Break – Fruit Filled King Cakes and Caramel Pecan Cajun Kringle

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

“Vignettes”
“noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. David G. Pitts - Independent Actuarial Services

“The Prepaid Pension Asset Puzzle – Are you as confused as I am?”

The financial crisis, declining interest rates, increasing life expectancies: these factors have stressed numerous retirement systems throughout the US and indeed the world. Regulated entities have an additional challenge: managing the explosive growth in the “prepaid pension asset” – the cumulative difference between expense and cash, each driven by arcane accounting and funding rules. This vignette will present the underlying economics in simple terms, and describe recent favorable settlements in Colorado and New Mexico.

2. Holmes Hummel, PhD - Principal, Clean Energy Works

“Pay-As-You-Save Tariffs”

Loans, leases, and liens for energy efficiency financing all present barriers to renters, low-income households, and other entities with limits to credit or access to property. By contrast, Pay As You Save (PAYS) offers all utility customers the option to access cost effective energy upgrades using a proven investment and cost recovery model that benefits both the customer and utility. Commissions in Kansas, Kentucky, and Arkansas have already approved an opt-in PAYS tariff, and inclusive financing could be coming to your state next!

3. David Bergmann - Principal, Telecom Policy Consulting for Consumers

"The IP Transition: What it is, what it is not, and why it is important"

The IP Transition is important for consumers, even in states that have deregulated telecom. Dave Bergmann will run through the basics to remind NASUCAnS of the issues and what is and could be happening to consumers.

4. Robert Kelter - Senior Attorney, Environmental Law and Policy Center

"Smart Thermostats"

Smart thermostats offer consumers significant savings potential, while helping maintain or improve comfort. Most importantly, they help customers stop heating and cooling empty homes at a low cost with a short payback period. Mr. Kelter will update you on the savings potential from smart thermostats as a measure in energy efficiency programs.

Open Session Ends

4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

(Closed Session-NASUCA Members Only)

Member Discussion: NASUCA Direction/Objectives

Wednesday: June 8, 2016

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion