

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

## 2018 MID-YEAR MEETING

Marquette Hotel and IDS Tower

Minneapolis, MN

June 24-27, 2018

Registration and all sessions will be on the 50<sup>th</sup> Floor of the IDS Tower, attached to the Marquette Hotel unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual.

### Proposed Resolutions

1. DER Committee and Electric Committee: *2018-02 Urging the Adoption of Policies and Regulations to Protect Ratepayers as Electric Vehicle Adoption Rates Increase*

2. Consumer Protection Committee: *2018-05 Urging Adoption of Protections Against Termination of Utility Service for Low-Income, Senior, and Other At-Risk Households in which Seriously or Chronically Ill or Disabled Person Resides*

### Sunday – June 24, 2018

Noon – 5:30 pm      Registration - 50<sup>th</sup> Floor, IDS Tower  
-Please pick up your meeting materials.

11:30 am – 12:50 pm      Executive Committee Meeting (*Cannon River Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hotel – Lunch Provided*)

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm      ***DOE/LBNL Technical Training (Galaxy Room)***

#### ***Distribution Technology Training***

The next step in our Distribution Technology Training series. We started with basic concepts in our Distribution Technology 101 (May 23) and Utility Distribution 101 (June 5) webinars.

#### Session 1: 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

PUC Distribution Planning Practices

-Lisa Schwartz, Energy Efficiency Team Leader, Electricity Markets and Policy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

#### Session 2: 1:50 pm – 2:35 pm

Forecasting Load on the Distribution System with Distributed Energy Resources

-Andrew Mills, Research Scientist, Electricity Markets and Policy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

#### Session 3: 2:40 pm – 3:30 pm

Walk-through of Long-Term Distribution System Plans: Part 1 - Traditional Plans

-Lavelle Freeman, Technical Director, GE Energy Consulting

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm      Break (Light Refreshments)

3:45 pm – 5:30pm

Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only

Association Business:

- Welcome: Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President
- Officer Reports
  - Secretary’s Report (Vote on Minutes, Vote on New Member)
  - Treasurer’s Report
  - President’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report
- Committee Reports
  - Work Resolutions
- Rollcall of the States

5:30 pm – 6:30pm

Wine and Cheese Reception – Open to NASUCA Meeting Registrants and Invited Guests (*Planets Room*)

Dinner on your own

**Monday – June 25, 2018**

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast (*Planets Room*)

*\*\*Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\**

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 8:50 am

Welcome/Kickoff (*Galaxy Room*)

Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President

Welcome Video: U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

-Introduction by Bill Levis

8:50 am – 9:00am

Break

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

<b>Track 1 – Galaxy Room</b>	<b>Track 2 – Universe Room</b>
DER Rate Design & NEM National Update (9-9:50am)	Ratemaking Mechanisms, Trackers and New Legislation (9-9:50am)
Methodologies for Calculating an Appropriate Customer Charges (10-10:50am)	What Advocates Need to Know about Municipal Broadband (10-10:50am)
Application for the National Standard Practice Manual (11-11:25am)	Telecommunications Update: Conversation with Minn. Comm. Dan Lipschultz (11-11:25am)
Blockchain 101 (11:35-12pm)	Lifeline Update (11:35-12pm)

9:00 am – 9:50 am

(Galaxy Room)

***DER Rate Design and NEM National Update***

There is a growing debate about how utility rate designs may need to change and adapt to maximize the value of new distributed technologies. This panel will explore ideas for rate designs that may better support distributed resources in a manner that will help maximize the benefit of all DER customers. The panel will also explore recent state-level policy changes around net energy metering.

Moderator:

Joseph Rosenthal      Principal Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Speakers:

Carl Linvill      Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project  
Amy Heart      Policy Director, Sunrun  
Monica Martinez      Principal, Ruben Strategy Group

(Universe Room)

***Ratemaking Mechanisms, Trackers and New Legislation***

Over the past several years, a number of ratemaking mechanisms have been implemented in the water-wastewater industry. How are these trackers structured and how well are they working? A collaborative process between the water industry, state utility regulators, and consumer advocates has resulted in legislation and ratemaking policies transforming Connecticut's regulated water companies. Hear how collaboration resulted in win-win situations for the water companies, their customers, and state utility regulators. Can trackers reduce the number of rate cases, foster additional investment in the distribution system, and provide ratepayer protections? What new ratemaking mechanisms are looming on the horizon?

Moderator:

Edward Kaufman      Chief Technical Advisor, Indiana Office of Consumer Counselor

Speakers:

Richard Sobolewski      Supervisor of Utility Financial Analysis, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel  
Maureen Westbrook      Vice President, Customer and Regulatory Affairs, Connecticut Water Company

10:00 am – 10:50 am

(Galaxy Room)

***Methodologies for Calculating an Appropriate Customer Charge***

In recent years, utilities have commonly sought increases in the customer charge component of their rates. Panelists will discuss their recent experiences, with a focus on developing a methodology for calculating the amount of the customer charge.

Moderator:

Ryan Barlow      Assistant Attorney General, Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division, Minnesota Attorney General's Office

Speakers:

Mark LeBel      Staff Attorney, Acadia Center  
John Howat      Senior Energy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center  
Ron Nelson      Senior Consultant, Strategen

(Universe Room)

*What Advocates Need to Know About Municipal Broadband*

As traditional copper phone service rides into the sunset, what is going to replace it as a reliable, affordable means of communication for consumers? Municipal broadband networks around the country are filling the gap between what the phone service used to provide and what incumbent broadband service providers are willing to offer, bringing essential service at lower cost to underserved and unserved communities. They are also controversial, sometimes costly, and often derided as unnecessary intrusions into the private market. This conversation with national municipal network expert Chris Mitchell, former Colorado advocate and AARP Pro Bono Attorney Bill Levis, and Executive Director of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development Danna MacKenzie will explore the pros, cons, and impact on consumers of this growing movement.

Moderator:

Elin Katz Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President

Speaker:

Christopher Mitchel Director, Community Broadband Networks,  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Bill Levis Pro Bono Attorney, AARP Colorado  
Danna MacKenzie Executive Director, Minnesota Office of Broadband  
Development

11:00 am – 11:25 am

(Galaxy Room)

*Application for the National Standard Practice Manual*

The National Standard Practice Manual was recently released to help states update and improve their cost-effectiveness practices, to ensure that they are consistent with the energy policy goals of each state. This presentation will provide an overview of the NSPM, particularly from the perspective of consumer advocates. It will describe the fundamental principles for cost-effectiveness testing, address some of the most vexing challenges in designing cost-effectiveness tests, and describe how several states, including Minnesota, are starting to use the NSPM. This presentation will also explain how all of these principles and concepts are essential for assessing DER cost-effectiveness, as well as energy efficiency.

Speakers:

Tim Woolf Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.

Adam Zoet Energy Planner, Principal, Energy Efficiency Programs,  
Minnesota Department of Commerce

(Universe Room)

*Telecommunications Update: A Conversation with Minnesota Commissioner Dan Lipschultz*

From both a policy and legal standpoint, these are challenging times for consumers on the telecommunications front. This discussion will cover the latest topics.

Moderator:

Regina Costa Telecommunications Policy Director, The Utility Reform  
Network

Speaker:

Dan Lipschultz Vice-Chairman, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

11:35 am – 12:00 pm

(Galaxy Room)

**Blockchain 101**

This session will cover the basics of blockchain for the "uninitiated" as well as discuss why it is getting so much attention for its potential in the energy space. The speaker will discuss various use cases, including transactive energy, and the potential implications for ratepayers.

Speaker:

Scott Kessler                      Director, Business Development, LO3 Energy

(Universe Room)

**Lifeline Update**

In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing significant changes to the federal Lifeline program. Among some of the FCC’s proposals are: eliminating non-facilities based carriers from participating in the Lifeline program; making Lifeline consumers put more “skin in the game;” and creating an annual budget. The speaker will discuss these proposals and their impact on consumers.

Speaker:

Geoffrey Why                      Counsel, Verrill Dana

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm      Lunch On Your Own

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm      Heads of Office Lunch (*Planets Room*)

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm      Concurrent Sessions

Track 1 - Galaxy Room	Track 2 - Universe Room
Electric Vehicles (1:30pm-2:30pm)	Managing Risks: Supporting the Reliability of Natural Gas Generation (1:30pm-2:30pm)
Energy Storage (2:40pm-3:40pm)	Year of the Woman (2:40pm-3:40pm)
Vignettes (4:00pm-5:00pm) - Analyzing the Effect of Dynamic Rate Designs - Performance Metrics in Performance Base Rates - New York’s Consumer Rights Brochure	Vignettes (4:00pm-5:00pm) - Utilities United Against Scams Update - Offshore Wind Update - Navigating Grid Modernization Investments: Tools

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

(Galaxy Room)

***Policy on Electric Vehicles: What Should States be Thinking about to be Ready for Electric Vehicles?***

PUC’s and legislatures are debating the appropriate role of utilities and industry in addressing the needs and challenges of increased use of electric vehicles. In addition to the question of who pays for charging infrastructure, this panel will address other important issues like ensuring interoperability and open standards (e.g., ease of charging for the consumer with billing, RFID, and mobile charging), efficient rate design, and access and affordability issues (i.e., for low to moderate income and multi-unit dwellings).

Moderator:

Stefanie Brand                      Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

Speakers:

Phillip Jones Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation Electrification  
Paul Alfonso Former Chairman, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy on behalf of ChargePoint  
Katie Bell Senior Policy Director, Tesla

(Universe Room)

***Managing the Risk: Supporting the Reliability of Natural Gas Electricity Generation***

As fracking technology dramatically lowered the cost of natural gas, and emissions regulations hampered the use of coal, the bulk power system has been increasingly dependent on natural gas as a fuel source. However, this increased dependence on natural gas can amplify the bulk power system's exposure to interruptions in natural gas fuel supply and delivery. The panelists will discuss mitigating strategies, such as storage, firm fuel contracting, alternate pipelines, dual-fuel capability, access to multiple natural gas basins, nearby plants using other fuels, or additional transmission lines from other areas, that can contribute to managing this risk.

Moderator:

Bryce Freeman Administrator, Wyoming Office of the Consumer Advocate

Speakers:

Thomas Coleman Director, Reliability Assessments, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)  
Michael Bryson Vice President, Operations Division, PJM Interconnection  
Jordan Bakke Manager of Policy Studies, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

2:40 pm – 3:40 pm

(Galaxy Room)

***Updates on Energy Storage***

It has been a busy six months for the energy storage industry. Come hear about the latest from experts working across the U.S. on these issues. This panel will discuss recent FERC actions (Order 841) to enable storage in wholesale markets, ongoing state deliberations, renewable energy plus storage developments, and distribution-sited approaches to storage in restructured markets.

Moderator:

Mark W. Toney Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network

Speakers:

Marissa Gillett Vice President, External Relations, Energy Storage Association  
Lon Huber Vice President and Head of Consulting, Strategen  
Susan Mora-Schrader Director of Utility Initiatives, Exelon

(Universe Room)

***Year of the Woman? The Women of NASUCA Debate the Issues***

2018 has been depicted publicly as the "year of the woman" with record numbers of women running for office, the #MeToo movement spotlighting harassment in the workplace, and female representation increasing in the C-Suites and boardrooms. NASUCA has a long history of significant participation by women as Presidents,

Heads of Office, attorneys, experts, and staff. But, how do we, as advocates, ensure female consumers, whether heads of households, single, working, mothers, seniors, or low-income, are not left behind? How do we frame conversations on utility issues without appearing condescending or patronizing while giving voice to the voiceless or engaging those lacking the time to be concerned?

Moderator:

Stefanie Brand                      Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

Speakers:

Michele Beck                      Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services  
Kristin Munsch                    Deputy Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board  
Elin Katz                              Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel  
Sandra Mattavous-Frye        People's Counsel, District of Columbia Office of People's Counsel

3:40 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

***“Vignettes”***

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

*(Galaxy Room)*

1. It's a Matter of Time: Analyzing the Effects of Dynamic Rate Designs on Low-Income and Senior Electricity Consumers

-David Kolata – Executive Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board

-Jeff Zethmayr – Research Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board

2. Performance Metrics in Performance Based Rates

-Joe Dammel – Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office

3. Brochure on Consumer Rights

-Richard Berkley – Executive Director, Public Utility Law Project (PULP) of New York

*(Universe Room)*

1. Utilities United Against Scams Update

-Sheri Givens, Executive Director, Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS)

2. Offshore Wind

-Hannah Hunt, Deputy Director, Electricity Policy and Demand, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)

3. Navigating “Grid Mod” Investments: Tools in the Toolbox and Why They Matter

-Sara Baldwin Auck, Director, Regulatory Program, Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**NASUCA Reception**

*\*\*Open to All Meeting Registrants and Invited Guests\*\**

***Location:***

Shindig  
105 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
(Two blocks walking distance from meeting venue.)

**Tuesday – June 26, 2018**

7:00 am – 7:50 am Executive Committee Meeting (*Cannon River Room – 3rd Floor Hotel – Breakfast Provided*)

7:00 am – 8:00 am Registration and Breakfast  
*\*\*Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\**

Open Session Begins (*All Tuesday Sessions will be in the Galaxy Room*)

8:00 am – 10:00 am ***DOE/LBNL Technical Training***

Session 4: 8:00 am – 8:55 am

Emerging distribution planning analyses: Multiple scenario forecasts, hosting capacity analysis, locational net benefits analysis  
- Sundar Venkataraman, Director, GE Energy Consulting

Session 5: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Walk-through of long-term distribution system plans: Part 2 - Grid modernization plans and plans for high levels of distributed energy resources  
- Sundar Venkataraman, Director, GE Energy Consulting

10:00 am – 10:15 am Break

10:15 am – 11:10 am ***The Energy Needs of Low Income Americans with Serious Medical Conditions: Solutions from Utilities, Health Care and Government***

The panel will address the adverse health outcomes that persons with serious medical conditions can experience when deprived of gas or electric service, together with the financial savings that can be achieved when ways are found to avoid disconnection of service at their homes. Panelists will address what utilities, health care providers and public utility commissions can do to address the problem.

Moderator:

Ian Dobson Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General

Panelists:

Charles Harak Senior Attorney, National Consumer Law Center  
Gabriela Sandoval Ph.D. Research Director, The Utility Reform Network  
Scott Brockett Director of Regulatory Administration, Xcel Energy

11:15 am – 12:00 pm ***A Smart City Dialogue***

What is a “smart city?” Why are regulators, cities, utilities, technology companies, and other stakeholders conversing about the topic nationwide? What are the opportunities, challenges, and policy issues at play and what do advocates need to see to overcome any perceived skepticism about smart cities?

Moderator:

Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services

Speakers:

Dan Pfeiffer Vice President, Government Affairs, Itron  
Dr. Massoud Amin Director, Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota



12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

***From the C-Suite: Perspectives on Generation Markets from across the RTOs***

Lively debates are taking place across the nation’s organized markets, in state legislatures, at FERC, and even before the Department of Energy. Are retirements of coal and nuclear generation a loss for grid resilience? Or should we rejoice that markets are bringing us a cleaner, more efficient future? Do we need “public interest” subsidies from the states to stave off retirements? Are such subsidies a problem for the organized energy and capacity markets? What if they are? Or will DERs disrupt it all no matter what we do? NASUCA welcomes utility executives representing the various regions to reflect on the future of the nation’s generation fleet.

Moderator:

Jackie Roberts                      Director, West Virginia Consumer Advocate Division

Panelists:

Charles Patton                      Executive Vice President, External Affairs,  
American Electric Power

Michael Bryson                      Vice President, Operations, PJM Interconnection

Frank Prager                         Vice President, Policy and Federal Affairs, Xcel Energy

2:35 pm – 3:30pm

***Electrification: Possibilities and Impacts, a Review of Recent Studies from EPRI and AGA***

This panel presents two recent studies discussing the potential benefits and the potential challenges of increased electrification.

**EPRI Study: Understanding the Role of Efficient Electrification in the Future**

**Energy System:** Electricity’s role in the energy system has grown for over a century and it is poised to continue to grow steadily or perhaps accelerate, while improving the standard of living for consumers. EPRI’s Efficient Electrification research and development initiative explores electrification in the context of the global energy system – analyzing the customer value of advanced, end-use technologies that efficiently amplify the benefits of cleaner power generation. To better understand the economic potential for, as well as opportunities, drivers, and challenges that would impact the pace of efficient electrification, EPRI conducted a [U.S. National Electrification Assessment](#) (USNEA). The USNEA examines customer adoption of electric end-use technologies over the next three decades, along with key implications for efficiency, the environment, and the grid. The study finds that, across a range of assumptions, economy-wide electrification leads to a reduction in overall energy consumption, spurs steady growth in electric load, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions—even in scenarios with no assumed climate policy. This study also focuses attention on needed research and development and challenges for future policy and regulatory decisions impacting electrification.

**AGA/ICF Study: Implications of Electrification of Residential Gas Use:**

Examines a policy-driven electrification of residential space and water heating and seeks to answer three primary questions. First, does electrification actually result in significant carbon dioxide emissions reductions for the country as a whole or regions of the country? Second, what is the incremental generation capacity requirement to serve the millions of new residential customers created with such a strategy and at what cost? And, third, what are the new transmission requirements needed to move the electricity and at what cost? In addition, AGA has developed pathways for consideration utilizing

natural gas technologies capable of reducing the greenhouse gas profile of individual households.

Moderator:

Bob Nelson Consumer Counsel, Montana Consumer Counsel

Panelists:

Deana Dennis Senior Manager, Government and External Relations,  
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)  
Chris McGill Vice President of Energy Analysis and Standards,  
American Gas Association (AGA)

3:30 pm – 3:45pm

Break

3:45 pm – 4:40 pm

***Tax Cuts and Jobs Act***

This panel examines the regulatory challenges presented by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Regulators must reset consumer rates to reflect the new tax levels. But this is not easily done. Utilities and the financial community have expressed concerns about the financial impact of these rate changes. Some utilities want to use the excess tax revenue in rates for other purposes. Consumers want rates reduced yesterday. How do regulators find an appropriate way forward?

Moderator:

Tanya McCloskey Acting Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of  
Consumer Advocate

Panelists:

Jay Kumar President, Economic & Technical Consultants, Inc.  
Tiffany Murray Deputy Consumer Counsel, Office of the Utility Consumer  
Counsel Consumer Advocate

4:45 pm – 5:30pm

***“Vignettes”***

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

1. CCIF 2018 – Update

-Katrina McMurrian, Executive Director, Critical Consumer Issues Forum

2. Puerto Rico Update

- John Coffman, Principal, John B Coffman, LLC (On Behalf of AARP)

**Wednesday – June 27, 2018**

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast (*Planets Room*)  
\*\*Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\*

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA - (*Planets Room*)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

*Meeting End*

**Save the Date:  
NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 11-14, 2018 – Orlando, Florida**