

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2021 (Virtual) Mid-Year Meeting June 14th, 15th and 17th, 2021

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org/event/2021-virtual-mid-year-meeting/>

*-Meeting Agenda
-Bios and Headshots for Speakers
-Meeting Registrants List*

*****Attendees Will Be Let In To Each Webinar Session 4 Minutes Before the Start Time*****

Public Sessions (all times eastern time zone)

Monday – June 14, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:10 pm General Session

Meeting Welcome: Chris Ayers, Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff, NASUCA President

Transmission: Federal Policy to Address Climate Change and Resilience,

The Biden administration has made fighting climate change a top priority. To support that goal the administration is proposing policy that supports building more and larger electric transmission lines, both to increase the availability and transferability of renewable energy and to support grid resilience across larger territories. This panel will explore the federal policy landscape supporting efforts to expand electric transmission, the possible challenges and barriers to planning and building projects and will discuss alternatives to major transmission expansion that might provide quicker, cheaper adequate solutions.

Moderator:

Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission
Public Staff, NASUCA President

Speakers:

Rob Gramlich President, Grid Strategies LLC
Jennifer Curran Vice President System Planning and Chief Compliance
Officer, Midcontinent Independent System Operator
Mitchell Myhre Manager, Transmission Planning and Regulatory Relations,
Alliant Energy, MISO Transmission Dependent Utility
Sector Member

1:10 pm – 1:30 pm Break

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services.

1:30 pm – 2:20

Concurrent Sessions

Panel 1

Natural Gas: Building Gas System Resilience

Recent climate events, changes in the cost and availability of new technologies and increasing political and social pressure to decarbonize are driving changes in the natural gas energy system. The panel will discuss how these changes could impact the resilience of the natural gas distribution system and the implications for policymakers and regulators.

Moderator:

David E. Dismukes Professor, Executive Director and Director of Policy Analysis - Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University, Acadian Consulting

Speakers:

Jeff Stein Senior Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute
Christina Baker Assistant Attorney General, Office of Arkansas Attorney General
Scott Doyle Executive Vice President, Natural Gas, Centerpoint Energy

Panel 2

Water: Lead Service Line Replacement-The Case for Replacing Lead Service Lines, and an update on potential changes to the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule.

Replacing a water utility's aging lead service lines, while often necessary, present unique regulatory and safety challenges that take considerable planning and customer communication. This panel discussion includes the experience of two utilities (investor-owned and municipal) different approaches to lead service line replacement as well as an update on the forthcoming revisions to the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule from leadership from the Lead Service Line Collaborative.

Moderator:

Geoff Marke Chief Economist, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel

Speakers:

JT Hand President and Chief Executive Officer, The York Water Company
Peter Holmgren Engineer, City of Madison Water Utility
Lynn Thorp National Campaign Director, Clean Water Action

2:20 pm – 2:50 pm

Break

2:50 pm – 3:40 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Panel 1

Electric: Is the Electric Grid Resilient Enough? Examining the 2021 Winter Storm

The February 2021 winter storm exposed vulnerabilities in the resilience of the electric grid. In Texas, the electric grid was 5 seconds from complete shutdown. Outside of Texas, areas in the center of the country experienced rolling blackouts. Electric generators failed to meet schedule, natural gas was frozen in, scarce and expensive, transmission transfer capacities were limited and consumers were left uncertain about if and when the lights would go out. This panel will take a critical look at the electric grid under stress, examining what worked to keep the lights on, what didn't and what areas must be addressed to improve resilience. The panel will also look at communication to retail customers both to inform and to encourage in demand reduction efforts to reduce stress on the grid.

Moderator:

Michael Sappington Assistant Attorney General, Office of Arkansas Attorney General

Speakers:

Paul Suskie Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Southwest Power Pool
Denise Buffington Director, Federal Regulatory Affairs, Evergy
Steve Roalstad Communications and Marketing Manager, Platte River Power Authority

Panel 2

Telecom: Telecommunications and Public Safety

Telecommunications service has long been considered essential for the public health and safety. Historically, the goal of ensuring reliable, affordable and ubiquitous telephone service has been a major factor supporting its treatment as a public utility, subject to state and federal regulatory oversight. Times have changed, communications networks and services have changed, regulatory oversight has changed, but the essential role that *all* communications services play with respect to public safety remains and is more important than ever. This panel will address state and federal efforts to ensure that all communications networks and services are reliable, ubiquitous and capable of supporting essential public safety communications for emergency services officials, first responders, and the public.

Moderator:

Burt Cohen Broadband Policy Coordinator and Staff Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Speakers:

Svetlana Matt Legislative Director for Congressman Jerry McNerney
Mark Raymond Connecticut's Chief Information Officer and Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Educational Technology
Regina Costa Telecommunications Policy Director - The Utility Reform Network

3:40 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services.

4:00 pm – 5:10 pm

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

1. (30 Minutes) HEALing Energy: The Housing and Energy Action Leadership (HEAL) Program

The HEAL Program is a unique partnership between TURN - The Utility Reform Network and CommonSpirit Health designed to promote utility programs and policies that prevent homelessness through three primary mechanisms: 1) training and education for health care staff and community partners; 2) expansion of consumer hotlines and tools; and 3) collaborative policy and advocacy work.

- Gabriela Sandoval - Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Utility Reform Network

- Rachele Reyes Wenger - System Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy Engagement, CommonSpirit Health

- Ashley Brand is the System Director, Community and Homeless Health for CommonSpirit Health

2. (20 Minutes) EVs, Fleets, Public Transit, School Buses – Trends, Infrastructure and Pricing

- Jason Frost - Associate, Synapse Energy Economics

3. (20 minutes) – Update from AARP – Priorities and Activities.

-William Malcolm – Senior Legislative Representative, AARP

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

NASUCA Virtual Social

*** Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers ***

Special Guest

William “Bill” Spratley – Former Ohio Consumer Counsel, Founding Member of NASUCA (1979), First NASUCA President (1979-1981)

Presentation of Awards

Robert F Manifold Lifetime Service Award - Tanya McCloskey (PA former)

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky Outstanding Service Award - Jackie Roberts (WV former)

NASUCA Service Awards - Jordy Fuentes (AZ RUCO former), Barry Hobbins (ME)

Tuesday – June 15, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:10 pm

General Session

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm

NARUC President Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

12:15 pm – 1:10 pm

Consumer Protection: State Office Heads

A roundtable discussion with several NASUCA state offices focused on efforts to help customers manage and payoff arrearages now that disconnection moratoria are expiring across the country. The panel will address programs or processes within their respective states that could be replicated in other states, innovative ways to connect customers to resources to help pay bills and involvement in coordinating and moving federal money to customers to pay utility bills.

Moderator:

Chris Ayers

Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission
Public Staff, NASUCA President

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services.

Speakers:

Julie Soderna	General Counsel, Illinois Citizens Utility Board
Drew Slater	Delaware Public Advocate
Mark Toney	Executive Director, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Utility Reform Network
Liz Anderson	Deputy Division Chief, Energy and Telecommunications Division, Massachusetts Office of Attorney General
Stefanie Brand	Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

1:10 pm – 1:30 pm Break

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm Concurrent Sessions

Panel 1 ***DER Committee: FERC Order 2222 - The Progression of DER's and How This Order May Change the Regulatory Landscape.***

FERC Order 2222 allows DER's, individually or aggregated, to competitively join the energy markets even when those DER's are within a retail electric utility. The panel will discuss key attributes to the order, explore the jurisdictional implication of the order, examine what will be required of both RTO's and retail electric utilities to make this new framework function and address who will pay the cost of compliance.

Moderator:

Rebecca L. Tepper	Chief, Energy and Environment Bureau, Massachusetts Office of Attorney General
-------------------	--

Speakers:

Ron Nelson	Director, Strategen Consulting
Tricia DeBleekere	Planning Director, Regulatory Analysis Division, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Jeff Dennis	Managing Director and General Counsel, Advanced Energy Economy

Panel 2 ***Accounting Committee: Examining Performance Based Rate Plans***

Utilities continue to propose new performance based and other alternative regulatory rate mechanisms. If designed poorly, these mechanisms are simply easy ways to generate revenue. If designed well, it is possible to set standards aimed at achieving policy objectives, provide consumer benefits and increase transparency. This panel will explore several of these mechanisms, why they may or may not be beneficial, and how to navigate through these systems as they become more common.

Moderator:

Jared B. Haines	Chief Assistant Attorney General, Utility Regulation Unit Oklahoma Attorney General
-----------------	--

Speakers:

Mark Lowry	President, Pacific Economics Group
Jay Shepherd	Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation
Susan Satter	Chief, Public Utilities Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General

2:20 pm – 2:45 pm Break

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services.

- 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm **Invited Federal Guests**
- (30 Minutes) Allison Clements -Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- (30 Minutes) Kirk Burgee - Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communication Commission
- 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm Break
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Invited Federal Guests**
- (40 Minutes) United States Department of Energy – Priorities and Programs in the New Administration
 -Patricia A. Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity
 -Kelly Speakes-Backman – Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,
- (20 Minutes) United States Department of Homeland Security – Potential Implications of Cyber Incidents on Consumer Advocates. A quick look at the potential implications of cyber incidents such as the Colonial Pipeline event and what those implications could mean for Utility Consumer Advocate offices
 -Ronald Keen, Senior Advisor, National Risk Management Center (NRMC)

End of Open Sessions - Thank You for Attending

Thursday – June 17, 2021

Closed Sessions – NASUCA Members Only

Please Note: The Zoom Link for the Closed Business Session will be emailed to NASUCA members and Office Heads on Wednesday, June 16, and again on Thursday morning, June 17.

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm *Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only*

- Welcome: Welcome – Chris Ayers (NC) – NASUCA President
- Officer Reports
 - Secretary’s Report (Vote on Minutes)
 - Treasurer’s Report (Mid-Year Financial Update)
 - President’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report
- Committee Reports
 - Work Draft Resolution
- Strategic Planning Discussion
- Roundtable of the States

Save The Date
2021 NASUCA Annual Meeting, November 7-10, 2021, Louisville, Kentucky

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services.