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
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

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.
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 a 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
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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 DeBleeckere 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
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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 Speakers-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 NASCUA 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

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