

DRAFT
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY
CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

2022 MID-YEAR MEETING

**Conrad Hotel
Indianapolis, IN
June 12-15, 2022**

Registration and all sessions will be in the Vienna North and South Room unless otherwise noted in the agenda.
Dress is business casual or casual (no ties allowed)

Sunday – June 12, 2022

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration
-Please pick up your meeting name badges

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or
<https://www.nasuca.org/event/2022-nasuca-mid-year-meeting/>
*-Meeting Agenda
-Bios and Headshots for Speakers
-Meeting Registrants List*

12:30 – 1:45 pm Executive Committee Board Meeting (*New York Board Room - Lunch Provided*)

NASUCA Meeting Begins – Open Sessions

2:00 pm – 5:30pm *Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only*

Welcome: Welcome – Chris Ayers (NC) – NASUCA President
-Officer Reports
-Secretary’s Report (Vote on Minutes, Vote on Minnesota Department of Commerce Membership Application)
-Treasurer’s Report
-President’s Report
-Executive Director’s Report
-Committee Reports
-Work Draft Resolution
-Roundtable of the States

5:30 pm – 6:30pm Wine and Cheese Reception – (West Foyer)
Open to All NASUCA Meeting Registrants and Speakers

Dinner on your own

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.

Monday – June 13, 2022

7:30 am – 8:20 am Registration and Breakfast (London Room)
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers

Open Session Begins

8:20 am – 8:35 am ***Welcome***
Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission
Public Staff, NASUCA President
William “Bill” Fine Indiana Consumer Counselor, NASUCA Vice-President

8:35 am – 9:30 am ***Natural Gas Panel: Examining Hydrogen, Renewable Gas and Other Options to Decarbonize Future Natural Gas Service***

As states pursue clean energy goals, the natural gas system will need to modernize toward lower carbon sources of fuel. This panel will offer a short introduction to how hydrogen can work with local gas distribution systems as a source of fuel and will also examine efforts to capture renewable sources of natural gas.

Moderator:

Joseph Rogers Assistant Attorney General - Massachusetts
Attorney General Office of Ratepayer Advocacy

Speakers:

Dan LeFevers Director, State and Consumer Programs, GTI Energy
Frank Canavan American Gas Association (AGA)
David Lapp People’s Counsel, Maryland

9:35 am – 10:30 am ***Reliability Challenges – Concerns at a Grid Level***

Recent reports from NERC and several RTO’s point towards possible future energy emergencies caused by a combination of climate change impacts and a transition from traditional fossil fuel generators to carbon-free renewable power. In addition, uncertainty and increased natural gas prices are having dramatic impacts on future auction prices. This panel will explore these challenges, suggest possible solutions and help advocates get prepared to communicate these issues to consumers.

Moderator:

Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States

Speakers:

Scott Wright Executive Director, Resource Planning, Midcontinent
Independent System Operator
Evelyn Robinson Managing Partner, State and Government Affairs, PJM
Interconnection, LLC.
Shelby Linton-Keddie Senior Director, State Energy and Regulatory Policy,
Edison Electric Institute

10:30 am – 11:00 am 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.

11:00 am – 11:55 am

Water Panel: Challenges of Small Water Systems Acquisitions

This panel will discuss acquisition issues through the lens of a small water/wastewater utility and its customers. Unique to these systems are issues of capital expenditures for long-delayed maintenance projects, needed technology improvements, fair value or acquisition premiums, assimilation into larger utility's systems and the magnitude of rate/bill impacts to a small customer base.

Moderator:

Karen H. Stachowski Senior Asst. Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Unit,
Tennessee Attorney General

Speakers:

David Ober Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Chris Krygier Chief Strategy Officer at Global Water Resources
David Spenard Attorney, Strobo Barkley, PLLC

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch (Weber Grill – across from hotel)
-Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

Current and Future Challenges in Transmission Planning

This panel will address current challenges in transmission planning including questions about how we achieve greater transparency in the planning process, improve stakeholder engagement, advance cost containment goals in RTO-administered transmission planning and meet the types of challenges addressed in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Transmission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking?

Moderator:

Jennifer Easler Director, Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate

Speakers:

Sarah Freeman Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Jeremiah Doner Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO)
Rob Gramlich President, Grid Strategies LLC

2:45 pm – 3:40 pm

Transportation Electrification – Are We Ready?

We are moving toward electrifying our transportation options, whether it be passenger cars, fleet-level delivery vans, school busses or larger trucks. Utilities must plan to meet the transportation needs of all consumers, and the infrastructure costs necessary to meet these needs will impact all consumers. This panel will offer an industry view of what is coming, with a focus on issues around meeting the needs of business fleets, a utility view on how it is getting ready and some discussion about what consumer advocates need to know to be ready for this transition.

Moderator:

Thomas Wiehl Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Speakers:

Kathy Knoop Manager, Electric Vehicle Integration Solutions,
General Motors
Kristin Munsch Senior Associate General Counsel, Commonwealth Edison
Company (ComEd)
Caroline Palmer Senior Consultant, Strategen Consulting

3:40pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 4:40 pm

FERC – Special Guests - To Update NASUCA on FERC’s Consumer Outreach Effort

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has increased its focus on consumer outreach and increasing consumer participation in FERC proceedings. FERC created the Office of Public Participation to coordinate and provide assistance to members of the public to facilitate participation in Commission proceedings, which could at some point in the future include providing intervenor funding. FERC’s Office of External Affairs has also stepped up its direct outreach and communication with NASUCA offices to keep us aware of current cases and to offer issue briefings. This panel presents an opportunity to speak directly with the Director of each office about how NASUCA can better advocate our issues and have our voices heard by FERC.

Elin Katz Director, Office of Public Participation
Robert Thormeyer Director, State, International, & Public Affairs Division

4:45 pm – 5:15 pm

FERC Update

Jason T. Gray Partner, Duncan & Allen, Washington DC

6:00pm – 8:15 pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers

Location: The Rathskeller (*about a 20-minute walk from the Conrad Hotel*)
In the historic Athenaeum Building
401 E. Michigan Street

Awards Robert F. Manifold Award
Bryce Freeman – Wyoming

NASUCA Service Award

Anjali Patel – DC-OPC (formerly), Chair Electric Committee
Margaret Stull – Indiana, Chair Accounting and Tax Committee
Richard Berkley – New York PULP – Chair Consumer Protection Committee

Dinner on your own

Tuesday – June 14, 2022

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast (*West Foyer*)

Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

DOE/LBNL Technical Training

Session 1: 8:30 am – 9:15 am

Grid modernization plans: Review and assessment of proposed investments

Tim Woolf, Synapse Energy Economics

Ben Havumaki, Synapse Energy Economics

This session will cover grid modernization investment economics and a report prepared for the Minnesota Department of Commerce to support analysis of grid modernization investments in the state. The guidance document describes best practices for conducting economic evaluations of grid modernization investments and presents a set of recommended filing requirements for future utility evaluations of grid modernization plans.

Session 2: 9:15 am – 10:00 am

State regulatory approaches for distribution planning

Lisa Schwartz, Berkeley Lab

This session will cover the variety of state requirements for electric distribution system planning, including plan components, regulatory practices, and planning approaches by topic.

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Break-Coffee and Tea

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.

Session 3: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Performance-based regulation (PBR): multiyear rate plans and performance-based incentives

Mark Lowry, Pacific Economics Group Research

Tim Woolf, Synapse Energy Economics

Q&A and discussion with NASUCA members

This session will provide training on PBR approaches, including multiyear rate plans and targeted performance incentive mechanisms, as well as necessary consumer protections. Following presentations, NASUCA members will discuss interest in a potential PBR guide for state utility consumer advocates.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS) - Board Meeting (*Beijing Room*)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own.

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm ***Modern Approaches to Identifying and Understanding Customers Who Are Struggling to Maintain Utility Service***

Many households face a crisis of maintaining utility service, affording utility bills, avoiding service shutoff, and paying down past due balances. Whether still recovering from the pandemic or simply facing challenging economic conditions, customers need help. This panel will explore some modern approaches to using data to understand and identify customers in need, explore what that data is telling us about who these customers are and provoke a discussion about creating more holistic approaches to getting identified customers the full spectrum of help available.

Moderator:

Gabriela Sandoval Director of Race and Equity Policy, TURN - The Utility Reform Network

Speakers:

David Konisky Co-Director, Energy Justice Lab, Lynton K. Caldwell Professor, Indiana University

Jessica Brahaney Cain Vice President, Customer Operations, Eversource

Richard Berkley Executive Director, New York Public Utility Law Project

2:50 pm – 3:30pm **Cybersecurity Update – Questions Advocates Should Be Asking**

Ronald Keen Senior Advisor, National Risk Management Center (NRMC) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

3:30 pm – 4:00pm 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 – 5:00 pm

“Vignettes”

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

1. Update on the Consumer Alliance work at FERC and Congress on RTO Governance, Markets and Competition
Tom Hassenboehler – Partner – Coefficient Group
2. Americans for a Clean Energy Grid – Opportunity for Collaboration
Anjali G. Patel – Vice President for Clean Energy – David Gardiner and Associates
3. Grid Enhancing Technologies – What is Heimdall Adding (and other fun tidbits from across the pond)
Robert G Mork – Vice President International Regulatory Affairs – Heimdall Power

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – June 15, 2022

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast (*Viena North*)

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save the dates:

NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 13-16, 2022 – New Orleans, LA

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.