**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY**

**CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

**Water Committee**

**2022 WATER CONFERENCE**

**Virtual**

**June 30, 2022**

**Thursday – June 30, 2022**

**(All Times are in EDT)**

**12:00pm – 12:55 pm** ***Water Pricing and Affordability in the US: Government vs. Investor-Owned Utilities***

Concerns regarding water affordability have been a growing concern for Consumer Advocates; however, this concern only intensified with the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the public health importance of access to safe and affordable water. The NASUCA Water Affordability and Pricing Panel will discuss the growing body of research and papers on this issue that are available to Consumer Advocates. Further, the Panel will discuss the issue of Water Pricing and Affordability in the context of differences or similarities with government owned and investor-owned utilities.

Moderator:

Susan McClure Managing Attorney – Water/Wastewater, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

Speakers:

Xue Zhang Research Associate, CRP and Global Development Departments, Cornell University

Gregory Pierce Co-Director, Luskin Center for Innovation

Kyle Onda Associate Director, Internet of Water, Lincoln’s Institute’s Center for Geospatial Solutions

**12:5 pm – 1:20 pm**  BREAK

**1:20pm – 2:15 pm** ***Litigation Update: Alternative Ratemaking Mechanisms (Trackers, Riders, and More)***

Moderator:

Richard Rauschmeier Program Manager – Water Branch, Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission

Speakers:

Ed Kaufman Principal Utility Specialist, Virginia State Corporation Commission

Janice A. Beecher Director, Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University

Ralph C. Smith, CPA Senior Regulatory Consultant, Larkin & Associates PLLC

**2:15pm – 2:40 pm** BREAK

**2:40pm – 3:4 0pm** ***Lead Line Replacement – Funding Opportunities and Requirements for Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water Grants Program***

Perhaps no issue has garnered more attention in the past decade in the media as it relates to water utilities than the presence and systematic elimination of lead service lines.  This complex and costly issue is also playing out in regulatory filings across the United States with investor-owned utilities as well as at the federal level under pending revised Lead and Copper Rules. The NASUCA Lead Line Replacement Panel will discuss ways for Consumer Advocates to not only become educated on this topic but also to hear from U.S. EPA officials from the Ground Water and Drinking Water Programs speak about ways to alleviate cost concerns for ratepayers with unlocked federal funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water Grants Program.

Speakers:

Matt King DWSRF Team, Office of Ground Water Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ying Tan Physical Scientist, Office of Ground Water Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Moderator:

Geoff Marke Chief Economist, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel

**3:40 pm – 4:00 pm** BREAK

**4:00pm – 5:00 pm** “Vignettes”

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

1. **Commissions and Utility Receiverships - A Case Study**

Kelly Cashman-Grams – General Counsel, Tennessee Public Utility Commission

Aaron J. Conklin – Senior Counsel, Tennessee Public Utility Commission

2.  **Cost Allocations - Nonregulated Parent Company & Its Utility Subsidiaries.**

Christina Baker – Attorney Specialist, Arkansas Attorney Public Service Commission

1. **New Technologies to Address Non-Revenue Water**

Grady Stout – Director of Engineering, Tennessee American Water Company

1. **Addressing the Issue of Regulatory Lag**.

David N. Dittemore – Consultant, Blue River Consulting LLC

*Meeting End*

**Save the dates:**

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