NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2023 MID-YEAR MEETING
JW Marriott and Hampton Inn Conference Center
Austin, Texas
July 16-19, 2023

Registration and all sessions will be in the Lone Star Ballroom B-C, on the 3rd floor at the JW Marriott unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual or casual (ties not necessary)

Sunday – July 16, 2025

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

Located at: https://www.nasuca.org or
https://www.nasuca.org/event/2023-nasuca-mid-year-meeting/
-Meeting Agenda
-Bio and Headshots for Speakers
-Meeting Registrants List

NASUCA Meeting Begins

1:30 pm – 5:00pm Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only

Welcome: Welcome – Chris Ayers (NC) – 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 Draft Resolution
-Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 7:00pm NARUC Reception

Dinner on your own
Monday – July 17, 2023

7:30 am – 8:15 am  
Registration and Breakfast (Room 301 and 302)  
**Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers**

Open Session Begins

8:15 am – 8:30 am  
Welcome

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

Courtney Hjaltman  
Public Counsel, Texas Office of Public Counsel

8:30 am – 9:25 am  
Natural Gas Panel: Uri and Elliott and the West – Will We Learn the Lessons?

The lesson from winter storms URI and Elliott is that more focus is needed on coordinating the electric and natural gas markets and keeping gas flowing at the well head during extreme weather events. Natural gas prices also spiked across the West last Fall. This panel explores these winter storms and the price increase in the West to see what needs to change in the future to prevent system failures and price spikes.

Moderator:  
Blaise Michna  
Public Utilities Engineer II, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff

Speakers:  
Jim Robb  
President and CEO, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Mathew J. Agen  
Chief Regulatory Counsel, Energy, American Gas Association

Kent Chandler  
Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission

9:35 am – 10:30 am  
It Takes a Village to Build a National Map of Water Utility Service Area Boundaries - the Benefits of Commissions and Consumer Advocates Being Part of the Village

The Map-Building Village is large and includes state health departments, state environmental agencies, state water boards, universities, private consultants, and many others. Uses of the service boundary data includes such things as regional studies on the human right to water; statewide needs assessment for struggling water systems; water use planning assessments; water supply and population projections; and identification of areas with water quality issues needing further state investment. What Commissions and Consumer Advocates can offer by being a part of the Map-Building Village?

Moderator:  
Dr. Geoff Mark  
Chief Economist, Missouri Office of Public Counsel

Speakers:  
Dr. Yolanda J. McDonald  
Assistant Professor in the Department of Human & Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University, Lead Investigator, Vanderbilt Drinking Water Justice Lab

Phillip Cork  
Water Data Scientist, Environmental Policy Innovation Center

Herbert H. Hilliard  
Chairman, Tennessee Public Utility Commission
10:30 am – 11:00 am  Coffee Break

11:00 am – 11:55 am  Consumer Protection Panel – A Review of State Efforts on Affordability

This panel will review efforts of several NASUCA members states to address the affordability of utility service, including new pricing programs and efforts to help customers get access to help paying bills.

Moderator:
Christy M. Appleby  Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Speakers:
Tracy M.B. Smetana  Energy Affordability Section Director, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Claire E. Coleman  Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel
Richard Berkley  Consumer Advocate & Director of the Office of Consumer Services, New York State Department of Public Service
Katie Ayres  Policy Advocate, Oregon Citizens Utility Board

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Lunch Break – grab a friend and go…

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Heads of Office Lunch (Room 301 and 302)
- Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance

1:30 pm – 2:25 pm  Rate Design – Examining Design Options to Align Rates with Cost – Time Matters

As more distributed generation and storage resources enter the grid, and the needs of new advanced technologies, like electric vehicles, must be addressed, it is imperative that rates and rate design follow cost at the time of customer usage. Using price incentives to encourage customers to use energy when it is cheap and to refrain from using when it is expensive can make the grid run more efficiently and at a lower overall cost. Using rates to encourage electric vehicles to charge off-peak is an example, but the principle can apply to all consumer energy use. Rate design can also be used to help address issues like affordability and equity. This panel will examine some current efforts to move rates and rate design towards more time and cost-based designs.

Moderator:
Joe Pereira  Deputy Director, Colorado Office of Utility Consumer Advocate

Speakers:
Lon Huber  Senior Vice President, Pricing and Customer Solutions Duke Energy
Mark Toney  Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), California
Sarah Freeman  Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

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.
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm  **Federal Speakers**

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Updates on the Federal Communication’s Commission Broadband Mapping Initiative
- Eduard Bartholme, Senior Outreach Director on the Broadband Data Task Force, Federal Communications Commission

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Title 17 Clean Energy Finance Program – Updates from the IIJA and the IRA

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Coffee and Snack Break ((Room 301 and 302)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
“*Vignette*”
“noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. Update on the Customer Alliance Activities at FERC and Congress
   - Tom Hassenboehler – Partner, Coefficient Group
2. Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)
   - Sheri Givens – President and CEO, SEPA
3. Small Modular Nuclear Reactors – Current State of Development
   - Marc Nichol – Senior Director for New Reactors, Nuclear Energy Institute

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  **NASUCA Reception**

**Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers**

*Location:* Cooper’s Old Time Pit BBQ
217 Congress Ave (around the block from JW Marriott)

**Awards to Be Presented**

*Manifold Award (Lifetime of Public Service)*
Bruce Weston (OH)

*Popowsky Awards (Exceptional Service to NASUCA)*
Rebecca Tepper – Massachusetts (Executive Committee, Treasurer)
Drew Slater - Delaware (Executive Committee, Vice President)

*Service Award (Service to NASUCA)*
Thaddaeus Johnson – DC-OPC (FCC CAC, IAC)
Laurence Daniels – DC-OPC (FCC CAC)
Jeff Waller – Alaska – (USAC Board)
Robert Nelson – Michigan CUB (FCC NANC)
Burt Cohen – Connecticut – (FCC Joint Board)
Michel Singer Nelson – Colorado – (Committee leadership group)
Jana Grenn – Alaska (Committee Secretary)
Will Nissen – Minnesota – (Former Gas Committee Chair)
Dr. Gabriela Sandovaal – California TURN – (Leadership, panel volunteer)
Nathan Forster – Mass AG – (Former Electric Committee Chair)

Dinner on your own
**Tuesday – July 18, 2023**

7:30 am – 8:30 am  
Registration and Breakfast (Room 301 and 302)  
**Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers.**

**Open Session Begins**

8:30 am – 10:30 pm  
**DOE/LBNL Technical Training**

**Session 1: 8:30 am – 9:25 am**  
Designing and Implementing Distributional Equity Analysis (DEA) for Energy Efficiency and DER Programs.  
Tim Woolf – Senior Vice President, Consulting, Synapse Energy Economics

**Session 2: 9:30 am – 10:50 am**  
Considering Time-Sensitive and Peak Demand Value of Energy Efficiency When Shaping Program Incentives.  
Natalie Mims Frick – Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

10:30 am – 11:00 am  
Break-Coffee and Tea

11:00 am – 11:55 am  
**Public Charging for Electric Vehicles – Competitive, or Is There a Utility Role?**

Besides providing the make-ready and connection, should utilities also be allowed to provide electric vehicle public charging services? Is this an essential utility service? Will utilities, using ratepayer money, monopolized the charging space? There is a robust market of competitive providers willing to offer charging services. But will the competitive market provide the level of charging services necessary to meet the full needs of the community? And will the competitive market provide services in less lucrative places without some obligation to serve the entire community? This panel will weigh the issues.

**Moderator:**  
Corey Singletary  
Director, Regulatory Affairs, Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board

**Speakers:**  
Frank Lacey  
President, Electric Advisors Consulting, LLC.  
Phil Jones  
Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation Electrification  
Dan Scripps  
Chair, Michigan Public Service Commission

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
Lunch on your own

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1:30 pm – 2:25 pm  
**Electric Panel – Transmission Update**

This panel will update us on key trends in the transmission space, including some lessons learned from storms URI and Elliot and the recent heat waves in the west. Issues include how RTO's are rethinking how they ensure reliability, how non-RTO regions are addressing reliability and planning issues, how the interconnection process might be improved, how Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) can be economically deployed and what the near term holds for moving larger transmission projects forward.

**Moderator:**
Michele Beck  
Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services

**Speakers:**
Evelyn Robinson  
Managing Partner, State Government Affairs, State & Member Services, PJM Interconnect

Rob Gramlich  
Founder and President, Grid Strategies

Thad Levar  
Chair, Utah Public Service Commission

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
**Federal Speakers**

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Alejandro Roark, Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
James Danly, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Coffee Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
“**Vignettes**”

“*noun /vĭn-ĭt/; a brief evocative description, account or episode*”

1. Using Risk Modeling to Examine the Cost Effectives of Safety Investments  
   - Eric Borden – Synapse Energy Economics

2. How to Prevent Electricity Customers from Getting Burnt by High Fuel Prices  
   - Joe Daniel - RMI

3. Update on the HOMES and HEERA energy efficiency programs created by the Inflation Reduction Act.  
   - David Kolata – Vice President of Policy - Sealed

**End of Open Sessions** - Dinner on your own
Wednesday – July 19, 2023

7:30 am – 9:00 am t

Otherwise, breakfast on your own.

9:15 am – 11:00 am Closed Session for Members of NASUCA (Room 301 and 302)
-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save the dates:
NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 5-8, 2023 – Charlotte, North Carolina