

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 Elliot 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

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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

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
- Leslie Rich – Senior Consultant, Loan Program Office, US Department of Energy

3:30pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee and Snack Break ((Room 301 and 302)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

"Vignettes"

"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

5:30pm – 7:30pm

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)

Thaddeus 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 Sandoval – California TURN – (Leadership, panel volunteer)

Nathan Forster – Mass AG – (Former Electric Committee Chair)

Dinner on your own

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Tuesday – July 18, 2023

7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration and Breakfast (Room 301 and 302)
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Open Session Begins

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

Session 1: 8:30am – 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 – 10:30 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

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 – 4:00pm

Coffee Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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1. Using Risk Modeling to Examine the Cost Effectiveness 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

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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**

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