

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2025 MID-YEAR MEETING

Hyatt Regency
Columbus, Ohio
June 8-11, 2025

Registration and all sessions will be in the McKinley unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual or casual (ties not necessary)

Sunday – June 8, 2025

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration (Hayes Foyer)
 -Please pick up your meeting name badges

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or
<https://www.nasuca.org/event/2025-nasuca-mid-year-meeting/>
 -Meeting Agenda
 -Bios and Headshots for Speakers
 -Meeting Registrants List

NASUCA Meeting Begins

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

- Officer Reports
 - Karen Stachowski (TN) - Secretary's Report
(Vote on Minutes from the Mid-Year meeting, Vote on new member application from the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project)
 - Anthony Ornelas (WY) - Treasurer's Report
(Vote on Treasurers Report)
 - Michael Moody (MI) - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Work Draft Resolution
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Wine and Cheese Reception (Hayes Room)

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 9, 2025

7:30 am – 8:15 am Registration and Breakfast (Hayes Foyer and Hayes Room)
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers

Open Session Begins

8:15 am – 8:30 am **Welcome**

Michael Moody Division Chief, Special Litigation Division, Michigan
Department of the Attorney General, NASUCA President

8:30 am – 9:25 am **Transparent Natural Gas Planning**

Gas utility planning processes often lack sufficient transparency, making it difficult for regulators, consumer advocates, and stakeholders to effectively assess the necessity, cost-effectiveness, and fairness of proposed infrastructure investments and supply decisions. Long-term planning and publicly accessible gas plans can address these issues. This panel will explore gas planning processes and highlight the information Commissions should require in gas plans.

Moderator:

Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services

Speakers:

Brad Cebulko Founding Partner, Current Energy Group
William Mojica Senior Vice President, Gas Operation, Columbia Gas Ohio
David S. Lapp People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel

9:35 am – 10:30 am **Leveraging Media to Amplify Your Advocacy**

As busy advocates, speaking to the media and journalists may not always be at the top of our list of things to do. However, focusing the media spotlight on current issues and contentious hearings can be a powerful tool to increase public attention and participation and is a low/no cost strategy to improve case outcomes and advocacy. Learn how your office can effectively leverage the media and build relationships with journalists to amplify your advocacy.

Moderator:

Cindy Schonhaut Director, Colorado Office of Utility Consumer Advocate

Speakers:

Tom Content Executive Director, Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board,
NASUCA Vice President
Merrilee Embs Public Affairs Director, Ohio Office of Consumer Advocate
Kathiann M. Kowalski Author and Journalist

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

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11:00 am – 11:55 am	<p>Navigating Consumer Impacts in Transmission Planning – Understanding FERC Orders 2023 and 1920-B</p> <p>As the energy landscape evolves, transmission planning plays a crucial role in ensuring reliability, affordability, and equitable access for consumers. This panel will explore the consumer implications of FERC Orders 2023 and 1920-B, which introduce significant reforms in long-term regional transmission planning and interconnection. The panel will discuss how these orders empower state regulators to shape cost-sharing mechanisms, move generation resources more quickly through the evaluation process, influence the development of transmission infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Maureen R. Willis Consumers’ Counsel, Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States Hon. Dennis P. Deters Commissioner, Ohio Public Utilities Commission Rob Gramlich Founder and President, Grid Strategies</p>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<p>Heads of Office Lunch (Harrison Room)</p> <p>-Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance</p>
1:30 pm – 2:25 pm	<p>Large Load Tariffs – Current Efforts to Minimize Risk to Consumers</p> <p>As states negotiate and approve new large load/data center tariffs, what key issues and frameworks should consumer advocates consider as we work to minimize risks to consumers. This panel will explore those issues using recent developments in Ohio and Indian for immediate context and will consider also consider examples from other states that are looking at different approaches.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Matthew S. McKenzie American Electric Power Brendon Baatz Energy Market Development, Google Caroline Palmer Principal Associate, Synapse Energy Economics</p>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Federal/National Speakers</p> <p>2:30 pm -EPRI’s Climate Resilience and Adaptation Initiative (Climate READi) - Jeff Thomas - Climate READi Asset Vulnerability and Adaptation Lead</p> <p>3:00 pm - NERC Update – Summer Reliability Report - Mark Olson - Manager, Reliability Assessments</p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Coffee and Snack Break (Hayes Room)

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4:00 pm – 4:20 pm

“Vignettes”

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

1. Critical Consumers Issues Forum - 2025 Update

-Katrina McMurrian - Executive Director, Critical Consumer Issues Forum

4:20 pm – 5:00 pm

NASUCA – The Origin Story

In May 1979, 16 state consumer advocate office representatives met in Columbus, Ohio to establish the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). The founders established NASUCA for agencies designated by state law to act as independent ratepayer advocates. The purpose was to provide a forum to exchange ideas, improve consumer representation at the state and federal levels, and encourage greater consumer participation in the regulatory process. William “Bill” Spratley, Ohio’s Consumer Counsel became NASUCA’s first President. This panel will tell the story

William “Bill” Spratley

Ohio’s first Consumer Counsel, NASUCA’s first President 1979-1981

Janine Migden-Ostrander

Ohio’s third Consumer Counsel, Administrative Assistant to Bill Spratley in 1979

Bruce Weston

Ohio’s fourth Consumer Counsel, Legal Intern for Bill Spratley in 1979

Maureen Willis

Ohio’s fifth (Current) Consumer Counsel, Legal Intern for Bill Spratley in 1982

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers

Location:

The KEE (<https://thekeecolumbus.com/>)

215 Neilston Street, Columbus

(12 minute walk, 0.5 miles from the Hyatt)

Awards to Be Presented

Popowsky Awards (Exceptional Service to NASUCA)

- Patrick Cicero - Former Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate, NASUCA Executive Committee Member
- William “Bill” Spratley, First Ohio Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Executive Committee Member, First NASUCA President 1979-1981

Service Award (Service to NASUCA)

- Blaise Michna - North Carolina Public Staff, Co-Chair NASUCA Natural Gas Committee

Dinner on your own

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Tuesday – June 10, 2025

7:15 am – 8:00 am Registration and Breakfast (Hayes Foyer and Hayes Room)
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

Open Session Begins

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

Session 1: 8:30am – 9:25 am

Large Loads: Evolving Practices and Opportunities

Electricity demand from large load customers such as data centers is projected to grow significantly in the near term. While data centers and other large loads plan an important role in advancing economic growth in the United States, large loads present challenges and opportunities for electricity supply and infrastructure. This presentation will provide a brief overview of large load growth in the US, discuss large load forecasting and interconnection, tariff design. It will conclude with examples of actions states are taking to address large load growth.

- Natalie Mims Frick — Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Session 2: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Planning for DER Growth – Challenges and Opportunities

Distribution utilities are increasingly being asked to incorporate forward-looking DER adoption and state energy policy goals into distribution planning and investment processes. This session will discuss the barriers to incorporating DER within distribution planning and investments as well as the opportunities for improved investment efficiency and lower overall costs that can be realized.

- Cody Davis – Electric Power Engineers

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

11:00 am – 11:30 am **Data Centers – Yes, There Are Water Issues Too**

Data centers are not just hungry for power but are also thirsty for water. A mid-sized data center consumes around 300,000 gallons of water a day, or about as much as 1,000 U.S. households. However, it isn't getting the attention it deserves. A review of 122 companies that operate data centers, Sustainalytics found just 16% had disclosed information about their plans for managing water-related risks. For data centers, the challenge comes down to a basic tradeoff - consume less water and use more electricity or use less energy and consume more water. Right now, water is cheap, it makes sense to consume water. This panel will evaluate this tradeoff.

Moderator:

Karen H. Stachowski Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division,
Tennessee Attorney General's Office

Speakers:

Justin Schneider Director of Business Development for Indiana American
Water

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11:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<p>Consumer Advocate of the PJM States (CAPS) – Closed Board Meeting (Harrison Room)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact Greg Poulos for details.
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<p>Federal Action & Legislative Pathways – Implications for Utility Consumers</p> <p>A timely overview of the current federal landscape, examining possible regulatory and legislative avenues to advocate for reliable and affordable service for customers. The panel will bring together partners that work with NASUCA to leverage our collective consumer strength. Gain insights into how state utility consumer advocates can engage with federal policymakers, navigate emerging regulatory frameworks, and leverage legislative tools to advance consumer interests. Join us for a forward-looking discussion on the evolving federal landscape and its impact on utility consumers.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> David Springe Executive Director, NASUCA</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Jeff Dennis Executive Director, Electricity Consumer Alliance Tom Hassenboehler Partner, Coefficient Group Karen Onaran President and CEO, Electricity Consumers Resource Council</p>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>National Speakers</p> <p>2:30 pm - CAPS Emergency Communication Project</p> <p>A discussion of specific opportunities to drive customer-centricity in emergency and storm communications based on findings from an analysis of more than 100 recent (2024-2025) emergency and storm communications, focusing on cold weather and winter storm communications, and including operational manuals, emails, social media and YouTube videos, articles and news, and more, in addition to communications reviewed from Winter Storm Elliot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Courtney Henderson, Founder & President, Hawks Peak Strategies, <p>3:00 pm - Proactive Distribution Planning</p> <p>The Alliance for Transportation Electrification and RMI hosted a dialog with NASUCA consumer advocate members earlier this year to discuss proactive distribution planning to meet grid electrification needs. It was a wide-ranging dialog about how we plan for grid electrification and how do we address cost allocation and rate impacts given the uncertainty and timing of electrification needs. This is a report out on that effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Philip B. Jones, Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation Electrification -Ben Shapiro, Principal, Transportation, RMI
3:30pm – 4:00 pm	Coffee and Snack Break (Hayes Room)

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1. Powerlines - a New Consumer Focus
- Charles Hua, Founder and Executive Director, Powerline
2. Energy Equity Project Update
- Justin Schott, Director, Energy Equity Project
3. Is “Innovative” Ratemaking Harming Consumers
- Paul Alvarez, President, Wired Group

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – June 11, 2025

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast – (Harrison Room)

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA - (Harrison Room)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

11:15 am – 1:30 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA - Lunch Included (Harrison Room)

Optional Training – RMI Energy Poverty Simulator

In this session, attendees will use an online tool, RMI’s Energy Poverty Policy Simulator, to model energy affordability policies and simulate the impact on electricity burden and energy poverty at the state level. Attendees will be able to modify various energy policies with a set of given constraints and model the cost impact on other customers. The tool allows users to model percentage of income payment plans, discount rates, energy efficiency programs, and other policies and measures the impact based on user defined funding mechanisms (like ratepayer, taxpayer, and investor funded)

Meeting End

Save The Dates:

2025 NASUCA Annual Meeting (With NARUC)

– November 9-12, 2025 – Seattle, Washington

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