

CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**Sheraton Grand Hotels and The Crown Plaza Downtown
Seattle, Washington
November 9-12, 2025**

Registration and all sessions will be in the Cirrus Ballroom (35th Floor, Pike Street Tower) unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Breakfasts, the Heads of Office lunch and the CAPS Board Meeting will all be in the Revenna Room (3rd Floor). Dress is business or business casual.

Note - “TBD” means invitations are out, but a potential speaker is not confirmed.

Sunday – November 9, 2025

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration/Panels - Cirrus Ballroom (35th Floor, Pike Street Tower)
-Please pick up your meeting name badges

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or

- Meeting Agenda
- Bios and Headshots for Speakers
- Meeting Registrants List

NASUCA Meeting Begins

1:30 pm – 5:00pm *Closed Business Session*

- Officer Reports
 - Karen Stachowski (TN) - Secretary's Report
(Vote on Minutes from the Mid-Year meeting)
 - Anthony Ornelas (WY) - Treasurer's Report
(Vote on Treasurers Report and 2026 Proposed Dues, and 2026 Proposed Budget)
 - Nomination Committee Report
(Vote on 2026 Officers and Executive Committee)
 - Michael Moody (MI) - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm NARUC Reception

Dinner on your own

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Monday – November 10, 2025

7:15 am – 8:00 am Registration/Panels - Cirrus Ballroom (35th Floor, Pike Street Tower)
Breakfast - Ravenna Room (3rd Floor)

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

Natural Gas Utility Access to Capital in the Current Investment Environment

Natural gas utilities need access to capital. But is capital getting more difficult to obtain for the sector? Has capital access changed recently? If so, what is driving the change. This panel will examine what regulators and advocates need to know about access to capital markets for gas utilities and what the impacts regulatory decisions can have on that access.

Moderator:

Clark Kaml Financial Analyst, Consumer Advocate Division,
Tennessee Attorney General's Office

Speakers:

Juan Alvarado Managing Director, Energy Analysis, American Gas
Association.

Richard Rauschmeier California Public Advocates Office
Brad Cebulko Founding Partner, Current Energy Group

9:35 am – 10:30 am

New Networks, New Challenges - How State Regulators Can Act to Ensure Essential Telecom Services Work When Customers Need Them the Most

Ensuring reliable telecommunications during extreme emergency events is a fundamental public safety issue. Wildfires and hurricanes are extreme events that can seriously impact and impair local and regional telecommunications networks. All critical infrastructure sectors (e.g., water, transportation, electricity and natural gas) rely on telecommunications and power. Power outages to reduce wildfire risk or caused by damage can cause wireless, VoIP, and fiber-based services to fail, leaving the public with no means of receiving essential information. At a basic level, it is crucial to ensure that state and local emergency officials have accurate information about the status of communications networks, so that they can coordinate, properly respond, and maintain communications during an emergency. This panel will explore experiences from different states and discuss actions that state regulators can take to ensure that communications networks continue to function during power outages and other emergencies.

Moderator:

Regina Costa Telecommunications Policy Director, TURN - The Utility
Reform Network

Speakers:

Hon. Ann E. Rendahl Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission

Hon. Floyd McKissick Commissioner, North Carolina Public Utilities Commission

Hon. John Reynolds Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Martha Guzman Aceves Former Commissioner - California Public Utilities Commission

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10:30 am – 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 am – 11:55 am	<p>Innovative Opportunities to Mitigate Enrollment Barriers in Energy Affordability Programs</p> <p>Barriers to participation in energy affordability programs can be mitigated in a variety of ways, thereby increasing enrollment and the number of customers served by these important programs. Barriers include customers’ lack of awareness that they qualify for programs as well as documentation requirements. This panel will explore three opportunities to reduce these barriers, through data-matching between utilities and state-administered income-qualified programs, self-attestation of eligibility, and concurrent application systems.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Jessica Freedman Assistant Attorney General, Energy and Ratepayer Advocacy Division, Massachusetts Office of Attorney General</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Patrick Cicero Counsel, Pennsylvania Utility Law Project Kelsey Solberg Senior Energy Program Manager, Avista Utilities Hon. Matthew Baker Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission</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 - Ravenna Room (3rd Floor)</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 and Data Center - Adding Load Flexibility to Meet Resource Needs</p> <p>Rapid growth in data centers and other large-scale loads, is putting unprecedented pressure on the electric grid. With long development timelines for new generation and transmission infrastructure, grid operators and utilities are calling for load to be more flexible and able to reduce demand when needed. This panel will explore what that flexibility might look like for load additions and discuss how we get cost allocation and prices set to provide the proper incentive to minimize costs and maximize the benefits of added flexibility.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Adam Carlesco Assistant People’s Counsel, Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Ellen Zuckerman Head of Energy Market Development North and South America, Google Ron Nelson Partner, Current Energy Group Lon Huber Senior Vice President, Chief Planning Officer, Xcel Energy</p>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Federal/National Speakers</p> <p>2:30 pm - EPRI - DCFlex and other Program Updates -Morgan Scott - Vice President, Global Outreach and Partnerships</p> <p>3:00 pm - North American Electric Reliability Corporation -Jim Robb - Chief Executive Officer</p>

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3:30pm – 4:00 pm Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Understanding Small Business Customer Needs**

Issues such as increasing rates, load growth, wildfires, and policy transitions can all have significant impacts on small business utility customers, but the needs and interests of this diverse customer group can vary significantly from residential customers. This panel will discuss the interests of small business customers, provide insights on advocating for these customers, and discuss specific programs that may assist small businesses.

Moderator:

Nina Suetake

Deputy Director - Policy, NASUCA

Speakers

NazAarah Sabree

Pennsylvania Small Business Advocate

Diane Henkels

Fair Oregon Utility Rates for Small Business (FOUR)

Anne Lenzen

Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs & Market Development, OPower

6:00 pm – 9:00pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants, sponsors and speakers

Location: Garage Billiards and Bowl - The Spare Room (6 bowling lanes, 2 billiards tables, shuffleboard, ping pong, food and beverages)

Address: 1130 Broadway, Seattle (about a 20-minute walk, uphill, to the Capital Hill neighborhood)

Awards to Be Presented

Manifold Awards (Lifetime of Public Service)

Jennifer Easler, Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate, NASUCA EC

Barrett Sheridan, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Popowsky Awards (Exceptional Service to NASUCA)

Elizabeth Anderson, Massachusetts Utility Advocate, NASUCA EC

Cindy Schonhaut, Colorado Utility Advocate, NASUCA Secretary, EC

William Fine, Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor, NASUCA Vice-President, EC

Jeffery Waller, Alaska Utility Advocate, NASUCA USAB Board Member

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Tuesday – November 11, 2025

7:15 am – 8:15 am Registration/Panels - Cirrus Ballroom (35th Floor, Pike Street Tower)
Breakfast - Ravenna Room (3rd Floor)
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 – 9:20 am

ICE Calculator 2.0: Assisting Consumer Advocates, Utilities, and Regulators Estimate the Costs of Power Outages

The Interruption Cost Estimate (ICE) Calculator is a publicly available online tool that estimates the economic costs electricity customers experience due to power interruptions. The tool is used routinely by utility planners, consumer advocates, and other decision-makers to estimate the economic benefits of investments in grid reliability. This presentation will discuss an ongoing public-private partnership to update and upgrade the ICE Calculator, including how to use the newly updated version of the tool.

- Peter Larsen - Leader, Energy Markets & Policy Department
Deputy for Research, Energy Analysis & Environmental Impacts Division
Berkeley Lab

Session 2: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Beyond Bulk: Effectively Considering the Distribution System in Integrated Resource Planning

While electricity planning practices vary by state and utility based on utility type and market structure, integrated resource planning (IRP) remains a prominent vehicle — even in states with centrally-organized wholesale electricity markets. IRP focuses on meeting forecasted long-term electricity needs. Typically, utilities have not considered impacts of design and operation of the low-voltage distribution network in IRP. With advanced capabilities of grid-edge technologies to generate and store electricity and provide load flexibility, and large utility investments in distribution systems, it's increasingly important to consider at least some distribution planning elements in IRP.

This session will discuss the value proposition for doing so, such as reducing utility costs through resource co-optimization and strategic siting of grid-edge resources. The session will illuminate the most important touchpoints between planning for bulk power and distribution systems and provide a range of tactics for integrating these two processes.

-Grace Relf, Energy Researcher, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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

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11:00 am – 12:00 am	<p>Is Consolidation in Water Utilities in the Public Interest? The Competing Interests Between Existing Customers and Acquired Customers.</p> <p>We have heard that there needs to be more consolidation for water utilities but is that really the best for customers? For example, in rate cases a utility may have multiple acquisitions, multiple acquisition premiums, and multiple, intensive capital investment plans for the acquired systems. Both acquired and existing customers can have rate shock from such rate case proceedings – acquired customers shocked because they were told their rates wouldn't go up, and the existing customers shocked from the acquisition premiums and capital investments in the acquired systems.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Karen H. Stachowski Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division, Tennessee Attorney General's Office</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Hon. Michael Bange Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Geoff Marke, PhD Chief Economist, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel Mike Duncan Vice President, Central States Water Resources</p>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<p>Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS) – Closed Board Meeting (Ravenna - 3rd Floor)</p> <p>- Contact Greg Poulos for details.</p>
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<p>Wildfire Mitigation Planning - Maximizing Value for Consumers</p> <p>While wildfires are not an acute issue in every state, the impacts of the western wildfires have changed how we think about liability and offered lessons learned about mitigation planning and technology and best practices for mitigation plan review. This panel will explore how we can evaluate mitigation plans with an eye towards maximize system readiness while minimizing customer rate impacts.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Eric Borden Principal Associate, Synapse Energy Economics Kate Strickland Director, Strategic Projects, Research & Industry Strategy, Smart Electric Power Alliance Caroline Thomas Jacobs Director, California Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety</p>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Discussion on DOE/FERC ANOPR</p> <p>Speakers TBD</p>
3:30pm – 4:00 pm	Coffee and Snack Break

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4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

“Vignettes”

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

1. RMI Tools to Help Consumer Advocate Offices
- Joseph Daniel - RMI
2. FERC Case Update
- Jason Gray - Duncan & Allen
3. A Call to Action 2.0: Protecting Customers from Rising Gas Bills.
- Michael Bloomberg - Executive Director - Future of Heat Initiative

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – November 12, 2025

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast – (Cirrus Ballroom - 35th Floor, Pike Street Tower)

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA (Cirrus Ballroom - 35th Floor, Pike Street Tower)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save The Dates:

2026 NASUCA Summer Meeting (With NARUC) - July 19-22, 2026 - Minneapolis, MN

2026 NASUCA Annual Meeting (Without NARUC) - November 2026 - Location TBD

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