

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2026 MID-YEAR MEETING

Hilton Downtown and Hyatt Centric Downtown
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 19-22, 2026

Registration and all sessions will be at the Hilton in the Conrad B-C Ballroom, on the second level unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual or casual (ties not necessary)

Sunday – July 19, 2026

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration
 -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 Annual meeting, Vote on New Member)
 - Anthony Ornelas (WY) - Treasurer's Report
(Vote on Treasurers Report)
 - Michael Moody (MI) - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Deputy Director Update
- Committee Reports
 - Work Draft Resolutions
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm NARUC Reception

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 – July 20, 2026

7:30 am – 8:15 am Registration and Breakfast (Conrad A)
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 **Evaluating whether Natural Gas Utility Investments Are Prudent in the Era of Affordability Concerns and Public Policy Challenges**

Natural gas utilities invest billions of dollars annually maintaining aging systems and in new construction. In an era where all policy makers are focused on the affordability of utility bills, how do we make sure all utility spending is prudent? This panel will be a conversation about what prudent investment means to utilities, commissioners, and consumer advocates and whether the analysis changes if public policy directs investment to focus on resilience, gas to electricity transition policies, and affordability.

Moderator:

Clark Kaml Financial Analyst, Consumer Advocate Division,
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General

Speakers:

David Dittmore, CPA Regulatory Consultant
James M. Van Nostrand Policy Director, Future of Heat Initiative
Bradley Dixon Utility Regulatory Consultant, Harlan Sage LLC

9:35 am – 10:30 am **Connected for All**

This panel will examine how state telecommunications and utility regulation are evolving in a broadband-first era, as policymakers confront the growing recognition of broadband as essential infrastructure. How are states rethinking legacy regulatory frameworks in light of changing technologies and major federal broadband investments. Competitive neutrality will be considered including whether existing legal and regulatory structures adequately address today's broadband-dominant communications. Can or should states move beyond traditional silos separating telecommunications regulation, broadband policy, utility oversight, and consumer protection? Topics include broadband affordability, state authority after the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, digital inclusion, essential/emergency communications service obligations, integrated infrastructure planning, and emerging state regulatory models aimed at ensuring universal, affordable, and equitable access.

Moderator:

Katherine M. Kennedy Assistant Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of
Consumer Advocate

Speakers:

Sherry Lichtenberg Senior Manager, Policy and Professional Development,
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
Burt Cohen Broadband Policy Coordinator & Staff Attorney, State of
Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel
Brent Christensen President/CEO of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance

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.

10:30 am – 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 am – 11:55 am	How to Create Meaningful Conversations with Customers on Affordability The affordability of utility bills has been placed under a microscope, and utility consumers, legislators, and stakeholders increasingly turn to commissions and consumer advocates for information and explanations. In a world where much of the public feels disenfranchised, how can we make consumers feel heard on the topic of increasing bills? Utilities, regulators and consumer advocates sit down to talk about ways to communicate with consumers about affordability and utility bills in a rapidly changing world. <u>Moderator:</u> Maureen Willis Ohio Consumers' Counsel <u>Speakers:</u> Hon. Anthony Swinger Chair, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Amanda Rome Executive Vice President, Group President - Utilities and Chief Customer Officer, Xcel Energy Mark Toney Executive Director, TURN-The Utility Reform Net
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Heads of Office Lunch (Conrad A) -Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance
1:30 pm – 2:25 pm	Cost Allocation for Large Loads - Have You Checked Your Model Lately Everyone agrees that the cost to serve new large load customers and data centers should not be charged to other legacy customers. But we can only make good on this promise if all direct and indirect utility costs to serve these customers are captured and allocated to the class contain the large load customers. Easier said than done. Panelists will discuss updated approaches to cost allocation models and address how we can better protect legacy customers. <u>Moderator:</u> David Springe Executive Director, NASUCA <u>Speakers</u> Jessica Hobbick Vice President, Rates and Regulatory, Arizona Public Service Company Corey Singletary Director, Regulatory Affairs, Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board Ron Nelson Partner, Current Energy

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 – 3:00 pm

Mini-Panel - Wonky Regulatory Work Hits Page One

How did the wonky world of utility regulation end up on the front page, anyway? What happened to move affordability of utility bills to job one in the public eye? Hear from former journalist/consumer advocates as well and the leader of the energy affordability education group PowerLines discuss their outreach efforts. They will examine how we got to this point, and what consumer advocates can do to dewonkify what we are working on to help create more awareness in this affordability moment.

Tom Content	Executive Director, Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board
Charles Hua	Executive Director, PowerLines
Michael Moody	Division Chief, Special Litigation Division, Michigan Department of the Attorney General, NASUCA President

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- Commissioner Judy Chang

3:30pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Vignettes

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

1. Update - Electricity Customer Alliance
-Jeff Dennis, Executive Director - ECA
2. Update - Smart Electric Power Alliance
-Kate Strickland, Director, Strategic Projects, Research & Industry Strategy
3. RMI - Tracking the Cost of Cost Trackers
- Joe Daniel - Manager, Carbon Free Electricity- RMI

6:00 pm – 9:00pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants and Speakers

Location: Hell’s Kitchen
80 S 9th St
Minneapolis MN 55402
-Ask about tickets to the photo booth!!

Awards to Be Presented

Manifold Awards (Lifetime of Public Service)

-Richard Sobolewski (CT)

Spotlight Award (Persons outside of NASUCA that have made key contributions that benefit NASUCA)

-Lisa Schwartz - Lawrence Berkely National Lab

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.

Tuesday – July 21, 2026

7:15 am – 8:00 am

Registration and Breakfast (Conrad A)

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

Speed to Power: Solutions for Accelerating Large Load Connection

Rapid growth in demand from data centers and other large loads is creating a range of new challenges for electricity planners, investors, system operators, and regulators, leading to bottlenecks that slow the connection of large loads to the electric grid. In response, innovative solutions for accelerating large load connections are beginning to emerge across the U.S. During this session, LBNL will provide an overview of their new report which identifies actions states and utilities can take to accelerate load connection through five areas (load forecasting, interconnection, utility procurement, markets and operations and cost allocation and ratemaking). The remainder of the presentation will focus on the cost allocation and ratemaking solutions.

Natalie Mims Frick, Department Leader, Energy Markets and Planning Department,
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Session 2: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Rates, Returns, and Regulation: What's the buzz?

Utility rate increase requests have increased in recent years, hitting a multi-decadal record in 2025, last surpassed in the early 1980s. Regulatory approval for those requests have also risen recently. Additionally, requested and authorized ROEs have increased over the last 5 years, as have approved WACCs; however, both remain low by historical standards. During this session, LBNL will provide an overview of cost-of-service regulation to illustrate potential incentive misalignment that could help contextualize recent rate and return increases.

Peter Cappers, Strategic Advisor: Energy Markets and Planning Department,
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Break-Coffee and Tea

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.

11:00 am – 12:00 am

Water - White Night? Snake oil Salesman? Or Something In Between?

Are acquisitions the magic elixir for addressing troubled or distressed systems? This panel will discuss their experiences with the sale/transfer of troubled systems, including observations on the quality and pace of infrastructure investments after a sale/transfer is approved. The panelists will discuss how their experience with such sale/transfers have impacted their analyses for determining if an acquisition/transfer provides benefits to the customers and whether it is in the public interest.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Shaun Sparks Legal Counsel and Chief of Staff to Pennsylvania Public
Utility Commissioner Ralph V. Yanora
Lucy Edmondson Chief Counsel, Public Staff, North Carolina Utilities
Commission
Aaron Silas Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Operations and
Customer Experience, Central States Water Resources

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Consumer Advocate of the PJM States (CAPS) – Closed Board Meeting (Conrad A)
- Contact Greg Poulos for details.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

FERC ANOPR - Interconnecting Large Loads - RTO Compliance and the Consumer Response

FERC's recent ANOPR ruling gives transmission organizations 60 days to either justify why their current tariffs remain just and reasonable without provisions tailored to large loads, or to file tariff changes that address a set of principle's identified by the Commission. This session provides an opportunity to hear about how the transmission organizations and other major grid operators plan to comply with these new requirements. The panel will help advocates prepared for the short 30-day response allowed under the show cause orders.

Moderator:

Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States

Speakers

Paul Suskie Vice President, Southwest Power Pool
Jeff Dennis Executive Director, Electricity Customer Alliance
Tricia DeBleeckere Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Federal/National Speakers

2:30 pm - FERC Update

- Jason Gray, Managing Partner, Duncan & Allen

3:00 pm - Federal Communication Commission

- Barbara Esbin, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

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.

3:30pm – 3:40 pm

NCEP - Framework for State Agency Collaboration on Load Growth

The National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) members represent a broad variety of government entities with common and overlapping interest in overcoming these challenges. Through an NCEP-sponsored webinar series, and refined through an in-person workshop, members have developed a framework and practical approaches for navigating these challenges in a coordinated and strategic manner that can be applied to any state. This framework helps states shift decision-making from a reactive project-by-project process to a proactive, system-level strategy for managing large load growth. NCEP members suggest that there are three main themes to focus on for most effectively responding to load growth: how state agencies coordinate among themselves and across regions, how they share information and ensure it is based on solid data and analysis, and how they consider economic risks and benefits as they implement tools like large load tariffs. These themes can be operationalized in meaningful and actionable ways through the six approaches members identified in this framework.

- Deborah Reynolds, Director, National Council on Electricity Policy

3:40pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Vignettes

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

1. A Smarter Grid Costs Less: How Advanced Transmission Technologies Support Energy Affordability
 - Alisa Fox, Director of Grid Campaigns, ACORE
2. Update - Regulatory Assistance Project
 - Jay Griffin, U.S Program Executive Chair, RAP
3. Residential Ratepayer Risk of Increased Gas Build Out Plans Due To Data Center Growth
 - Dr. Asa Hopkins - Synapse Energy Economics

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – July 22, 2026

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast – (Conrad A)

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA (Conrad A)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save The Date:

NASUCA Annual Meeting - November 15-18, 2026, New Orleans, LA

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.