

## INFORMATION GATHERING in AID TO DECISION MAKING

### I Outside of Contested Cases

#### 1. General Presentations

- Must not be related to any pending contested case matter.
- General presentation of background information.
- May be done by:
  - Industry representatives
  - NARUC or other associations (Camp NARUC)
  - Commission Staff

#### 2. Purpose

- To provide background and basic information concerning a particular item or industry development.
- May give the Commission advance notice of issues that may be coming in the near or distant future.
- May illuminate Commission/Staff on developments at the federal level.
- Can help put these new issues in perspective when they do arise.
- Allows the “little grey cells” to work on issues ahead of their presentation in a contested case.

#### 3. Field Trips

- Commission Staff arranges field trips to facilities of interest, e.g., Ludington Pumped Storage, nuclear plant, and telephone central office, electric smart grid demonstration.
- Help to create a picture of what parties are talking about and understand the process at work.
- Again, not related to contested case pending.
- Ludington's Pumped Storage Project is an engineering marvel, and one of the world's biggest electric "batteries."

#### 4. Additional methods

- Information may be obtained by the Commission Staff at the request of a Commissioner to follow up on a particular subject.
- Sometimes in response to public questions or questions from legislators.
- For example, Staff investigated pole attachments and found many, many violations of NESC.
- Sometimes, the Commission will issue an order seeking input from stake holders in a particular issue that may be complex or politically volatile.

#### 5. Contested Cases

- Evidence on the record
- Judicially recognized facts (Commission records, court determinations)



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