



NARUC Annual Meeting  
and Education Conference  
**Bridging the Divide**

**Meetings will be held November 5 & 6 and November 9 – 11.**

**Check agenda below for specific session and event times.**

**Times are in Eastern Time Zone.**

**Agenda is subject to change.**

<b>Thursday, November 5</b>		
12:00 – 3:00	<b>Broadband Expansion Task Force (closed)</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:Slichenberg@nrri.org">Slichenberg@nrri.org</a> for participation information.
12:30 – 1:30	<b>Staff Subcommittee on ERE (with Rate Design) Part 1</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Water</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications</b>	
1:30 – 1:45	<b>Break</b>	
1:45 – 2:45	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure (closed)</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:davalexand@pa.gov">davalexand@pa.gov</a> for participation information.
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design (with ERE) Part 2</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Electricity</b>	
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 – 4:00	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Gas (with Clean Coal): The Future of Blue Hydrogen</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Clean Coal (with Gas): The Future of Blue Hydrogen</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Executive Management (closed)</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:raj.barua@delaware.gov">raj.barua@delaware.gov</a> for participation information.
4:00 - 4:15	<b>Break</b>	
4:15 – 5:15	<b>Staff Subcommittee on Electric Reliability and Resilience</b>	
	<b>Staff Subcommittee on USF Administrators (closed)</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:s.reams@kcc.ks.gov">s.reams@kcc.ks.gov</a> for participation information.

## Friday, November 6

12:30 – 1:30	<b>Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity</b> <b>Committee on International Relations</b>	
	<b>Subcommittee and Staff Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues (closed)</b>	
1:30 – 1:45	<b>Break</b>	
1:45 – 2:45	<b>Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest (closed)</b>	Participation Information will be sent to Committee members.
	<b>Subcommittee on Clean Coal</b>	
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 – 4:00	<b>Committee on Critical Infrastructure</b>	
	<b>Subcommittee and Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety (closed)</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:cmele@naruc.org">cmele@naruc.org</a> for participation information.

## Monday, November 9

11:30 – 12:30	<b>Commissioner Emeritus BYOL: Bring Your Own Lunch!</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:Jcampbell@salmonventures.com">Jcampbell@salmonventures.com</a> For participation information.
12:30 – 2:00 <b>1.5hrs CLE Pending</b>	<b>NRRI Author Spotlight:</b> A Book Talk by Scott Hempling Scott Hempling will join NRRI to talk about his new book, <i>Regulating Mergers and Acquisitions of U.S. Electric Utilities: Industry Concentration and Corporate Complication</i> .	
3:00- 4:15	<b>Commissioner One-On-One Meetings.</b>	Sign-up information available in late October.
4:30 – 5:30	<b>Regional Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MACRUC – Open to all attendees</li><li>• MARC (closed)</li><li>• NECPUC – Not meeting</li><li>• SEARUC – Details to come</li><li>• Western – Open to all attendees</li></ul>	

## Tuesday, November 10

11:00 – 12:00	<b>Committee Business Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity (closed) Participation information will be sent to members.</li><li>• Energy Resources and Environment</li><li>• Gas</li><li>• Telecommunications</li></ul>
---------------	--

- Water

12:30 – 1:45

## Opening General Session: *Bridging the Divide*

Featuring Election of 2020-2021 Officers:  
Nominations for President:

- The Hon. Kristine Raper, ID
- The Hon. Ann Rendahl, WA

Nominations for First Vice President:

- The Hon. Harold Gray, DE
- The Hon. Beth Trombold, OH

Nominations for Second Vice President:

- The Hon. Jack Betkoski, CT
- The Hon. Sarah Hoffman, VT

1:45 – 2:00

Break

2:00 – 2:45

## Concurrent Sessions A

**45 Min. CLE Pending**

A1

### Unlocking the Full Value of Flexible Demand-Side Grid Assets

What can storage, electric vehicles, and demand response offer the grid as electricity resource mixes change and demand patterns shift? How can rate design and pricing create incentives for the most efficient use of flexible grid-connected assets? Does the ability of demand response to alleviate some of the blackouts in California signal a new era for the promise of demand response in considering resource adequacy? Each of this session's panelists will describe how the value of flexible grid-connected assets is compensated in their state or market, and what kind of evolution they see on the horizon.

Moderator: Hon. Matt Schuerger, Minnesota

Participants:

Hon. Sally Talberg, Michigan

Ahmad Faruqui, The Brattle Group

A2

### The Next Decade: What's in Store for the Water Sector

The 2010s were marked by a number of novel trends that fundamentally changed the water and wastewater sectors. These included advances in technology, regulatory innovation, and the growing threats posed by contaminants, extreme weather, and cyberattacks. The next decade is sure to bring new promises and challenges to the water and wastewater sectors. Attendees of this panel will learn about:

- How today's trends will impact the water and wastewater sectors of tomorrow
- Considerations for policymakers to ensure a smooth transition into new technology and trends of the future
- Whether policymakers are up to the task of addressing tomorrow's challengers

Moderator: Hon. Ryan Silvey, Missouri

A3

What will the impacts be on broadband policy and the FCC post the 2020 election?

This session will discuss the key issues facing the FCC after the 2020 election, including expanding broadband, mapping broadband availability, increasing broadband adoption, state input to the federal universal service program, and Lifeline. Panelists will provide their thoughts on the makeup of a post-election commission, potential changes to the universal service assessment method, the focus of the joint FCC-State boards, and the ways in which the states and the FCC can work together going forward.

A4

**ETHICS Session I**

Practicing Ethically During and After the Pandemic – Part A

This program will address ethics issues facing lawyers practicing during and after the pandemic, including: core duties, such as communication, competence and diligence; confidentiality issues (especially involving technology use) when practicing remotely and at home; unauthorized practice of law and multijurisdictional practice issues; special ethics challenges in pandemic - driven practice areas and processes (such as remote depositions and mediations); maintaining professionalism while serving clients.

Thomas E. Spahn, McGuireWoods

Litigator, Speaker, author, & written public summaries of over 1,600 Virginia and ABA legal ethics opinions.

2:45 – 3:00

**Break**

3:00 – 3:45

## **Concurrent Sessions B**

**45 Min. CLE Pending**

B1

Preparing for Commercial Fleet Electrification

Across the country, companies are making commitments to decarbonize their operations and electrify their fleets. What challenges are companies facing, and what tools and collaborations are being used to facilitate this successful transition? This session will explore fleet electrification infrastructure considerations from a grid perspective and offer insights into how commercial fleet operators and utilities are working to make fleet electrification a reality. Panelists will share their work and lessons learned from corporate and utility perspectives.

Moderator: Hon. Maria S. Bocanegra, Illinois

## Water and Wastewater Low-Income Assistance Programs & Rate Affordability

Currently, there is no statutorily mandated low-income assistance program for water customers at the federal level and few assistance programs at the state level. Several utilities and states are actively pursuing legislation creating a program modeled from the LIHEAP program for electric and gas. A proposed water LIHEAP equivalent would require an assessment on a customer's bills (both regulated and non-regulated systems would be able to opt-in) and Commission approval for the regulated water and wastewater utilities, as well as a tariff. During this session, attendees will learn:

- How taxpayer programs for supporting low-income customers are currently implemented for electric and gas customers
- About the current state of and future projections for water affordability across the United States
- What next steps can help ensure water affordability for low-income customers

Moderator: Hon. Rebecca Valcq, Wisconsin

Participants:

Hon. Obi Linton, Maryland

Justin Ladner, President, Illinois Water

Manny Teodoro, Professor, University of Wisconsin

## Economic Considerations to Inform State Decision-Making on Natural Gas Bans

Over the past year, NARUC has had the privilege to hear the diverse and often conflicting opinions on Natural Gas Bans. The NARUC community heard from industry representatives at the 2019 annual meeting, policymakers at the 2020 winter policy summit, and environmental groups at the 2020 summer policy summit about their organizations' and personal views on the topic. This session will look at the economics associated with efforts to implement gas bans on new construction. Panelists will discuss the benefits and costs of these bans and what regulators and state governments need to take into consideration as they move forward.

**Moderator:** Andreas Thanos, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, Chair, Staff Subcommittee on Gas

Participants:

Kenneth Costello, Regulatory Economist

Richard Meyer, Managing Director, Energy Analysis, American Gas Association

## **ETHICS Session II**

### Practicing Ethically During and After the Pandemic – Part B

This program will address ethics issues facing lawyers practicing during and after the pandemic, including: core duties, such as communication, competence and diligence; confidentiality issues (especially involving technology use) when practicing remotely and at home; unauthorized practice of law and multijurisdictional practice issues; special ethics

challenges in pandemic - driven practice areas and processes (such as remote depositions and mediations); maintaining professionalism while serving clients.

Thomas E. Spahn, McGuireWoods  
Litigator, Speaker, author, & written public summaries of over 1,600 Virginia and ABA legal ethics opinions.

3:45 – 4:00

**Break**

4:00 – 5:00

**1 hour CLE Pending**

## **General Session: *Clean Energy and the Markets***

The Flying Wallendas have nothing on walking the tightrope between clean energy goals and energy markets. Customers, industry, investors, and regulators have turned out to watch this spectacle make its way across the country, including a recent stop at FERC's technical conference on carbon pricing. But will the show go on with the adoption or expansion of carbon pricing or some other mechanism to try to resolve tensions between State policies and organized energy markets? And how will RTOs/ISOs that include States with differing policies keep their balance? Working untethered and without a net, our daredevil panelists for this General Session will fearlessly offer their views on this high-wire act.

Moderator: Hon. Judy Jagdmann, Virginia, NARUC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Participants:

- Hon. Talina Mathews, Kentucky
- Rob Gramlich, Founder and President, Grid Strategies, LLC
- Travis Kavulla, Vice President Regulatory Affairs, NRG Energy, Inc.

## **Wednesday, November 11**

12:30 – 1:15

## **General Session & Installation of Officers**

**NARUC Awards**

1:15- 1:30

**Break**

1:30 – 2:00

**30 Min. CLE Pending**

## **Join the Table for Hot Topics!**

- COVID's Impact and the Worldwide Regulators Response
- Electric Utilities Role in Rural Broadband

**More details to come on this unique format.**

HT1

## **Top Tips from Wall Street**

Brian Chin, Senior Vice President of Strategic Financial Planning for American Water, is a recognized national expert in the utility sector, with nearly two decades of experience covering utilities and power markets, regulatory frameworks and environmental policy. Brian is also a well-known instructor and regular contributor to NARUC's Rate School and

his extensive work covering financial modeling, valuation and risk assessments at major market analyst groups makes him an excellent choice for this discussion.

Brian will cover key industry observations such as:

- How policymakers continue to facilitate removing barriers to economies of scale
- Why the investment community reacted “negatively” to California Public Utility Commission’s decision to alter its existing water decoupling structure
- How does PFAS fit under both the Trump Administration and as part of Biden’s campaign
- Why industry consolidations have accelerated while not being materially impacted by the current economic slowdown
- What are the reasons behind continued strong interest from European investors on renewable and water names consistent with ESG focus

Introduction: Hon. Mary-Anna Holden, New Jersey

HT2

### **Utilities of the Future**

The utility industry is continuously changing and evolving: What will utility services in the US look like 10 or 20 years from now? Advanced technologies like hydrogen, small modular reactors, AI and machine learning, electric vehicles, battery storage, and more will impact conventional energy services.

During this hot topic discussion, participants will have the opportunity to discuss how emerging technologies may influence the utility business model in small breakout groups.

2:00 – 2:15

**Break**

2:15 – 3:00

**45 Min. CLE Pending**

## **Concurrent Sessions C**

C1

**C1: Incorporating Equity into Regulatory Decision Making**

C2

**Distribution Systems Planning Lessons Learned**

Depending on your states’ distributed energy resource (DER) adoption levels, you may be asking “how do we integrate DERs at the distribution level?” or you may be asking “how do we know that integration is working and how do we minimize negative impacts? During this session, we will take a look at lessons learned from around the world for planning DERs’ utilization as generation resources and non-wires solutions. Panelists will also discuss how they see DER evolving and what regulators and the industry can do to prepare.

C3

**Electrification, Hydrogen and the Role of Gas**

Momentum behind the role of electrification, hydrogen and gas in the energy system of the future is gathering pace. This panel will explore how electrification and hydrogen may impact the natural gas supply chain and decarbonization transition. Like many fuel and technology approaches today, we expect regions in the United States and beyond to enable and plan hydrogen utilization differently as they explore production, transmission, storage, usage and other challenges.

Moderator: Nikos Tsafos, Senior Fellow, Energy Security & Climate Change Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

C4

**An Update from the FCC: New Mapping Requirements for Wireline and Wireless Service**

The FCC has taken much criticism on its broadband maps. Congress passed the Broadband Data Act in March 2020 and the FCC issued a Report and Order and separate rulemaking in July. The R & O creates the underlying structure for the broadband deployment data collection, creation of the maps and Fabric, and other requirements, while the rulemaking seeks comments on the specifics for these processes. The agency will likely adopt final rules by the end of this year. This timely topic will cover:

An update on the current state of implementation of the FCC's new mapping requirements.

A discussion of the pros and cons of the commission's approach or outstanding options if the FCC has not acted.

The costs and any other barriers that remain to the collection of sufficient data to permit the 5G auction in 2021.

Discussing of key findings from August 2019 industry Broadband mapping Initiative Pilot and their relation to the BDA's requirements.

Recommendations for additional FCC or Congressional Action.

3:00 – 3:15

Break

3:15 – 4:15

**1hr CLE Pending**

***General Session: Lights Out! Lessons from the West's Surreal Summer Season***

A global pandemic. An unprecedented heat wave. Raging wildfires. Widespread smoke. Public safety power shut offs and rolling blackouts. Californians and those in other Western states will not soon forget the events of this past summer. Nor should we. Despite a desire for easy answers, experts point to a complex set of factors that contributed to problems on the power grid. Understanding what happened and why provides invaluable lessons. During this session, panelists will highlight some of the lessons already learned and what this moment in time teaches us about managing future challenges.

Moderator: Hon. Ann Rendahl, Washington

Participants:

Cheryl LaFleur, FERC Commissioner Emeritus

Ahmad Faruqui, The Brattle Group

SDG&E representative

4:15 – 4:30

**Break**

4:30 – 5:15

**Board of Directors Meeting**