

2024 NARUC Summer Policy Summit Agenda

Sunday, July 14, 2024

8:30 AM-12:00 PM

- **Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment**
- **Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design**
- **Staff Subcommittee on Electricity**
- **Staff Subcommittee on Consumers and the Public Interest**

Room: Grand AB

Joint Meeting with CCIF

Exploring Rate Design & Other Regulatory Tools: Maximizing Grid Value & the Customer Experience

Separate registration. No extra fee. Register [here](#).

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

- **Executive Committee**

Room: 1L

(Closed Meeting)

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

- **Subcommittee/Staff Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues - Waste Disposal**

Room: 2DEF

Aggregating Demand for Carbon-Free Electricity: Opportunities for Advanced Nuclear

Closed meeting (open to commission staff and commissioners only) | livestream available to Staff Subcommittee members

Earlier this year, Google, Microsoft, and Nucor announced a joint initiative to develop new demand aggregation approaches to clean energy procurement. With each organization pursuing mid-century net-zero energy goals, all three recognize the importance

of emerging technologies like advanced nuclear reactors in generating 24/7 clean power. A Google energy manager will join commissioners and commission staff to discuss how this new framework is structured, what Google hopes to achieve, and how the initiative will engage with state utility commissions, regulated utilities, and key stakeholders.

Moderator: Steve Roetger, Analyst, Georgia Public Service Commission

Speaker: Michelle Chang, Program Manager of Advanced Clean Technologies, Google

10:00 AM-2:30 PM

● **Subcommittee/Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety**

Room: 2BC

(Closed Meeting, Commissioners and Commission Staff Only)

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

● **Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications**

Room: Grand C

Business Meeting

12:15 PM-1:15 PM

● **Washington Action**

Room: 1L

(Commissioners and Commission Staff Only)

1:30 PM-2:30 PM

● **Staff Subcommittee on Electric Reliability and Resilience**

Room: Grand AB

● **Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Consumers and the Public Interest**

Room: 2DEF

(Joint Meeting)

The Evolving Energy Industry Workforce: Trends, Projections, and Case Studies

This panel will kick-off the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity's workforce centered series. After this panel, attendees will have a greater understanding of how evolving workforce demographics, technological advancements, and consumer demands are impacting the energy industry. The panelists will provide actionable insights to identify and address current workforce gaps, challenges, and opportunities so that organizations can build the talent pipeline they need for the energy industry demands of the future.

Moderator: Hon. Ann E. Rendahl, Washington

Panelists:

Paul Douglass, President, The JPI Group

May Va Lor, Research Manager, Laborers International Union of North America

Carla Walker-Miller, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Walker-Miller Energy Services

● Subcommittee on Education and Research

Room: 1L (1st Floor)

● Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications

Room: Grand C

Don't Touch the Wires: Protecting Telecommunications Infrastructure from Theft and Vandalism

In recent years, there has been a reported increase in theft and vandalism related to telecommunications infrastructure. In this panel, we will discuss the driving factors behind this trend, what impact it has on continuity of telecommunications service as well as public safety, and what actions state and utility commissions may take to help address the threat.

Moderator: Daryl Branson, ENP RPL, Telecom Programs Section Chief, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Panelists:

Donald Alway, Vice President of Corporate Security, Charter Communications

Peter Gose, Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Lumen

Samuel Martinez, Director of Corporate Security, Verizon

Gary Warren, CISA

Pam Montanari, CISA

2:00 PM-5:00 PM

● **Committee on Critical Infrastructure**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure**

Offsite Tour

Join the CI and SSCI Committees as we go offsite to the Florida Power and Light Command Center, which is located roughly twenty minutes away from the convention center/hotel. The tour will include FPL's state-of-the-art facility, built to withstand a CAT5 storm, which serves as the logistical hub for the company's operations in all types of emergencies, including hurricanes and other severe weather events. In addition to the center for dealing with physical and cyber emergencies, the tour will include the FPL Air drone command facility and Distribution Control Center. The tour will return by bus to the convention center/hotel by 5:30 pm.

Registration is required. Attendance limited to fifty. Priority will be given to Critical Infrastructure Committee and Subcommittee members.

Travel Information:

Shuttle service will be available to and from the NARUC Summer Policy Summit and Florida Power Light.

For more information please contact:

Jessica Diaz

Events Specialist, Center for Partnerships & Innovation

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

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Fax: (202) 898-2213

Email: jdiaz@naruc.org

"Any members of the media interested in participating on the tour must RSVP directly to Florida Power & Light via email to Chris McGrath at christopher.mcgrath@fpl.com."

2:30 PM-2:45 PM

Palm Power Connections

Grand Foyer

2:45 PM-3:45 PM

● **Committee on Water**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Room: Grand C
(Joint Meeting)

Hot Topics in the Water Sector

Staying up to speed on the pressures facing the water industry can be a challenge given the pace of change particularly around regulatory issues. Topics include PFAS, cybersecurity, lead and copper, and affordability.

Moderator: Hon. Michael Bange, New Jersey

Panelists:

Chris Ayers, Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff

Christine Keck, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, American Water

Sarah Musiker, Director of External Affairs, California Water Association

Joseph Pearce PE CFM, Vice President, Emerging Contaminant Program, Essential Utilities

Seán Twomey, Senior Vice President of Sunshine Water Services

● **Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Consumers and the Public Interest**

Room: 2DEF
(Joint Meeting)

Innovative Workforce Recruitment Strategies

This panel will continue the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity's workforce centered series. The panelists will provide actionable insights to help organizations enhance their recruitment, training, and workforce development strategies. The discussion will cover best practices to developing a qualified, diverse talent pipeline through mentoring, networking, apprenticeships, and strategic partnerships.

Moderator: Hon. Ann E. Rendahl, Washington

Panelists:

Paul Douglass, President, The JPI Group

Cornell Johnson, Director, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Center for Energy Workforce Development

David Rutledge, Assistant Business Manager, Southeast Laborers' District Council

● **Staff Subcommittee on Gas**

Room:Grand AB

Natural Gas-Electric Reliability and Resilience Issues: Beyond the Policy Statements?

Several major electric reliability-threatening events in the last few years have emphasized the increasingly interdependent nature of natural gas and electric sectors. What are the real causes of these reliability events? What needs to change to increase the reliability and resiliency of the interdependent electric and natural gas systems. And how might state regulators play a critical role in ensuring ongoing reliability and resiliency in their states? The panelists will debate their perspectives.

Moderator: Andreas Thanos, Gas Policy Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

Panelists:

Paul Hughes, Generation Policy Manager, Southern Company

Rob Perkins, Vice President, Pipeline Management, Kinder Morgan

Camilo Serna, Senior Vice President, Strategy and External Engagement, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

● **Staff Subcommittee on Information Services**

Room: 1L
(Commission Staff Only)

● **Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues - Waste Disposal**

Room: 2BC

Bringing Advanced Nuclear to Market

Leaders in the public and private sectors are making major investments in new nuclear generation technologies. This panel will feature representatives from the federal government and Google to discuss the potential benefits and risks of their advanced nuclear initiatives.

Moderator: Hon. Tim Echols, Georgia

Panelists:

Dr. Michael Goff, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

M. Christopher Nolan, Vice President, New Nuclear Generation Strategy and Regulatory Engagement, Duke Energy

Michelle Chang, Program Manager of Advanced Clean Technologies, Google

3:45 PM-4:00 PM

Palm Power Connections

Grand Foyer

4:00 PM-5:00 PM

● **Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest**

Room: 2DEF

Crisis Management: How to Best Help Customers Who Struggle to Pay Their Bills

Arrearage management programs, budget billing, discount rates, percentage of income payment plans, LIHEAP, and fuel fund assistance programs are all ways to help customers manage their bills. Some programs have been around for years while others are newer. With so many ways to help customers manage past debt and ongoing bills, this panel will explore what works, what doesn't, and what needs to be tweaked. What are the critical moments customers face when struggling to pay their bills and how can states and utilities proactively engage customers to minimize negative outcomes? What is the role of technology and community-based organizations to assist customers? What metrics should regulators care about most when seeking to manage uncollected payments and disconnections?

Moderator: Hon. Floyd B. McKissick Jr., North Carolina

Panelists:

Hon. Sarah Freeman, Indiana

John Howat, Senior Energy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center

Carolyn Sloan, Senior Manager - Regulatory Affairs and Market Development, Opower

● Subcommittee/Staff Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Management

Room: 2BC

Safeguarding Grid Reliability in a New Era of Load Growth

Since 2018, NERC, FERC, studies by advocacy organizations and press reports have been warning that our changing electricity supply mix will lead to less reliability. The problem has grown more serious with the disorderly retirement of dispatchable resources along with economic and technology trends increasing demand for electricity. EPA regulations and other policy changes could increase the number and pace of thermal resource

retirements regardless of whether adequate replacement generation is available. This panel will explore what can be done to address the retirement of dispatchable resources, meet electricity demand growth and ensure an orderly grid transition that protects reliability and affordability, including specific stopgaps that exist or could be needed to ensure grid reliability.

Moderator: Hon. Mary Throne, Wyoming

Panelists:

Michelle Bloodworth, President and Chief Executive Officer, America's Power

Fritz Hirst, Vice President, Government Affairs, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Rob Gramlich, Founder and President, Grid Strategies LLC

Jean Schafer, Senior Legislative Representative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative

● **Staff Subcommittee on Executive Management**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Law**

Room: 1L

Joint Meeting

(Commission Staff Only)

5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Welcome Reception - Attire: Casual

Monday, July 15, 2024

8:00 AM-9:15 AM

Commission Chairs Council Breakfast

Room: 1L (1st Floor)

Newcomers Forum Breakfast

Room: 1K (1st Floor)

This is NARUC 101 for new commissioners. Learn more about this unique 135-year-old Association, how it's structured, how it works, how to get involved, AND meet NARUC leaders.

8:45 AM-9:30 AM

Sunshine Sips Coffee

Grand Foyer (2nd Floor)

9:30 AM-10:45 AM

General Session

Room: Grand Ballroom

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Mike La Rosa, Chair, Florida PSC

The Tightrope: Utility CEOs' Balancing Act

In this session, utility CEOs face regulators and consumers to discuss how they balance new resource investments and grid modernization while ensuring reliability and reasonable rates. How are decisions made concerning how and when to operationalize new initiatives? Are communication and engagement levels adequate?

Facilitators:

Hon. Rory Christian, New York

Hon. Gary Hanson, South Dakota

Hon. Jeff Hughes, North Carolina

Hon. Darcie Houck, California

Ken Thomas, State President, AARP Florida

Panelists:

Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon

Susan Hardwick, CEO, American Water

Ryan Long, President, Xcel Energy Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota

Helen Wesley, President and CEO, TECO Peoples Gas

10:45 AM-11:00 AM

Palm Power Connections

Grand Foyer

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

● **Committee on Electricity**

Room: Grand Ballroom

Navigating the Seas of Large Loads and Rapid Demand Growth

For the last twenty years electricity demand has grown by ten percent in the US. Some predict that there will be ten percent load growth in the next four years. This potential substantial load growth is fueled in part by data centers, electrification, and onshore manufacturing. With respect to data centers, colocation models are being discussed. Can demand spur innovation and investment to serve load? What should policymakers and regulators be examining?

Moderator: Hon. Kimberly Duffley, North Carolina

Panelists:

Kathleen Barrón, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, Constellation

Tony Clark, Senior Advisor, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP

Briana Kobor, Head of Energy Market Innovation, Google

Jason Stanek, Executive Director - Government Services, PJM Interconnection

● **Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment**

Room: Grand AB

Cost Recovery and the Clean Energy Transition

Electrification-driven load growth and distribution upgrades are increasing attention to utility questions around how the costs of these assets will be recovered and allocated across customer classes. This panel will cover various cost recovery impacts and planning issues associated with the clean energy transition. The following questions will be delved into:

- Who bears the risk of the clean transition in terms of cost and reliability?
- How do we future-proof clean energy investments?
- Are low-income rates the way of the future?
- How can we protect low-income ratepayers from increased rates due to electrification?

Moderator: Hon. Milt Doumit, Washington

Panelists:

Hon. Darcie Houck, California

Jeff Deason, Energy and Environmental Policy Researcher,
Energy Markets and Policy, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

John Howat, Senior Policy Analyst, National Consumer Law
Center

Curtis Wynn, CEO, Seco Energy

● **Committee on Gas**

Room: 2DEF

A Regulator's Guide to 21st Century Gas Planning

As the market for electric home appliances grows and the energy sector shifts away from fossil fuels, natural gas utilities are facing new risks that the current planning framework is ill-suited to address. As such, several states have been refining their processes to prevent over-investment in the system, the wrong mix of resources, or a system unable to meet the demands of customers. Hear from the states that are updating their regulations about how they are balancing objectives in an era of uncertainty and risk.

Moderator: Hon. Ann McCabe, Illinois

Panelists:

Hon. Megan Gilman, Colorado

David Barclay, Market Area Manager - DSM and Energy Policy,
DNV

Annie Levenson-Falk, Executive Director, Citizens Utility Board
of Minnesota

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Room: 2BC

**Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) —
Consumer Necessity or Irrelevant
Anachronism?**

A carrier (or provider) of last resort (COLR) is a telecommunications company that commits or is required by law to provide service to any customer in a service area that requests it, even if serving that customer would not be economically viable at prevailing rates. A COLR serves the public good. State COLR policies are being re-evaluated as a result of the transition to broadband and increases in competition. This panel will review those changes and the requests by carriers to eliminate or modify this requirement in areas where they believe that competition, subsidized overbuild, and new technologies have removed the need for a single carrier to be designated as a COLR service provider.

Moderator: Hon. Chris Nelson, South Dakota

Panelists:

Hon. John Reynolds, California

Jessica Epley, Vice President – Regulatory & External Affairs for Zply Fiber

Lynn Follansbee, Vice President – Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships, USTelecom

Kara Semmler, Executive Director, South Dakota Telecommunications Association

● **Committee on Water**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Room: Grand C
(Joint Meeting)

Closing the Funding Gap: Strategies for Today and Tomorrow

For the water and wastewater sector, there is little dispute regarding the significant need for infrastructure investment. Layer on top of that important (but expensive) new requirements from EPA regarding lead and copper and PFAS. How will utilities and customers afford to make these investments? While federal and state grants are helpful, they are modest compared to the need and are often difficult or impossible for regulated utilities to access. Where will the capital come to meet these needs and how will the costs of that capital be passed on to consumers? This panel will discuss capital investment in utilities and how states can ensure their utilities have access to the capital markets and revenue collection tools to make needed infrastructure investments.

Moderator: Hon. John Mitchell, Missouri

Panelists:

David Bowler, Deputy CFO, American Water

Heike Doerr, Principal Analyst, S&P Global

Geoff Marke, Chief Economist, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel

● **Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety**

Room: 1J (1st Floor)

(Closed Meeting, Commissioners and Commission Staff Only)

12:15 PM-2:00 PM

Lunch On Your Own

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

● **Committee on Electricity**

Room: Grand Ballroom

How Do We Stay Ahead of the Flames? Wildfire Mitigation, Utility Financial Stability, and Protecting Customers

Integrated approaches for assessing the dynamic and extreme weather and wildfire risks to the electric grid are needed now more than ever. But for many states and utilities, this remains uncharted territory with no clear path. Planning for a resilient system and determining appropriate levels of insurance continues to be a complex topic for both utilities and regulators as they navigate shrinking coverage limits, higher premiums, and increasing exclusions. This panel will convene experts to explore the various insurance frameworks currently used by utilities, as well as the most-utilized coverages. Participants will also examine typical insurance-reinsurance structures, the unique challenges posed by wildfires, and alternative approaches through capital market innovations to ensure adequate levels of coverage, while maintaining customer affordability.

Moderator: Hon. John Hammond, Idaho

Panelists:

Amy Shaw, Vice President of Finance, Compliance, and Risk, Idaho Power

Andrew Dressel, Vice President, Charles River Associates

Robert LeMoine, Director, Risk Management Insurance and Analytics, Southern California Edison

David Springe, Executive Director, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates

● Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment

Room: Grand AB

Preparing the Grid to Meet the EV Transition

According to the International Council on Clean Transportation, heavy-duty, zero-emission vehicle sales share is estimated to range from 39% to 48% by 2030. Electric load is expected to

increase as a result, with some areas requiring over 1000 MWh/day to meet this new load, according to EPRI's EVs2Scale Initiative. When and where these loads are coming are the biggest questions for utility grid planners and utility commissions. For example, fleets can acquire electric vehicles in under a year but may be advised that it will be multiple years before grid upgrades are implemented to charge them. Grid upgrades have historically been triggered by verified customer requests for new service to ensure the power will truly be needed, but the timing mismatch for EVs is slowing charger energization and creating bottlenecks. Strategic grid infrastructure upgrades will likely be required to accommodate the magnitude and speed of the new electric vehicle load. Yet, investing in grid upgrades before receiving firm load commitments raises concerns about potentially overbuilding distribution assets and saddling customers with unnecessary costs.

Join this panel to hear how the new Zero Emissions Freight Corridor Strategy seeks to increase visibility of where infrastructure is needed by prioritizing deployment along the National Highway Freight Network. Participants will also hear from experts on how states can meet clean transportation goals by supporting proactive distribution infrastructure upgrades that balance the risks and benefits of vehicle electrification for ratepayers.

Moderator: Hon. David Veleta, Indiana

Panelists:

Kang-Ching (Jean) Chu, Analyst, The Joint Office of Energy of Transportation

Cole Jermyn, Attorney, Energy Transition, Environmental Defense Fund

Ben Shapiro, Manager, RMI

● **Committee on Gas**

Room: 2DEF

Business Meeting

Agenda:

1. **Guest Speaker:** Ryan Sandmann, Legislative Affairs, Laborers' International Union of North America

A representative of LIUNA will discuss a recent FERC policy statement clarifying how the Commission will treat the use of project-area wage standards in calculating the labor cost component of jurisdictional cost-of-service rates. Discussion will also focus on workforce development opportunities and challenges for natural gas professionals.

2. **Consideration of Resolutions**

3. **Committee Updates**

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Room: 2BC

Amnesty or Sanction? The Latest Chapter in the RDOF and CAF II Auctions Saga

The Connect America Fund Phase II and Rural Digital Opportunities Fund Reverse Auctions, better known as the CAF II and RDOF Auctions, respectively, have been hot topics for discussion ever since their inception by the FCC. Controversy about auction mechanisms, bidder vetting, bidding behaviors, and defaults continue through to the present day. Recently, a consortium of entities that were awarded bids in the RDOF auction requested that the FCC provide a period of “amnesty” allowing them to be relieved of the obligations tied to the auction, citing unforeseen rises in costs and other circumstances beyond their control. With the implementation of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment, or BEAD, program that provides \$42.5 billion for broadband deployment, the requestors cite the need to provide clarity on the areas that will, or won’t, be served by the RDOF and CAF II Auction winners. This panel will debate the risks and benefits of providing auction winners with an opportunity to relinquish their obligations, and if such an opportunity were presented, whether there should be any consequences?

Moderator: Hon. Tim Schram, Nebraska

Panelists:

Carol Matthey, Matthey Consulting

Brian Ford, NTCA

Phil Macres, Klein Law

● **Committee on Water**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Room: Grand C
(Joint Meeting)

Help or Hinder? Understanding the Impact Local and Regional Governments have on Regulated Water and Wastewater Service

Often the discussion about regulated utilities interacting with local governments focuses on issues that arise during sales and acquisitions, but there are many other ways local governments impact the service provided by regulated utilities. Topics to be addressed during this session include understanding local government touch points, bulk sales, and long-term operations contracts.

Moderator: Hon. Jeff Hughes, North Carolina

Panelists:

Hon. Charlotte Lane, West Virginia

Carmelitha Bordelon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Suburban Water

Paul Rowley, Vice President, Golden State Water

Cynthia Turiczek, Water Engineer, Nevada PUC

● **Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety**

Room: 1J (1st Floor)
(Closed Meeting, Commissioners and Commission Staff Only)

3:00 PM-3:30 PM

Palm Power Connections

Grand Foyer

3:30 PM-4:30 PM

General Session

Room: Grand Ballroom

Keynote Address: Hon. Willie L. Phillips, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

THROWDOWN: Reliability, Affordability, Sustainability: What's the best path to getting there?

Mike Nasi, Partner, Jackson Walker

Christy Walsh, Senior Attorney and Director of Federal Energy
Markets, Sustainable FERC Project, Climate and Clean Energy
Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

4:45 PM-5:30 PM

Regionals

Rooms: MARC (Invitees Only) – Room 1I
MACRUC (Invitees Only) – Room 1G
Western (Invitees Only) – Room 1K
NECPUC (Invitees Only) – Room 1H
SEARUC (Invitees Only) – Room 1J

Commissioner Emeritus Meeting

Room: 1L

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Commissioner-Only Breakfast Meeting

Room: 1BC (1st Floor)

Commission Staff Breakfast

Room: 1DE (1st Floor)
(Limited spaces available)

8:45 AM-9:30 AM

Sunshine Sips Coffee

9:30 AM-10:45 AM

General Session

Room: Grand Ballroom

Enabling a Clean Energy Economy: Advice from the National Petroleum Council for the Secretary of Energy

The National Petroleum Council recently released the results of two studies conducted at the request of U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, one of which was titled “Charting the Course: Reducing GHG Emissions from the U.S. Natural Gas Supply Chain.” In this study, the NPC suggest the goals set forth in the Zero Emissions by 2050 scenario are achievable, but not without considerable challenges, including unintended consequences and significant increases in the costs to meet the goals.

This session brings together study leaders to discuss the findings and recommendations for state regulators.

Moderator: Hon. Tricia Pridemore, Georgia

Panelists:

John M. Dabbar, Managing Director, Low Carbon Technologies, ConocoPhillips

Jim Kerr, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Southern Company Gas

Fireside Chat

Daniel Yergin, Energy Authority; Author; Vice Chair, S&P Global

10:45 AM-11:15 AM

Palm Power Connections

Foyer

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

● Committee on Electricity

Room: Grand Ballroom

All Hands on Deck: How to Leverage Existing Infrastructure to Maximize the Transmission and Distribution Systems

The need is clear for the U.S. to upgrade its aging grid and expand transmission capacity to meet the expected rapid increase in load growth to support the reliability energy transition. With recent developments on both the distribution (Order 2222) and transmission (NEITC Corridors, FERC Orders 1920, 1977) sides of the system, there's a continued need for grid planners to leverage the existing infrastructure. Recent studies have found Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs) could generate more than \$1 billion per year in cost savings in PJM, while High-Performance Conductors can double capacity on existing transmission lines and save tens of billions for consumers through 2035. For distribution systems, high-resolution data will remain an essential building block for meeting a diverse array of rapidly evolving utility needs. The recent approval of the PowerPair program (North Carolina), continue to chart a path to incorporating virtual power plant (VPP) frameworks, while the Aggregated Distributed Energy Resource Pilot Program (Texas) will provide an initial 80 MW of capacity to the grid. This panel will discuss advanced transmission technologies and opportunities on various distribution systems to help unlock additional system capacity in the short and medium term, in parallel with traditional resource planning, system upgrades, and new transmission lines.

Moderator: Hon. Kimberly Barrow, Pennsylvania

Panelists:

David A. Quier, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer - PPL Electric Utilities

Sarah Toth, Senior Associate, RMI

Chris Villareal, President, Plugged In Strategies

● **Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment**

Room: Grand AB

Business Meeting

Introductions – Hon. Judge Hudson, Virginia

Resolution – Hon. Davante Lewis, Louisiana

Presentation – DOE Update on Their Recent Work on DERs and Grid Edge Technologies

Speaker – Alejandro Moreno, Associate Principal DAS, DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Commissioner Roundtable – A Continuation of ERE’s Discussion on Transmission Planning and Siting in Light of Recent FERC Orders

Facilitator – Hon. Stacey Paradis, Illinois

Center for Partnerships & Innovation Update – Danielle Sass Byrnett, Senior Director, NARUC

● Committee on Gas

Room: 2DEF

Not One Size Fits All: Approaches to Addressing the Carbon Footprint of Natural Gas Services

There is not just one way to address the greenhouse gas footprint associated with natural gas use. This panel will provide insight into the approaches being considered by a diverse array of natural gas and combination utilities as well as non-utility experts. What policies help, hinder, or are needed? What factors influence their individual pathways to decarbonization and what broader factors should be considered? What insights can be gleaned from those evaluating the entire natural gas supply chain?

Moderator: Hon. Ronald Gerwatowski, Rhode Island

Panelists:

Jack Ihle, Regional Vice President, Regulatory Policy, Xcel Energy

Lesley Jantarasami, Managing Director, Energy Program, Bipartisan Policy Center

Jeremy Koster, VP, Sales and Operations Development, Duke Energy

Matt Nelson, Principal, Apex Analytics LLC and Commissioner Emeritus

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Room: 2BC

Business Meeting

● **Committee on Water**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Room: Grand C
(Joint Meeting)

Business Meeting

12:15 PM-2:00 PM

Lunch On Your Own

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

● **Committee on Electricity**

Room: Grand Ballroom

Business Meeting: Featuring FERC Commissioner Christie

Hon. Kimberly Duffley, North Carolina

Hon. Mark C. Christie, FERC and Hon. Kelsey Bagot, Virginia

Edison Electric Institute (EEI) update, Phil Moeller, Vice President

NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation update, Danielle Sass Byrnett, Senior Director

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) update, Ivy Lynn, Senior Advisor

● Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment

Room: Grand AB

Grid Hardening or DERs? How to Pick Your Resilience Entrée

With each passing year there are both new threats to grid infrastructure and new solutions to improve customer and system resilience. On the menu of resilience investments on the distribution system are two broad categories to choose from: 1) traditional grid hardening investments that prevent infrastructure failures, and 2) DERs such as microgrids, battery storage devices, and load-shifting mechanisms. Both categories can enhance resilience, but how can we evaluate a set of criteria at each circuit that helps utilities and regulators decide the optimal investment strategy that affordably satisfies our hunger for resilience? How can distributed generation and storage systems provide resilience not only at the household or building level, but also at the community level through microgrids and virtual power plants? What are the latest approaches to understanding and valuing the relative benefits of each investment pathway, particularly in relation to the benefits of increased resilience in socially and economically vulnerable communities? How can utilities and regulators get the greatest benefit from federal funding such as the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program?

Moderator: Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky

Panelists:

Hala N. Ballouz, P.E., President & CEO, Electric Power Engineers, LLC

Thad Culley, Director of Public Policy, Sunrun

Jennifer Kallay, Principal Associate, Synapse Energy

Mishal Thadani, CEO, Rhizome

● Committee on Gas

Room: 2DEF

How to Have a Reality-Rooted Discussion about the Role of Natural Gas in Our Economy

In addition to powering and heating millions of homes and businesses, natural gas is at the center of an impassioned and complex debate about how the energy system of the future should look. State regulators responsible for setting just and reasonable rates for natural gas and electricity must weigh trade-offs between affordability, reliability, safety, sustainability, equity, economic growth, and other regulatory goals. Comments and data from a broad range of stakeholders are critical to making these decisions, but successful engagement depends on starting from the same set of facts. How can regulators encourage constructive discussions? What questions are more appropriate for the policy sphere than the regulatory world? When stakeholders – or regulators – disagree with one another about inputs, assumptions, or even the end goal, how can they work together to find a path forward? This panel will explore these questions and recommend strategies for productive collaboration.

Moderator: Hon. Lawrence Friedeman, Ohio

Panelists:

James Danly, Partner, Energy Regulatory, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates

Robert Kenney, President, PSCo Xcel Energy

Dan LeFevers, Director, State and Consumer Programs, GTI Energy

Walt Trierweiler, Florida Office of the Public Counsel

● Committee on Telecommunications

Room: 2BC

Chevron Redux: Net Neutrality and the Supreme Court

The FCC released its Net Neutrality order reclassifying Broadband Internet Access services (and Commercial Mobile Radio Services) as “telecommunications services,” in May, raising questions about what type of State control over such services will be allowed. At

the same time, by the end of its term in June, the Supreme Court will release its decision in the Loper and Relentless cases — where most expect that the Court, at a minimum, will alter and weaken the Chevron Doctrine, which currently requires Courts to uphold federal agency’s “reasonable” interpretations of “ambiguous” federal statutes. The 2005 Supreme Court Brand X decision applied Chevron to confirm an FCC reclassification of a broadband internet access (cable modem service) as an “information service” despite a 9th Circuit ruling that it was a “telecommunications service.” Since its creation in 1984, the Chevron Doctrine has been cited in 17,000 lower court decisions and 77 Supreme Court cases. Whatever the Supreme Court decides in those two cases will impact the inevitable appeal of the May FCC Net Neutrality decision, as well as other federal agency actions going forward. This panel will discuss the implications of the Supreme Court’s actions generally and the future of the FCC’s Net Neutrality decision in particular.

Moderator: Hon. Sarah Freeman, Indiana

Panelists:

Daniel H. Kahn, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LPP

Kay Pashos, Taft Law Firm

Michael Santorelli, New York Law School

● **Committee on Water**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Room: Grand C
(Joint Meeting)

Should We Trust the Tap? Addressing the Crisis of Confidence in Drinking Water Services

Water utilities in the United States produce some of the safest and most reliable drinking water in the world, and yet there are signs that customers have lost confidence in the quality of their drinking, take for example the popularity of bottled water for domestic use and expensive household point-of use (POU) water treatment systems. There are a variety of reasons why customers might be concerned about their water ranging from the overly

aggressive and inaccurate marketing on the behalf of bottled water and POU installers to recovering from a legitimate water quality concern/event that while corrected continues to impact customer sentiment. This panel will discuss various ways that regulated water utilities and the utility commissions that oversee them can maintain customer confidence.

Moderator: Hon. Lori Cobos, Texas

Panelists:

Jo Anna Brown, Central States Water Resources

Lori Anne Dolqueist, Attorney, Nossaman LLP

Denise Free, Sr. Director, External Communications, NJ American Water

3:00 PM-3:30 PM

Palm Power Connections

Grand Foyer

3:30 PM-4:45 PM

General Session

Room: Grand Ballroom

NARUC Shark Tank

Swimming in regulatory waters is not for the faint-hearted! The NARUC Shark Tank is an opportunity for organizations to showcase new technologies, programs, resources, etc., that will benefit the regulatory community. Those in the 'Tank' are vying for the support of the Sharks who will determine the finalists and ultimate Grand Prize Winner. Don't miss it!

Presentation Titles:

- **Gas X**
- **Welcome to the New Neighborhood**
- **Jump In and Out of the Box**
- **Socket To Them**
- **Weathering AI**

**NARUC Shark Tank is in no way affiliated with the Shark Tank television program.*

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

8:00 AM-9:15 AM

NARUC Board of Directors Meeting

Room: 2ABC

8:45 AM-9:30 AM

Sunshine Sips Coffee

Grand Foyer

9:30 AM-10:45 AM

General Session

Room: Grand Ballroom

Currents of Change: Riding the Wave of Load Growth

Electricity load is forecasted to multiply over the next decade and beyond. AI data centers, EV charging deployment across the transportation sector and societal electrification are driving resource planning across the country. Novel rates and contracts are needed to supply customer's insatiable demand for power. Hear from industry leaders on how they are adapting to solve these challenges.

Moderator: Hon. Carleton B. Simpson, New Hampshire

Panelists:

Gene Rodrigues, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

John Bozzella, President & CEO, Alliance for Automotive Innovation

Kim Greene, Chair, President and CEO, Georgia Power

Teresa Ho Kim, Managing Director, JP Morgan Asset Management

Jeff Riles, Director of Energy, Microsoft

12:00 PM-3:00 PM

GEAR Meeting

Room: 2ABC

(12:00 PM-1:30 PM Closed Meeting)

(1:30 PM-3:00 PM Open Meeting)

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