

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

## 2018 MID-YEAR MEETING

Marquette Hotel and IDS Tower

Minneapolis, MN

June 24-27, 2018

Registration and all sessions will be on the 50<sup>th</sup> Floor of the IDS Tower, attached to the Marquette Hotel unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual.

### Proposed Resolutions

1.

### Sunday – June 24, 2018

Noon – 5:30 pm Registration  
*-Please pick up your meeting materials and tickets to the NASUCA reception.*

11:30 am – 12:50 pm Executive Committee Meeting (*Cannon River Room – 5<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hotel – Lunch Provided*)

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm *DOE/LBNL Technical Training (Galaxy Room)*

### ***Distribution Technology Training (confirmed)***

The next step in our Distribution Technology Training series. We started with basic concepts in our Distribution Technology 101 (May 23) and Utility Distribution 101 (June 5) webinars.

#### Session 1: 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

PUC Distribution Planning Practices

-Lisa Schwartz, Energy Efficiency Team Leader, Electricity Markets and Policy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (**confirmed**)

#### Session 2: 1:50 pm – 2:35 pm

Forecasting Load on the Distribution System with Distributed Energy Resources

-Andrew Mills, Research Scientist, Electricity Markets and Policy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (**confirmed**)

#### Session 3: 2:40 pm – 3:30 pm

Walk-through of Long-Term Distribution System Plans: Part 1 - Traditional Plans

-Lavelle Freeman, Manager, Distribution Planning and Engineering, GE Energy Consulting (**confirmed**)

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm Break (Light Refreshments)

3:45 pm – 5:30pm

Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only

Association Business:

- Welcome: Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President
- Officer Reports
  - Secretary’s Report (Vote on Minutes, Vote on New Member)
  - Treasurer’s Report
  - President’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report
- Committee Reports
  - Work Resolutions
- Rollcall of the States

5:30 pm – 6:30pm

Wine and Cheese Reception – Open to All NASUCA Meeting Registrants  
(Planets Room)

Dinner on your own

**Monday – June 25, 2018**

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast (Planets Room)  
\*\*Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\*

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 8:50 am

Welcome/Kickoff (Galaxy Room)  
Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President  
  
Welcome Video: U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) (confirmed)

8:50 am – 9:00am

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Track 1 – Galaxy Room	Track 2 – Universe Room
DER Rate Design & NEM National Update (9-9:50am)	Unexpected Results of Riders (9-9:50am)
Customer Charges (10-10:50am)	Conversation on Broadband (10-10:50am)
National Practice Standard Manual (11-11:25am)	Conversation on Telecommunications Issues (11-11:25am)
Blockchain 101 (11:35am-12pm)	Lifeline Update (11:35am-12pm)

9:00 am – 9:50 am

(Galaxy Room)

***DER Rate Design and NEM National Update***

There is a growing debate about how utility rate designs may need to change and adapt to maximize the value of new distributed technologies. This panel will explore ideas for rate designs that may better support distributed resources in a manner that will help maximize the benefit of all DER customers. The panel will also explore recent state-level policy changes around net energy metering.

Moderator:

Joseph Rosenthal

Principal Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel (confirmed)

Speakers:

Carl Linvill Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project **(confirmed)**  
Amy Heart Policy Director, Midwest, Sunrun **(confirmed)**  
TBD NEM Expert

(Universe Room)

*Rate-making Mechanisms, Trackers and New Legislation*

Over the past several years, the water-wastewater industry has experienced a dramatic increase in rate-making mechanisms and trackers. But are these trackers working? Do DSICS foster additional investment into the distribution system? Does that chase away investment from other needed activities? Do RAMs encourage utilities to be more willing to forgive large bills that may have resulted from water leaks? Is that good for ratepayers? Do trackers reduce general rate case filings? Is that good? Does the use of future test years influence operational decisions? What new rate-making mechanisms are looming on the horizon?

Moderator:

Edward Kaufman Chief Technical Advisor, Indiana Office of Consumer Counselor **(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Richard Sobolewski Supervisor of Utility Financial Analysis, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel **(confirmed)**  
Maureen Westbrook Vice President, Customer and Regulatory Affairs, Connecticut Water Company **(confirmed)**  
Jim Vocolina Utility Examiner, Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control **(invited)**

10:00 am – 10:50 am

(Galaxy Room)

*Methodologies for Calculating an Appropriate Customer Charge*

In recent years, utilities have commonly sought increases in the customer charge component of their rates. Panelists will discuss their recent experiences, with a focus on developing a methodology for calculating the amount of the customer charge.

Moderator:

Ryan Barlow Assistant Attorney General, Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division, Minnesota Attorney General's Office **(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Mark LeBel Staff Attorney, Acadia Center **(confirmed)**  
John Howat Senior Energy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center **(confirmed)**  
Ron Nelson Senior Consultant, Strategen **(confirmed)**

(Universe Room)

*What Advocates Need to Know About Municipal Broadband*

As traditional copper phone service rides into the sunset, what is going to replace it as a reliable, affordable means of communication for consumers? Municipal broadband networks around the country are filling the gap between what the phone service used to provide and what incumbent broadband service providers are willing to offer, bringing essential service at lower cost to underserved and unserved communities. They are also controversial, sometimes costly, and often derided as unnecessary intrusions into the private market. This conversation with national

municipal network expert Chris Mitchell will explore the pros, cons, and impact on consumers of this growing movement.

Moderator:

Elin Katz Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President  
**(confirmed)**

Speaker:

Chris Mitchel Director, Community Broadband Networks, Institute for  
Local Self-Reliance **(confirmed)**

Bill Levis Consultant, William Levis **(confirmed)**

11:00 am – 11:25 am

(Galaxy Room)

***Application for the National Standard Practice Manual***

The National Standard Practice Manual was recently released to help states update and improve their cost-effectiveness practices, to ensure that they are consistent with the energy policy goals of each state. This presentation will provide an overview of the NSPM, particularly from the perspective of consumer advocates. It will describe the fundamental principles for cost-effectiveness testing, address some of the most vexing challenges in designing cost-effectiveness tests, and describe how several states, including Minnesota, are starting to use the NSPM. This presentation will also explain how all of these principles and concepts are essential for assessing DER cost-effectiveness, as well as energy efficiency.

Speakers:

Tim Woolf Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.  
**(confirmed)**

Adan Zoet Energy Planner, Principal, Energy Efficiency Programs,  
Minnesota Department of Commerce **(confirmed)**

(Universe Room)

***A Conversation on Telecommunications Issues***

Moderator:

Regina Costa Telecommunications Policy Director, The Utility Reform  
Network (TURN) **(confirmed)**

Speaker:

Dan Lipschultz Vice Chairman, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
**(confirmed)**

11:35 am – 12:00 pm

(Galaxy Room)

***Blockchain 101***

Speaker:

Elizabeth Olson Federal Energy Regulatory Commission **(invited)**

(Universe Room)

***Lifeline Update***

Speaker:

Geoffrey Why Counsel, Verrill Dana **(confirmed)**

11:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch (*Planets Room*)

Track 1 - Galaxy Room	Track 2 - Universe Room
Electric Vehicles (1:30pm-2:30pm)	Gas Reliability (1:30pm-2:30pm)
Energy Storage (2:40pm-3:40pm)	Year of the Woman (2:40pm-3:40pm)
Vignettes (4:00pm-5:00pm) - Consumer Data – IL CUB - Performance Metrics – MN AG - Offshore Wind Update – AWEA	Vignettes (4:00pm-5:00pm) - Invited - Consumer Rights Brochure - PULP - Invited

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

(Galaxy Room)

***Policy on Electric Vehicles: What Should States be Thinking about to be Ready for Electric Vehicles?***

PUC's and legislatures are debating the appropriate role of utilities and industry in addressing the needs and challenges of increased use of electric vehicles. In addition to the question of who pays for charging infrastructure, this panel will address other important issues like ensuring interoperability and open standards (ease of charging for the consumer with billing, RFID, mobile charging), efficient rate design, and access and affordability issues (for low moderate income, multi-unit dwellings).

Moderator:

Stefanie Brand Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Phillip Jones Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation Electrification **(confirmed)**  
Paul Alfonso Former Chairman, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy on behalf of ChargePoint **(confirmed)**  
Katie Sheldon Senior Policy Director, Tesla **(confirmed)**

(Universe Room)

***Managing the Risk: Concerns About the Reliability of Natural Gas Electricity Generation***

As fracking technology dramatically lowered the cost of natural gas, and emissions regulations hampered the use of coal, the bulk power system has been increasingly dependent on natural gas as a fuel source. However, this increased dependence on natural gas can amplify the bulk power system's exposure to interruptions in natural gas fuel supply and delivery. The Panelists will discuss mitigating strategies, such as storage, firm fuel contracting, alternate pipelines, dual-fuel capability, access to multiple natural gas basins, nearby plants using other fuels, or additional transmission lines from other areas, that can contribute to managing this risk.

Moderator:

Bryce Freeman Administrator, Wyoming Office of the Consumer Advocate  
**(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Thomas Coleman Director, Reliability Assessments, North American Electric Reliability Corporation **(confirmed)**  
Michael Bryson Vice President, Operations Division, PJM Interconnection **(confirmed)**  
TBD MISO **(invited)**

2:40 pm – 3:40 pm

(Galaxy Room)

### *Updates on Energy Storage*

It has been a busy six months for the energy storage industry, hear about the latest from experts working across the US on the issues. This panel will discuss recent FERC actions (Order 841) to enable storage in wholesale markets, renewable energy plus storage developments, and distribution sited approaches to storage in restructured markets.

Moderator:

Mark W. Toney Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN)  
**(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Marissa Gillett Vice President, External Relations, Energy Storage Association  
**(confirmed)**

Lon Huber Vice President and Head of Consulting, Strategen **(confirmed)**

Suzanna Mora Director of Utility Initiatives, Exelon **(confirmed)**

(Universe Room)

### *Year of the Woman? The Women of NASUCA Debate the Issues*

2018 has been depicted publicly as the “year of the woman” with record numbers of women running for office, the #MeToo movement spotlighting harassment in the workplace, and female representation increasing in the C-Suites and boardrooms. NASUCA has a long history of significant participation by women as Presidents, Heads of Office, attorneys, experts, and staff. But, how do we, as advocates, ensure female consumers, whether heads of households, single, working, mothers, seniors, or low-income, are not left behind? How do we frame conversations on utility issues without appearing condescending or patronizing while giving voice to the voiceless or engaging those lacking the time to be concerned?

Moderator:

Stefanie Brand Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services **(confirmed)**

Kristin Munsch Deputy Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board  
**(confirmed)**

Elin Katz Consumer Counsel, Connecticut **(confirmed)**

Sandra Mattavous-Frye People’s Counsel, District of Columbia Office of People’s Counsel **(confirmed)**

3:40 pm – 4:00pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### *“Vignettes”*

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

(Galaxy Room)

1. It’s a Matter of Time: Analyzing the Effects of Dynamic Rate Designs on Low-Income and Senior Electricity Consumers

-David Kolata – Executive Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board **(confirmed)**

-Jeff Zethmayr – Research Director, Illinois Citizens Utility Board **(confirmed)**

2. Performance Metrics in Performance Based Rates

-Joe Dammel – Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General’s Office **(confirmed)**

3. Offshore Wind Update  
-TBD – American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) **(confirmed)**

*(Universe Room)*

1. Invited
2. Brochure on Consumer Rights  
-Richard Berkley – Executive Director, Public Utility Law Project (PULP) of New York **(confirmed)**
3. Invited

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

***NASUCA Reception***  
***\*\*Open to All Meeting Registrants-Ticket Required\*\****

***Location:***

Shindig  
105 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN

(Two blocks walking distance from meeting venue.)

**Tuesday – June 26, 2018**

7:00 am – 7:50 am

Executive Committee Meeting (*Cannon River Room – 3rd Floor Hotel – Breakfast Provided*)

7:00 am – 8:00 am

Registration and Breakfast  
***\*\*Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\****

**Open Session Begins**

8:00 am – 10:00 am

*DOE/LBNL Technical Training (Galaxy Room)*

***Distribution Technology Training (Continued)***

**Session 4: 8:00 am – 9:00 am**

Emerging distribution planning analyses: Multiple scenario forecasts, hosting capacity analysis, locational net benefits analysis

- Sundar Venkataraman, Director, GE Energy Consulting **(confirmed)**

**Session 5: 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

Walk-through of long-term distribution system plans: Part 2 - Grid modernization plans and plans for high levels of distributed energy resources

- Sundar Venkataraman, Director, GE Energy Consulting **(confirmed)**

10:00 am – 10:15 am

Break

10:15 am – 11:10 am

***The Energy Needs of Low Income Americans with Serious Medical Conditions: Solutions from Utilities, Health Care and Government***

The panel will address the adverse health outcomes that persons with serious medical conditions can experience when deprived of gas or electric service, together with the financial savings that can be achieved when ways are found to avoid disconnection of service at their homes. Panelists will address what utilities, health care providers and public utility commissions can do to address the problem.

Moderator:

Ian Dobson

Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Office of Attorney General **(confirmed)**

Panelists:

Charles Harak

Attorney, National Consumer Law Center **(confirmed)**

Gabriela Sandoval Ph.D. Research Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN) **(confirmed)**

Ben Chapman

Attorney, Open Door Health Center, Minnesota **(confirmed)**

Scott Brockett

Former Director of Regulatory Administration, Xcel Energy **(confirmed)**

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

*A Smart City Dialogue*

What do advocates need to see to overcome the skepticism about smart cities?

Moderator:

Michele Beck

Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services **(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Dan Pfeiffer

Vice President, Government Affairs, Itron **(confirmed)**

Dr. Massoud Amin

Director, Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota **(confirmed)**

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

*From the C- Suite: Perspectives on Generation Markets from across the RTOs*

Lively debates are taking place across the nation's organized markets, in state legislatures, at FERC, and even before the Department of Energy. Are retirements of coal and nuclear generation a loss for grid resilience? Or should we rejoice that markets are bringing us a cleaner, more efficient future? Do we need "public interest" subsidies from the states to stave off retirements? Are such subsidies a problem for the organized energy and capacity markets? What if they are? Or will DERs disrupt it all no matter what we do? NASUCA welcomes utility executives from representing the various regions to reflect on the future of the nation's generation fleet.

Moderator:

Jackie Roberts

Consumer Advocate/Director, Consumer Advocate Division, West Virginia **(confirmed)**

Panelists:

Charles Patton

Executive Vice President, External Affairs, American Electric Power **(confirmed)**

Michael Bryson

Vice President, Operations, PJM Interconnection **(confirmed)**

Frank Prager

Vice President, Policy and Federal Affairs, Xcel Energy **(confirmed)**

2:35 pm – 3:30pm

*Electrification: Possibilities and Impacts, a Review of Recent Studies from EPRI and AGA*

This panel presents two recent studies discussing the potential benefits and the potential challenges of increased electrification.

**EPRI: Efficient Electrification Initiative:** Explores electrification in the context of the global energy system—analyzing the customer value of advanced, end use



technologies that efficiently amplify benefits of cleaner power generation. The study finds that, across a range of assumptions, economy-wide electrification leads to a reduction in energy consumption, spurs steady growth in electric load, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions—even in scenarios with no assumed climate policy. This study also focuses attention on needed research and development and challenges for future policy and regulatory frameworks that will guide the transition.

**AGA/ICF Study: Implications of Electrification of Residential Gas Use:** Examines a policy-driven electrification of residential space and water heating and seeks to answer three primary questions. First, does electrification actually result in significant carbon dioxide emissions reductions for the country as a whole or regions of the country. Second, what is the incremental generation capacity requirement to serve the millions of new residential customers created with such a strategy and at what cost? And, third, what are the new transmission requirements needed to move the electricity and at what cost? In addition, AGA has developed pathways for consideration utilizing natural gas technologies capable of reducing the greenhouse gas profile of individual households.

Moderator:

Bob Nelson Consumer Counsel, Montana Consumer Counsel **(confirmed)**

Panelists:

Omar Siddiqui Senior Technical Executive, Energy Utilization, Electric Power Research Institute **(confirmed)**

Chris McGill Vice President of Energy Analysis and Standards, American Gas Association **(confirmed)**

3:30 pm – 3:45pm

Break

3:45 pm – 4:40 pm

***Tax Cuts and Jobs Act***

This panel examines the regulatory challenges presented by the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. Regulators must reset consumer rates to reflect the new tax levels. But this is not easily done. Utilities and the financial community have expressed concerns about the financial impact of these rate changes. Some utilities want to use the excess tax revenue in rates for other purposes. Consumers want rates reduced yesterday. How do regulators find an appropriate way forward?

Moderator:

Tanya McCloskey Acting Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate **(confirmed)**

Panelists:

Lesley Ritter AVP-Analyst, Moody's Investors Service **(confirmed)**

Jay Kumar President, Economic & Technical Consultants, Inc **(invited)**

TBD Consumer Advocate **(invited)**

4:45 pm – 5:30pm

***"Vignettes"***

*"noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode"*

1. CCIF 2018 – Update

-Katrina McMurrian, Executive Director, Critical Consumer Issues Forum **(confirmed)**

2. Puerto Rico Update

- John Coffman, AARP **(confirmed)**

**Wednesday – June 27, 2018**

8:30 am – 10:00 am Continental Breakfast (*Planets Room*)  
*\*\*Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\**

9:00 am – 11:00 am *Closed Session for Members of NASUCA - (Planets Room)*

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

*Meeting End*

**Save the Date:**  
**NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 11-14, 2018 – Orlando, Florida**

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