**2014 NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting
Santa Fe, New Mexico
June 1-3rd**Eldorado Hotel

**Sunday, June 1st
*Eldorado Hotel-Anasazi South***

2:00-5:00 p.m. Registration

3:00-5:00 p.m. **Closed Business Session**
 Introduce Resolution
 Roll Call of the States

6:00 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

**Monday, June 2nd
*Eldorado Hotel- Anasazi South***

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30-9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00-11:00 a.m. **Closed Business Session**
Secretary’s Report/Adoption of Minutes
Treasurer’s Report
President’s Report
Executive Director’s Report
Committee Reports/Discussion of Resolutions
Continue Roll Call of the States

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon **“*The Future of Electric Generation – One Increment at a Time?”***Although regional generation mixes vary significantly, existing coal generation is projected to continue playing a significant role in providing electricity in an increasingly interconnected grid across large areas of the US. But coal also faces increasing environmental challenges ranging from SOx/NOx/CSAPR to MATS to Coal Combustion Residuals to Regional Haze to 116(b) water intake issues to the forthcoming 111(d) greenhouse gas emissions regulations. Not only does each new rule seem to come as a discreet incremental compliance challenge, but litigation often makes it unclear how, when and even whether they will apply. The process has been likened to “death by a thousand cuts.” How do we, as consumer advocates, make sure that sound planning and decision making is applied to the evolution of these resources as part of our overall generation mix? The panel will include an overview of relevant EPA requirements and perspectives from a consultant, a utility compliance officer, the environmental community, and NASUCA.
Moderator: **Bryce Freeman**, Administrator, State of Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate, Cheyenne, WY

Panelists:
**David Farnsworth**, Senior Associate, The Regulatory Assistance Project, Montpelier, VT
**Cathy S. Woollums**, Sr. Vice President, Environmental and Chief Environmental Counsel, Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Davenport, IA
**Steven Michel**, Energy Program Chief Counsel, Western Resource Advocates, Santa Fe, NM

12:00-2:00 p.m. **Lunch** *(Heads of Office Lunch, site TBA)*

2:00-3:00 p.m. ***“The Affordability Gap and What Commissions Can Do to Close It: Security Deposits and Late Fees.”***
The panel will address how utility security deposit requirements, late fees and other similar charges contribute to making utility services unaffordable. The panel will discuss what utility commissions have done and can do to address the problem. A question-and-answer period will allow members of the audience to share their own experiences.

 Moderator: **Sara J. Ferris**, Senior Assistant Public Counsel, Texas Office of Public Counsel, Austin, TX

 Panelists:
**William Marcus,** Principal Economist, JBS Energy, Inc., West Sacramento, CA
**John Howat,** Senior Policy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA
**Jim Williams,** Consumer Protection Research Analyst, Ohio Office of Consumer Counsel, Columbus, OH

3:00-4:00 p.m. ***“The Affordability Gap and What Commissions Can do to Close It: High Fixed Customer Charge”***The panel will address how a high fixed customer charge and other fixed charges unrelated to usage contribute to making utility services unaffordable -- and also work contrary to essential energy efficiency goals. The panel will discuss what utility commissions have done and can do to address the problem. A question-and-answer period will allow members of the audience to share their own experiences.

Moderator: **Sara J. Ferris,** Senior Assistant Public Counsel, Texas Office of Public Counsel, Austin, TX

 Panelists:
**William Marcus**, JBS Energy, Inc., West Sacramento, CA **Mark R. Schuling**, Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate, Des Moines, IA
**Jim Williams**, Senior Consumer Protection Research Analyst , Ohio Office of Consumer Counsel, Columbus OH

4:00-4:15 p.m. **Break**

4:15-5:45 p.m. Roundtable Discussion- ***“What the IP Transition Means for Consumers and a Ubiquitous, Affordable, Reliable National Communications System.”***The networks that comprise the National Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) are evolving.  The Federal Communications Commission has set the ground rules for IP Transition trials to be conducted by telephone companies. In doing so, the FCC stressed that the fundamental goals that have shaped U.S. telecommunications policies and services for over 100 years, including universal service, affordability and reliable quality services, must endure regardless of the technology used to provide service.

Moderator: **David Bergmann**, Principal, Telecom Policy Consulting for Consumers, Columbus, OH

Panelists:
**Susan Baldwin**, Consultant to Consumer Advocates, Susan M. Baldwin Consulting, Newburyport, MA

**Susan Satter,** Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Public Utilities Bureau, Chicago, IL
**Regina Costa**, Telecommunications Research Director, TURN, San Francisco, CA

7:00 p.m. **Dinner Event**-**CASA Chimayo**, 409 W. Water Street
 *Sponsored by our Friends:* ***Acadian Consulting Group***

**Tuesday, June 3rd
*Eldorado Hotel- Anasazi South***

8:30-9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00-11:00 a.m. **Closed Business Session**
Vote on Resolutions
Finish Role Call of States
Discussion of Litigating Tracker Proceedings
111(d) Project with Bruce Biewald

11:00-11:30 a.m. ***Update on CCIF Distributive Energy Project***Speaker:**Katrina J. McMurrian,** Executive Director, Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF)

11:30-12:15 p.m. ***Low Income Research Presentation by Smart Grid Collaborative***

Speaker: **SA Anders**, Director of Operations, Oregon Citizens Utility Board, Portland, OR

12:15-1:30 p.m. **Lunch** (on your own)

1:30-2:30 p.m. “***For Sale - The National Wireline Communications System.”*** The nation's largest wireline telephone companies have been on a selling spree and make no secret of their desire to  abandon service to even more of their wirelines - either selling them to other carriers or attempting to move customers to wireless services that the carriers claim are adequate replacements for landlines.  This panel will examine the experiences of states such as Connecticut, Maine and other states where landlines have been sold are being abandoned, what is coming down the road, and options for state advocates and regulators.

Moderator: **Regina Costa**, Telecommunications Research Director, TURN, San Francisco, CA
Panelists:
**David Bergmann**, Principal, Telecom Policy Consulting for Consumers, Columbus, OH
**Susan Baldwin**, Consultant to Consumer Advocates, Susan m. Baldwin Consulting, Newburyport, MA
**David Brevitz**, C.F.A., Independent Regulatory Consultant, Brevitz Consulting Services, Topeka KS

2:30-3:30 p.m. “***The “Earnings Gap” and Other Measures of Profitability and Shareholder Value”***Water utilities claim that they are not earning their authorized returns and so are entitled to special treatment. What are the differences among utility sectors and companies in the relationship between their authorized ROEs and earned returns? Is this relationship relevant or are there other measures of utility profitability that are equally or more important?Moderator: **Susan Satter,** Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Public Utilities Bureau, Chicago, IL

Speaker: **David Parcell**, Co-Founder, Technical Associates, Inc., Richmond, VA

3:00-3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:15-4:15 p.m. ***“Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later – How Do Environmental, Social and Long-Term Benefits and Costs Fit with Classic Economic Regulation?”***
Utility regulation has transformed from its focus on what used to be relatively straight-forward “green eyeshade” questions of cost and prudence into a dizzying array of considerations including new technologies (e.g. distributed generation, natural gas and electric vehicles, increasingly efficient renewables and storage solutions), environmental and social impacts, and short, long-term and even intergenerational costs and benefits. Do we focus purely on traditional rate analysis, or do we factor in environmental benefits? Are the economics different depending on whether we look at the long or short run? How do we juggle the various interests of the customers we represent? Do we have common ground with environmental groups in regulatory litigation? Has our role been changed in this regard by legislation, our leadership, our own policy initiatives, or our commissions’ decisions? The panel will include a range of perspectives including the environmental community, low-income advocacy, and NASUCA.

 Moderator: **John Coffman**, Utility Consumer Counsel, Consumers Council of Missouri, St. Louis, MO

Panelists:
**Gloria Smith**, Senior Managing Attorney, Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, San Francisco, CA
**John Howat**, Senior Policy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA
**Mark Toney**, Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network, San Francisco, CA

4:15-5:15 p.m. “***Energy Efficiency Cost-Effectiveness: Aligning Tests with State Policies, Ratepayer Interests, and Utility Resource Planning”***

Many states are struggling with how to evaluate energy efficiency as a resource. This panel will address how states are seeking to develop and implement a cost-effectiveness test that aligns with state policies regarding energy efficiency, and also balances ratepayer interests and utility integrated resource planning.

Moderators:
**Victoria Hackett**, Staff Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel, New Britain, CT
**Mary Kimball**, Senior Regulatory Analyst, Washington AGO, Public Counsel Division, Seattle WA

Panelists:
**Bobette Wilhelm**, Sr. Evaluation Analyst, Puget Sound Energy, Bellevue, WA
**Dr. Martin Kushler**, Senior Fellow, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Williamston, MI