**2015 NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting
Philadelphia, PA**June 7-9th **Agenda**

**Sunday, June 7th**
***Room-Riverview A&B***

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Registration

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Workshop on 111(d)**The proposed 111(d) Clean Power Plan rule will to discussed by representatives from NASUCA, the National Association of State Energy Officials, the Regulatory Assistance Project, Synapse Energy Economics, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Moderator: **Robert Mork,** Deputy Consumer Counselor, Indiana Office of
Utility Consumer Counselor, Indianapolis, IN

Panelists:
**Rodney Farnsworth**, Senior Associate, Regulatory Assistance Project, Montpelier, VT
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Stanton**, Synapse Energy Economics, Senior Economist, Cambridge, MA
**Rodney Sobin**, Senior Program Director, National Association of State Energy Officials, Washington, D.C.
**Montina M. Cole**, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C.

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

**Monday, June 8th
*Room-Riverview Foyer A, B &C***

9:00-10:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 5:00 p.m. Registration

9:30 -11:00 a.m. **Closed Business Meeting** Secretary’s Report
 Treasurer’s Report
 President’s Report
 Executive Director’s Report
 Committee Reports
 Presentation of Resolutions
 Roll Call of the States

11:00 – 12 noon ***“Natural Gas Distribution Company Main Extension Policies – How Companies Will Acquire New Customers”***The panelists talk about the new state natural gas customer’s expansion policies and new Company policies.  What the new rules are for hooking up new customers; contributions in aid of construction, special new customer rates, etc.

Moderator: **Joseph Rogers**, Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, Boston, MA

Speakers
**Rebecca S. Bachelder**, President, Blueflame Consulting, LLC, Melrose, MA
**Joseph A. Rosenthal**, Principal Attorney, Office of Consumer Counsel, New Britain, CT
**David C. Weaver**, Vice President, Enterprise Regulatory Affairs, AGL Resources, Atlanta, GA

12:00 -2:30 p.m. **Lunch** (on your own)*Heads of Office Lunch*
Spasso Italian Grill
34 S. Front St.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. ***DOE’s Voluntary Code of Conduct on Customer Data/Future of the Grid***A representative from the Department of Energy will discuss the recently issued report on a voluntary code of conduct for customer data and the “Future of the Grid” project.

Speaker: **Eric Lightner**, Director of the Federal Smart Grid Task Force, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Break-***Sponsored by, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation*

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. ***Critical Consumer Issues Forum Project*Katrina McMurrian**, Executive Director of CCIF, will update members on the latest CCIF project -- The Evolving Distribution System: *Helping Consumers Navigate Access to Data, Products & Services.*

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. ***DER Committee Roundtable on Community Solar***
Moderator: **Karen Sistrunk**, Deputy People’s Counsel, Office of the People’s Counsel, Washington, D.C.

Panelists:
**Cindy Schonhaut,** Director, Office of Consumer Counsel, Denver, CO
**Paula Carmody,** People’s Counsel, Maryland Office of the People’s Counsel, Baltimore, MD

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **NASUCA Dinner Event** *-Sponsored by Synapse Energy Consultants***City Tavern**
138 South Second Street

**Tuesday, June 9th
*Room-Riverview Foyer A,B &C***

8:30-10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 5:00 p.m. Registration

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Closed Business Meeting** Vote on Resolutions
 Continue Roll Call of the States

11:00 – 12 noon ***111 (d) Report Finishing Touches***Members will review the almost final 111(d) project and make suggestions for completion.

Speakers:
**Bruce Biewald**, Founder and CEO, Synapse Energy Economics, Cambridge, MA
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Stanton**, Senior Economist, Synapse Energy Economics Cambridge, MA
**Patrick Knight**, Associate, Synapse Energy Economics Cambridge, MA

12 noon – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch** (on your own)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. ***The Utility Push to Increase Customer Charge:  What’s Wrong with It and How to Respond to It***
While perhaps once a fairly mundane rate design issue, customer charge is getting more attention now as it touches on a range of rate design, cost recovery, cost of capital, and environmental and energy efficiency issues.  These issues include:  (1) whether high customer charges are being used (or should be used) as a substitute for decoupling; (2) whether high customer charges are contrary to energy efficiency policy and may even encourage increased use; (3) whether the push to “recover fixed costs through fixed charges” is consistent with efficient competitive pricing principles; (4) whether in extreme forms (SFV) the increased customer charge should be counter-balanced with ROE reductions; (5) how the increased customer charge interacts with tiered rates; and (6) how the increased customer charge impacts low volume and low income customers.  Speakers will discuss these issues, address recent developments and offer strategies for meeting the challenges.

Moderator: **David L. Bonar**, Delaware Public Advocate, Wilmington, Delaware

Panelists
**John Howat**, Senior Policy Analyst, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA
**Kira E. Loehr**, Executive Director and General Counsel, Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin, Inc., Madison, WI
**Glenn A. Watkins**, Executive Vice President and Senior Economist, Technical Associates, Inc., Richmond, VA

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. “***Where’s My Connection? -- The Rising Need for Reliability Controls and Standards in the Public Communications System”***
A reliable public communications system, including reliable service for 9-1-1 and agency calls, is essential to the nation’s safety, health and economic well-being.  Transitioning technologies and increased complexity, however, have brought new threats and vulnerabilities.  Calls fail to complete, particularly to rural areas.  Companies engaged to perform essential functions are not always capable of doing so.  Protocols across disparate technologies are not always compatible.  There are software failures and increasingly prevalent “sunny day” outages, affecting increasingly large geographic areas.  New technologies are implemented without adequate back-up power in the event of an electrical outage.  Where fiber is uneconomical, copper is poorly maintained.  Cybersecurity is increasingly worrisome.  State legislatures, meanwhile, in the apparent belief that market forces or reliance on Washington is enough, have in many cases surrendered historical police powers that are needed to answer these threats and vulnerabilities.  The panel will explore the challenges facing the states and the nation in their efforts to preserve a reliable public communications system in the current transitioning environment.

Moderator: **Regina Costa**, Telecommunications Policy Director, The Utility Reform Network, San Francisco, CA

Panelists:
**Craig Graziano**, Chair, NASUCA Consumer Protection Committee, Office of Consumer Advocate, Des Moines, IA
**Robert Loube,** Vice President, Rolka Loube Saltzer Associates, Harrisburg, PA
**Joseph Gillan**, Consultant, Gillan Associates, Daytona Beach, FL

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. ***“Meeting Needs for the Future Most Cost-Effectively – One Perspective on Regional versus State-by-State Approaches under the Clean Power Plan”***Drawing on local expertise from PJM, the presentation will discuss state-by-state versus regional compliance scenarios under mass and rate based approaches.

 Speakers:
**Gary Helm**, Lead Market Strategist, PJM Interconnection, Audubon, PA
**Muhsin K. Abdur-Rahman**, Senior Market Strategist, PJM Interconnection, Audubon, PA