

2020 NASUCA Annual Meeting – Virtual Speaker and Moderator Bios



William J. Akley
President of Gas Operations, Eversource Energy

William J. Akley is President of Gas Operations for Eversource Energy. In this role, he is responsible for the overall operations of the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to approximately 522,000 customers in 122 towns and cities in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Bill has more than 30 years of leadership and management experience and is a seasoned veteran of the utility industry in all facets of natural gas transmission and distribution. Prior to joining Eversource, he was Senior Vice President of U.S. Gas Operations for National Grid and responsible for field operations including construction, maintenance and meter service throughout the company's service territory in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Prior to National Grid, Bill spent several years at KeySpan Energy in New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Bill began his career as a field engineer at Brooklyn Union Gas in New York.

He earned his master's degree from Adelphi University and his bachelor's degree in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering from Clarkson University. Bill is a licensed professional engineer and has served as the Safety Committee Chairperson for the American Gas Association and serves as a board member on the American Gas Association and the Northeast Gas Association.



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

Mr. Ayers is a native of Rutherford County, North Carolina. He graduated magna cum laude from Duke University in 1999 and received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. Mr. Ayers served as a law clerk to the Honorable Linda McGee with the North Carolina Court of Appeals from August 2002 to August 2003. From August 2003 to June 2009, he practiced law in Raleigh, North Carolina with the law firm of Hunton & Williams LLP. Mr. Ayers joined the law firm of Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh as a partner

in June 2009 where he practiced law until July 2013. His primary areas of practice were utilities regulation, environmental, zoning and land use, and administrative law. He served a two-year term on the Environmental Management Commission from July 2011 through June 2013. Mr. Ayers currently serves on the Executive Committee for the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, the Advisory Committee for the Critical Consumer Issues Forum, the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, the Financial Research Institute Advisory Board, and the DOE Electricity Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ayers is active in church, community and civic affairs and currently serves Vice Chairman of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors. Mr. Ayers has served previously as President of the North Carolina 4-H Alumni and Friends Association, President and Chairman of the Board of the North Carolina 4-H Honor Club, board member of the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund, Inc. and President of Global Hope India, Inc. He received Triangle Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Leadership Award in 2012 and the 4-H Young Alumni Award in 2005. Mr. Ayers is married to Rebecca Keel Ayers and they reside in Wake County.



Bryn Baker
Director of Policy Innovation, Renewable Energy
Buyers Alliance

Bryn Baker is the Director of Policy Innovation program for the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance, a community of energy buyers accelerating the zero-carbon energy future and greening the grid for all. REBA's policy goals are to create and expand options that allow customers to accelerate their renewable energy procurement while greening the grid, and to expand and improve organized wholesale markets that facilitate renewable energy integration, increase customer options, and reduce costs.



Patrick Balducci
Manager , Power Systems and Market Research Feiyp
in the Center for Energy, Environmental, and
Economic Systems Analysis at Argonne National
Laboratory

Patrick Balducci is the Manager of the Power Systems and Markets Research Group in the Center for Energy, Environmental, and Economic Systems Analysis at Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to joining Argonne, Patrick served as a Chief Economist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), where he served for nearly 20 years. At PNNL, he led the energy storage analytics team where his research focused on storage valuation, integration, performance characterization, and control systems. In this role, he led research efforts evaluating the benefits of 1.6 GW / 18 GWh in energy

storage capacity at 16 sites across the U.S. He also led efforts to enhance economic assessment tools for the U.S. Department of Energy. Patrick serves on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference. He holds a BS in Economics from Lewis and Clark College, where he graduated with honors, and an MSc in Applied Environmental Economics from the University of London, Imperial College of London.



Janet Gail Besser
Managing Director of Regulatory Innovation & Utility
Business Models, SEPA

As Managing Director of Regulatory Innovation & Utility Business Models, Janet Gail Besser leads two closely integrated pathways that are priorities for SEPA. She brings to this role broad energy industry experience as a regulator, clean energy business association leader, utility executive, developer, consultant, and consumer advocate. Previously, she was Executive Vice President of the Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC), Vice President, Regulatory Strategy and Policy at National Grid, Chair of

the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, where she led electric industry restructuring, and an executive and expert consultant at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, served as policy director for a DC-based national independent power association, and began her career as a small hydro developer and low-income consumer advocate. Janet is a nationally recognized expert on a wide range of energy policy issues with deep relationships across the industry. She earned a Master in Public Policy degree from the

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Williams College.



Tiffany Brady
Manager of Communication, Lifeline Program

Tiffany Brady manages communications for Lifeline, including state and federal partnerships. Prior to this role, Tiffany served in numerous capacities at USAC over the last six years, focusing on program integrity, operations and program execution for the Lifeline Program.



Jason Burwen
Vice President, Policy
Energy Storage Association

Jason Burwen is Vice President of Policy at the Energy Storage Association, where he has led the U.S. storage industry's federal, RTO, and state policy engagement since 2015. Previously, Jason was the Associate Director for Energy Innovation at the Bipartisan Policy Center, where he directed research and advocacy on U.S. energy R&D and tax policy. He also served as staff director of the American Energy Innovation Council, a group of CEOs led by Bill Gates to advocate for greater U.S. federal investments in clean energy technology development. Jason has also consulted to utilities on demand response program design at FSC Group/Nexant and reviewed utility renewable energy procurement contracting for the California Public Utilities Commission. Jason holds masters degrees from the University of California – Berkeley's Energy and Resource Group and Goldman School of Public Policy,

as well as a bachelors degree from Columbia University.



Mark Cicchetti
Chief of Finance, Tax, and Cost Recovery
Florida Public Service Commission

Mark Cicchetti is the Chief of Finance, Tax, and Cost Recovery at the Florida Public Service Commission. He is also the President of the Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts (SURFA). Mark has a BS in Business Administration and an MBA in Finance, both from Florida State University. Mr. Cicchetti was awarded the 2019 Gerald L. Gunter Distinguished Service Award by the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida for Contributions to Regulatory Policy.



Regina Costa
Telecommunications Director, TURN

Regina Costa became TURN's research director in August 1991. She is responsible for developing TURN's policy on regulatory, economic and public policy aspects of telecommunications issues, and participates heavily in TURN's legal work in telecommunications. She also serves on the telecommunications committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

Prior to joining TURN, Costa was a policy research specialist for the state of Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. She also worked for MCI as an analyst helping to prepare a major telecommunications anti-trust lawsuit, and served as a consultant to the British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Center in Vancouver, BC.

Costa received an undergraduate degree and a master's degree, both in communication, from Simon Fraser University. A native of Salinas, California, Costa lived in England for one year while doing post graduate research.



Shawn Dellinger

Analyst, Indiana OUCC Water-Wastewater Division

Shawn is an Analyst at the Indiana OUCC water-Wastewater Division. He has an MBA from Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Prior to working at the OUCC he worked at Amazon in Finance, and prior to that he ran his own business for a number of years.



David E. Dismukes

Professor, Executive Director and Director of Policy Analysis at Louisiana State University, Center for Energy Studies

David E. Dismukes is a Professor, Executive Director, and Director of Policy Analysis at the Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University. He also serves as a Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, and as the Director of the Coastal Marine Institute, both of which

are in the College of the Coast and the Environment at LSU.

David's research interests are related to the analysis of economic, statistical, and public policy issues in energy and natural resources. Over the past 32 years, he has worked in consulting, academia, and government service.

David has been on the LSU faculty for over 25 years and has led research efforts on energy, economic, and environmental/natural resource-related topics. He speaks regularly to professional, trade, and civic associations on important energy issues, trends, and topics. He serves in numerous advisory positions including serving on the National Petroleum Council, a federally chartered advisory arm to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

Dr. Dismukes received his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the Florida State University.



Harold Feld
Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge

Harold Feld is the Senior Vice President for Public Knowledge, one of the nation's premier consumer advocacy organizations working at the intersection of copyright, telecommunications and the Internet. Feld is a highly regarded thought leader in the areas of telecommunications and digital consumer protection, and author of *The Case for the Digital Platform Act: Market Structure and Regulation of Digital Platforms*. He was previously Senior Vice President at the Media Access Project (MAP), a public interest law firm, where he advanced competition policies in media, telecommunications and technology. Prior to joining MAP, Feld was an associate at Covington & Burling, and clerked for the DC Court of Appeals.



Joseph Fichera
CEO, Saber Partners

Joseph S. Fichera is the CEO of Saber Partners, LLC which is a private firm that takes assignments in the public interest. Mr. Fichera and his colleagues have been advocates for consumer interests in numerous utility securitizations over the past 20-years.

Utility regulators have turned to Saber Partners to help them establish first time utility securitization programs in Texas (\$6 billion in financings in six transactions over six years), Florida (\$1.9 billion in financings in 2 transactions over 10 years), and West Virginia(\$500 million over 4 years). The DC Office of People's Counsel also engaged Saber Partners as their expert witness on securitization matters. In June, the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff chose Saber Partners to help them evaluate a new program for storm securitization in North Carolina.

Mr. Fichera began his career as an associate and investment banking and became a managing director of corporate finance at Smith Barney and Bear Stearns. Then, after 17 years as an investment banker in 2000, he formed Saber Partners with two utility finance executives and a utility counsel.

Mr. Fichera has a B.A. from Princeton University and an MBA from Yale University. He has been an adjunct professor of public and international affairs at Princeton University. He is a life member of the *Council on Foreign Relations* and the lead director of the nonprofit group, *The Common Good*. The National Italian American Foundation awarded Mr. Fichera their Special Achievement Award in Finance in 2018.



Travis Fisher
President & CEO, Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON)

Travis Fisher is the President & CEO of the Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON). ELCON is a Washington, DC-based national association representing large industrial consumers of electricity. In his role, Fisher advocates for electricity consumers before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), and Congress.

Fisher has over 15 years of experience in energy policy. Before joining ELCON in April 2020, he served as Economic Advisor to FERC Commissioner Bernard McNamee from December 2018 until March 2020. He also held several roles at FERC in 2018 under the leadership of former Chairman Kevin McIntyre and at DOE under

Secretary Rick Perry. At the DOE, he was responsible for leading the Department's efforts on the 2017 *Staff Report to the Secretary on Electricity Markets and Reliability*.



Jordy Fuentes
Director, Residential Utility Consumer Office

Jordy Fuentes is currently the Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office. Mr. Fuentes has worked for the Residential Utility Consumer Office since 2015, in various positions. Mr. Fuentes holds a law degree from Arizona State University, where he also received the Law, Science, and Technology Certificate, specializing in Environmental and Sustainability Law. Mr. Fuentes serves on the State's Water Emergency Team, actively

participates on the Arizona Mexico Commission – Energy Committee, and regularly represents residential ratepayers before the Arizona Corporation Commission. Prior to working for the Residential Utility Consumer Office, Mr. Fuentes worked as an Information Technology

Director, for public schools in Arizona. In 2009, Mr. Fuentes was elected to the Town Council for the Town of Taylor and for a time served as Vice-Mayor. Mr. Fuentes is a married and the father of four children.



Senator Chris Hansen
District 31, Colorado State Senator

Senator Chris Hansen represents Senate District 31 in the Colorado State Senate. He specializes in energy sector economics and data analytics, with 20 years of experience in the global energy industry. He was formerly the Representative for House District 6 from 2017-2020, representing the east-central neighborhoods of Denver. He currently serves on the Senate Finance, Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs, and Appropriations committees. Throughout his tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives, Hansen served on the Capital Development, House Transportation & Energy, Appropriations, Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources, and Joint Budget committees, and as Chair on the House Appropriations Committee. Prior to his work as an elected official,

he was a Senior Director at IHS Markit where he led a global portfolio of energy products, events and partnerships. He is a co-creator of the OptGen analysis, IHS CERA's unique tool for applying financial portfolio techniques to power generation. Before joining IHS Markit, Dr. Hansen was a Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, where he analyzed electricity and gas sector reform in India and published several papers in professional journals on energy sector economics and policy analysis. Dr. Hansen holds a BSc in Nuclear Engineering from Kansas State University; a Graduate Diploma of Civil Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; a Master of Science in Technology Policy from MIT; and a PhD in Economic Geography from Oxford University. In 2012, he was selected as a Marshall Memorial Fellow by the German Marshall Fund and in 2017 as a Public Leadership Fellow at Harvard University by the Gates Family Foundation. In 2019, he was selected as one of fifteen leaders from across the country to join the NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders), a selective national network of rising state and local elected officials. In addition to his current role in the state senate, Hansen serves as the Co-Founder and Director of Programming at the Colorado Energy & Water Institute, and as Co-Founder of the Colorado Science and Engineering Policy Fellowship.



Commissioner Kenneth Holbrook
Tribal Advisor, California Public Utility Commission

Holbrook has been president at Native Forest Resources Inc. since 2019. He was executive director at Maidu Summit Consortium from 2012 to 2019. Holbrook is founding member and vice president at Tásmam Kojóm Foundation and chief information officer and director of the board at Native Land Trusts Council.



Ashley Gagnon
Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey

Ashley Gagnon is an Assistant Attorney General for Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. Ashley serves in the Energy and Telecommunications Division where she focuses on consumer protection and representing ratepayers in various matters regarding gas and electric utilities before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. Prior to joining the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Ashley worked in the Tort Litigation & Judiciary Section at the New Jersey Attorney General's Office where she represented the State, State departments, and State officials in tort and civil rights lawsuits at trial and appellate levels.



Brad N. Hall
Vice President of External Affairs, Appalachian Power Company

Brad is the Vice President of External Affairs for Appalachian Power Company, a subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP). Brad's territories of responsibility include Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee, where he leads Governmental Affairs, Community Affairs, Economic & Business Development, Corporate Communications, and Customer Services & Business Development. Brad has 24 years management experience with rural utilities, including electric, telecommunications, water, and sewer. He is also a graduate of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) with 13 years of experience in economic development, successfully preparing communities for industry and attracting industry to those communities. Brad resides in Roanoke, VA with his wife Laura and their dog Sammy.



Jason Hewitt,
Investment Development Officer, SP

Jason Hewitt is SP's Investment Development Officer responsible for developing new investment opportunities in the Southern US. For nearly a decade he has worked in the municipal, utility, school and hospital sectors. He is an expert in Smart Cities technologies and brings this experience to bear in government and commercial settings.

Prior to joining SP, Jason spent over 7 years as the founder of Brilliant Efficiencies, an energy efficiency solutions provider to government entities. Simultaneously, Jason has spent over 17 years as a film and television producer and has worked on over 150 film and television projects. Prior, Jason founded and sold a number of technology start ups.



Lon Huber
Vice President at Duke Energy

Lon Huber is a Vice President at Duke Energy overseeing the development and implementation of pricing and strategic solutions. Responding to changing customer needs, Lon is tasked with the development of new innovative electric rate designs in all jurisdictions of Duke Energy. Lon works to create new customer centric product bundles by leading the company's demand side management and energy efficiency strategy as well as customer renewable strategy.

Lon also heads Duke's Regulated Wholesale Portfolio consisting of 7.6 GW of contracts and over \$2 billion revenue. Lon's team structures all renewable QF contracts, which in the North Carolina consists of the nation's second largest state portfolio of solar, second only to California. Finally, his team supports Duke's generation procurement, helping Duke transition its 53 GW fleet to net zero by 2050.

Formerly, Lon worked for the Arizona consumer advocate office and consulted for numerous consumer agencies and regulatory commissions throughout North America. Lon has received several awards for his creative solutions to the electricity industry's most pressing issues, including the top honor from the Energy Storage Association as well as Utility Dive's Innovator of the Year award.



Elin Swanson Katz
Managing Director of Utilities and Associate General Counsel, Tilson

Elin Swanson Katz is the Managing Director of Utilities and Associate General Counsel at Tilson. Elin works with clients in both the public and private sectors on broadband deployment strategies and developing both wired and wireless communication networks. She leads the Utilities practice at Tilson focused on the telecommunication needs of utility companies and developing models for utility deployment of fiber collated on utility infrastructure to provide middle-mile and last-mile broadband service to underserved areas. She also works on consumer and stakeholder engagement and education. Elin previously served as Consumer Counsel for the State of Connecticut, as well as President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, and brings her consumer-oriented

perspective to her work at Tilson.



Brad Klein
Senior Attorney, Environmental Law & Policy Center

Brad is a Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law & Policy Center, where he works on energy and environmental litigation and policy across the Midwest. Over the past fourteen years, Brad has worked to accelerate renewable energy development, protect clean water, and promote sustainable development through work at state legislatures, utility commissions and state and federal courts in eleven Midwest and Great Plains states. Brad previously served as a federal judicial law clerk in Washington, D.C., a law fellow at the Environmental Law Institute, and an environmental engineer at CH2M Hill, Inc. Brad received his law degree with honors from New York University School of Law and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis.



Brittany Hayes Koenig
Staff Attorney , Office of General Counsel for the
Kentucky Public Service Commission

Brittany Hayes Koenig currently practices in the Office of General Counsel for the Kentucky Public Service Commission as a Staff Attorney III and has been at the Commission since 2017. Recently, her work at the Commission focused on helping to produce the Kentucky Public Service Commission's investigative report entitled, "*Confronting the Problems Plaguing Kentucky Water Utilities.*" The report was the result of a year-long investigation to collect testimony and data targeted at documenting the issues water systems must overcome to serve the needs of the ratepayers. The Commission's Excessive Water Loss Investigation was filed in November of 2019. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Kentucky, College of Law in 2003 after having received her Bachelor's degree in

Political Science and English from Indiana State University in 1999.



Charlotte R. Lane
Chairman of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia

Charlotte R. Lane was appointed to the Public Service Commission and as Chairman on July 1, 2019. She previously served on the Commission from 1985-1989 and 1997-2003, serving as Chairman from 1997-2001.

She has a long career of public service in addition to her prior work on the Commission, having been elected to three terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates (1979-1980, 1991-1992 and 2017-2018). She served on the U.S. International Trade Commission from 2003-2011, having been appointed by President George W. Bush. She has practiced law in State and Federal Courts in West Virginia

for many years and has been admitted to practice in the Third and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Chairman Lane has served as President of the West Virginia Bar Association, the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC) and the Charleston Rotary Club. She has also served on the Boards of Directors of the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C.; the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); the Charleston Chamber of Commerce; the Board of Governors of the West Virginia State Bar and as a member of the West Virginia University College of Law Visiting Committee.

Chairman Lane graduated from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Political Science and received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the West Virginia University College of Law. She has been awarded the Justitia Officium Award from the WVU College of Law, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Marshall University and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the West Virginia Bar Foundation.

She currently resides in Charleston. She has a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren living in South Carolina.



Paul F. McGlynn
Executive Director – System Operations-PJM

Mr. McGlynn is responsible for the management of the System Operation Division to ensure the secure, reliable, economic, and coordinated operation of the PJM Interconnection system. In this role, Mr. McGlynn directs and oversees all System Operation Division activities for the efficient and reliable operation and coordination of the PJM bulk power system including load forecasting, scheduling and dispatch of generating units, coordinating generating unit and transmission outages, scheduling power interchange transactions with neighboring systems and monitoring and control of the loading and voltages of the system within established reliability standards.

Prior to assuming his position in System Operation, Mr. McGlynn was the senior director – System Planning, PJM Interconnection. In that role, he was responsible for the development of the PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Plan, including transmission planning, interregional planning and the analytic activities in support of the interconnection process. These responsibilities include assessing long-term transmission system adequacy and reliability, and recommending bulk transmission system expansions or enhancement options. Prior to joining PJM, Mr. McGlynn held various positions in engineering and operations at Exelon.

Mr. McGlynn earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in electrical engineering from Drexel University. He is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is a senior member of the IEEE.



Katrina McMurrian
Executive Director of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum

A former Florida Public Service Commissioner (2006–2009), Katrina McMurrian draws upon extensive regulatory experience to organize and facilitate relevant policy forums and to advise an array of entities on key regulatory and policy issues in the energy arena. McMurrian currently serves as Executive Director of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF), a unique national forum in which state utility regulators, consumer advocates, and energy companies – via a series of facilitated, interactive dialogues – engage in productive debate and often

develop consensus on issues that are not only important to these three core communities but also to consumers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. As a result of this collaboration, CCIF has produced valuable reports on energy topics including grid modernization, distributed generation, consumer solutions, smart communities, electric transportation, and resilience. McMurrian also serves as Executive Director of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC), an ad hoc organization representing the collective interests of member state utility regulators, state consumer advocates, other state officials, tribal governments, local governments, electric companies with operating and shutdown nuclear reactors, and other public and private sector experts on nuclear waste policy matters. In these roles, McMurrian frequently interacts with Congress; Administration officials; state and federal utility regulators; state and national consumer organizations; other state, tribal, and local officials; industry representatives; and numerous other public and private stakeholders. In addition, she serves on the Southwest Research Institute Board of Advisory Trustees, as an associate member of the Financial Research Institute (FRI), and as a member of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), the Institute for Nuclear Materials Management (INMM), and U.S. Women in Nuclear (U.S. WIN). A Northwest Florida native, McMurrian received a Bachelor's degree in finance and an MBA from Florida State University. She and her husband currently reside near Nashville, Tennessee.



Steve Mitnick
Editor-In-Chief, Public Utilities Fortnightly

Steve Mitnick is editor-in-chief of *Public Utilities Fortnightly* and president of its parent company Lines Up, Inc., based in Arlington, Virginia. He also authors the weekly digital magazine *This Half Fortnight from PUF*.

He previously was a member of the leadership teams of energy consulting practices at McKinsey & Co., Marsh & McLennan, and PHB/Hagler Bailly. Before that he served as president of the transmission developer Conjunction LLC, and chief energy advisor to the Governor of New York.

His book, *Lines Down: How We Pay, Use, Value Grid Electricity Amid the Storm*, was published in June 2013. His most recent book, *Lewis Latimer, The First Hidden Figure*,

was published in November 2020.

He has testified before utility regulatory commissions of six states, the District of Columbia, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and in Canada. Early in his career, he was a member of the faculty of Georgetown University and taught undergraduate microeconomics, macroeconomics and statistics. He has an M.B.A. from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and two B.S. degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in physics and in history/political science.



Chairman Matthew Nelson
Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

Chairman Matthew Nelson was appointed Chair of the Department of Public Utilities in February 2019. Nelson began his energy career at the DPU in 2007 in the Natural Gas Division. Subsequently, Nelson served as the Supervisor of Regulatory, Policy, and Planning for Eversource Energy as part of the nationally recognized Mass Save program. Returning to the DPU, Nelson became the Director of Electric Power, as well as the director of Regional and Federal Affairs. During Nelson's time at the DPU, he investigated a wide range of utility issues, including grid modernization investments, general rate case issues, solar and renewable energy development, energy efficiency, climate strategies, competitive supply, and storm restoration issues. Specifically, significant cases in energy policy that Nelson has covered include:

- Multiple Off-shore wind adjudications including the recent approvals for Vineyard Wind
- The Energy Efficiency Three Year Plan(s)
- The Grid Modernization Adjudication (Phase 1)
- Public Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure programs
- Net Metering, Energy Storage, and Capacity Rights
- Storm Response and Restoration Investigations
- Implementation of the MA SMART Tariff

Nelson's work at the DPU and elsewhere has focused on reducing costs to ratepayers, while improving reliability and continuing to drive down greenhouse gas emissions. Nelson is a graduate of Stonehill College, and holds a Master's degree in economics from Tufts University.



Nick Nigro
Founder of Atlas Public Policy

Nick Nigro is the founder of Atlas Public Policy. Nick has over 15 years of experience managing projects of various disciplines, size, and scope. He is a nationally known expert on alternative fuel vehicle financing, policy, and technology. He has led the development of several complex financial and policy analysis tools, convened large groups of diverse stakeholders nationwide, managed a comprehensive analysis of greenhouse gas mitigation from U.S. transportation, is a frequent public speaker on advanced vehicle technology and other transportation-related energy and environmental issues, and has expert knowledge in web and other computer-related technology. Nick holds a

Master of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



Anjali Patel

Senior Assistant People's Counsel, Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia

Anjali Patel is a Senior Assistant People's Counsel with the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia. Ms. Patel represents District of Columbia consumers in federal and state proceedings involving electric, gas, and telecommunication utilities. She has practiced before state and federal courts, the D.C. Public Service Commission, and a variety of federal agencies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Ms. Patel serves as the Co-Chair of NASUCA's Electricity Committee and previously served on the Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association (CFEBA) Board. She has a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Case Western Reserve University, an M.S. in Environmental Policy from Drexel University, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.



Gregory J. Poulos, Executive Director

Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc.

Greg Poulos is the executive director for the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc. (CAPS). Established in 2013, CAPS is a nonprofit organization whose members include state advocate offices in the 13 PJM states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the CAPS members represent over 65-million consumers throughout the PJM footprint. As the executive director of CAPS, Greg coordinates the efforts of the member offices, stays active in the PJM stakeholder process, and monitors relevant proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that the prices consumers pay for reliable, wholesale electric service are reasonable. Prior to joining CAPS, Greg spent over six years at EnerNOC as a member of the Regulatory Affairs team.

While at EnerNOC, Greg regularly represented the company at public utility commissions throughout the Midwest. He also interacted with many

regional transmission organizations including PJM, Inc., the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO).

Greg earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his Juris Doctorate with from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



Cheryl Roberto
Senior Principal, Synapse Energy Economics

Cheryl Roberto provides expert consulting services for removing operational, regulatory, and policy barriers to the decarbonization of the energy system on behalf of mission-driven investors, regulators, and other stakeholders seeking to accelerate the transformation of the grid. Through decades of experience including as a consumer and environmental advocate, regulator, utilities executive, and as an attorney, Cheryl Roberto is skilled in unifying consumer, public interest, environmental, and private investment priorities to map

constructive future paths. Before joining Synapse in 2019, Ms. Roberto was Managing Director of Utility Transformation at Twenty First Century Utilities LLC, an investment firm dedicated to driving the adoption of clean, economical energy technologies through the acquisition and operation of utility companies. Prior to 2015, Ms. Roberto was Associate Vice President of the Environmental Defense Fund's Clean Energy Program, where she led a nation-wide program advocating for regulatory reform, with the goal of accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies, modernizing U.S. energy infrastructure, and eliminating financial and regulatory barriers preventing widespread implementation of renewables, energy efficiency, and innovative energy generation and distribution approaches. From 2008 until 2012, Ms. Roberto was Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Previous roles include Director of the Department of Public Utilities for the City of Columbus and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio. In 2013, Ms. Roberto was recognized by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance with the "Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award" for her tireless efforts as a leader in energy efficiency and sustainable and equitable policies. She has served on a diversity of boards and commissions focused on energy efficiency, regulation, environmental conservation, regional planning, and research. She has testified before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources regarding grid reliability and modernization, and before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Ms. Roberto holds a B.A. in Political Science from Kent State University, and a J.D. from the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University.



Jackie Roberts
Director, West Virginia Consumer Advocate Division

Jackie Roberts is the West Virginia Consumer Advocate. She was President and founder of the Consumer Advocates of PJM, Inc. (2014 – 2015), Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee member (since 2014) of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, and a member of the PJM Interconnection LLC Nomination Committee (2011-2014). In 2014 she was elected to the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC) Members Committee. Most recently, Jackie was appointed to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission Energy & Environmental Markets Advisory Committee.

Previously she was an attorney with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and corporate counsel to both electric and natural gas utilities (Green Mountain Power in Vermont and EnergyNorth in New Hampshire, predecessor to National Grid). While at EnergyNorth Jackie was Corporate Secretary of three subsidiary natural gas utilities. She was the executive director of the Public Utilities Policy Institute where she served as the consultant to the NH legislature when it passed the first-in-the-nation electric deregulation statute.

Jackie has argued appeals before the Supreme Courts of two states (including the leading natural gas deregulation "take or pay" case in New Hampshire), the Ninth Circuit Court of appeals, and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the State Supreme Courts of West Virginia, Ohio, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Nevada.



Joseph W. Rogers
Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General

Joseph Rogers is an Assistant Attorney General in the Energy and Telecommunications Division of the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. The Division discharges the Attorney General's responsibilities as the statutory representative of Massachusetts consumers of gas, electric and telephone utility service. In performing this work, the Attorney General's office appears on behalf of consumers in proceedings before the

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Rogers is the Chair of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) Natural Gas Committee. He has been employed by the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General since 1992. He was the Utilities Division Chief from October 2001 to March 2007. Mr. Rogers received his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 1981 and his B.A. magna cum laude from Iona College in 1978. He was the Assistant Consumer Advocate of the State of

New Hampshire from 1985 to 1992. Prior to that, he was in private practice in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.



Dr. Trevor Roycroft
Professor Emeritus, Ohio University

Dr. Roycroft is Professor Emeritus at the J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communications Technology at Ohio University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Davis. At Ohio University he conducts graduate and undergraduate courses in regulatory policy and law, privacy, and the economics of the telecommunication and information technology industries. He has thirty years of experience in the telecommunication and information technology fields. In addition to his academic career, he has provided analysis and testimony as an independent consultant since 1994. In his role as a consultant he has addressed a wide variety of issues including those related to network neutrality, mergers, competition, service pricing, service quality, broadband deployment, and universal service. Dr. Roycroft has filed testimony, reports, and affidavits in over 100 proceedings before numerous

state regulatory commissions, the Federal Communications Commission, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, and in state and federal courts.



David Sarkisian
Senior Policy Project Manager

David Sarkisian is a Senior Policy Project Manager at the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center. David works on both the public DSIRE database and NCCETC's DSIRE Insight subscription services, including the 50 States of Solar, Grid Modernization, and Electric Vehicles reports. David also manages NCCETC's community solar work and served as Principal Investigator for the Community Solar for the Southeast project. David received a J.D. and a Master of Science in Environmental Science degree from Indiana University-Bloomington, and is a member of the Indiana bar.



Leah Sorini
Communication Specialist, Lifeline Program

Leah Sorini writes and reviews Lifeline's external communications, including website content, newsletter articles, and informational one-pagers and fact sheets. She creates presentations and leads training sessions for carriers, consumer advocate groups, Tribal communities, and state and federal agencies and oversees state partnerships to maintain relationships with stakeholders and increase program awareness.



Karen Stachowski
Assistant Attorney General, Tennessee Office of the Attorney General

Karen is an Assistant Attorney General with the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Protection and Advocate. In this role, she focuses on proceedings before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (TPUC), which is responsible for regulating Tennessee's investor-owned utility companies. The Consumer Advocate seeks to enforce laws applicable to public utilities, to remove barriers to competition in public utilities markets, and to seek a healthy balance between regulation, competition, and the public interest. It participates in regulatory proceedings before TPUC and monitors complaints filed against various utilities in

the state.

Karen began her legal career with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation where she held various titles and job responsibilities including Deputy Commissioner of Environment, Assistant Commissioner, Managing Legal Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. She also previously worked in the Attorney General's Office in the Law Enforcement and Prosecution Division.

Karen is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, where she majored in Biology. She attended law school at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.

Karen is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Water Works Association, , and the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.



Paul Stockton
Managing Director, Sonecon, LLC

As Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense from 2009-2013, Dr. Stockton led the development of DOD's Strategy for Mission Assurance and twice receiving DOD's highest award for civilian service. Dr. Stockton has since focused on strengthening critical infrastructure resilience. In 2014, he wrote a pioneering report for NARUC on Resilience For Black Sky Days. The electric industry and DOE are currently implementing recommendations from Resilience for Grid Security Emergencies: Opportunities for Industry-Government Collaboration. Dr. Stockton has a Ph.D. from Harvard. He is a member of the DOE Electricity Advisory Committee, the Homeland Security Advisory Council, and serves on oversight committees for the Idaho National Laboratory and other institutions.



Bill Teichmiller
CEO of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.

Bill Teichmiller is the CEO of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc., the largest regional water cooperative system in Illinois. EJ Water is a not-for-profit organization serving a population of 75,000 in south central Illinois. This innovative coop's mission is to "Improve the Quality of Life, the Cooperative Way". EJ Water has over 3,000 miles of main, service area of over 2,500 square miles, and serves a population of more than 77,000 people.

As costs continue to rise, Bill creatively looked for new ways to bring revenue to the non-for-profit in order to help members maintain affordable water rates. Additionally, Bill is a strong believer of the Cooperative model and that the most efficient way for communities to grow is through partnering to reduce overall costs and invest back into economic development. It is this belief that has not only grown the Co-Op exponentially through Bill's leadership, but also impacted multiple communities and their population growth. Bill is also a nationally and internationally recognized speaker due to his unique leadership strategies and collaborative way of operating the utility. It is under his leadership that the Co-Op has received multiple awards, become the largest regional water cooperative in Illinois, and been a finalist at the Global Water Awards.

Bill has been invited to speak at the White House on the importance of regionalization and the positive impact it has on the rural communities EJ Water serves. EJ Water is honored the USDA and USEPA value them as leaders of the industry and a utility of tomorrow.



Rob Thormeyer, Senior Director, Communications and Advocacy, Utilities Technology Council

Rob Thormeyer serves as Senior Director of Communications and Advocacy for the Utilities Technology Council, focusing on external communications, message development, regulatory and media relations. Prior to joining UTC, Mr. Thormeyer served as an advisor for former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Member Colette D. Honorable. In that role, he assisted Commissioner Emeritus Honorable on public affairs, speechwriting, and media relations. He drafted congressional testimony and official correspondence as well. Mr. Thormeyer began his public-relations career at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners as its Director of Communications. His first profession out of college was journalism.

Mr. Thormeyer wrote and edited for publications covering a wide variety of energy and IT issues, and received bylines in the Washington Post. He received his bachelor's degree in History from Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington) in Fredericksburg, Va.