

PSC News

November 2014

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Over 100 Years of Service

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Volume 10

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PSC Elects New Officers Inducts New Commissioner.

In July, the Public Service Commission elected a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Commission also welcomed a new Commissioner, Elliott F. Elam, Jr.

The Public Service Commission has elected new officers. Nikiya “Nikki” Hall (6th District) was named Chairman and Swain E. Whitfield (5th District) was named Vice Chairman. In addition to her Commission duties in South Carolina, Chairman Hall is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where she serves as Chairman of the Utility Market Access Subcommittee, and a member of the Washington Action Program and Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.

As Vice Chair, Commissioner Whitfield will assist the Chairman with the continued advancement of its procedures, regulations, and rulings. Commissioner

Whitfield is an active member of NARUC, serving as Co-Vice Chair of its Committee on Critical Infrastructure, and serving as a member on three other NARUC committees. He is also Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute’s Public Interest Advisory Committee.

In addition to the induction of new officers, the Commission swore-in newly elected Commissioner Elliott F. Elam, Jr. Commissioner Elam represents the 2nd Congressional District, and assumed his Commissionership on July 1, 2014. Prior to his Commissionership, Commissioner Elam was employed by the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs as a law clerk, staff attorney, and Consumer Advocate.



On Location!

The Commission recently held several public night hearings at various locations throughout South Carolina. Night hearings give the Commission a chance to hear public testimony from individuals who are unable to attend a hearing in Columbia.



Chairman Hall opens the night hearing in Union, SC in Docket No. 2013-378-E.



In Easley, SC, a witness is sworn in before giving his testimony in Docket No. 2014-81-S



Commissioner Howard questions a witness during the Columbia, SC night hearing in Docket No. 2014-69-S.

Reflections of Chairman Nikki Hall

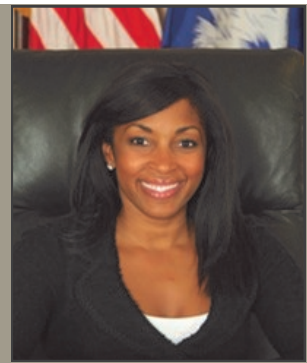
The end of the year is near and I am delighted to have served as chair for the past 4 months. We are enjoying our newest commissioner, Elliott Elam, representing the 2nd district. We are very blessed to have his legal expertise and perspective from having served as an attorney with Consumer Affairs for many years. Unfortunately, we also suffered the loss of our dear friend and retired Commissioner Randy Mitchell in October. Commissioner Mitchell served tirelessly for many years and was a

friend to each of us as well as our staff. He will be sorely missed and we continue to pray for his family.

We have accomplished much over the course of the year and I look forward to imminent changes in the coming years. I must thank my immediate past chair, Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton for his sage advice and leadership. We will be making some very groundbreaking decisions in the beginning of 2015 and I look forward to leading the Commission during this very critical time. Our

staff is already preparing diligently for those hearings and I know that all parties appearing will present a deliberate and thorough case.

Please enjoy the holiday season and we will see you all in the New Year!



Appointment to GTI Advisory Committee

Vice Chairman Swain E. Whitfield was recently appointed as Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee. The following article details his role and the mission of the Committee.



Congratulations to Vice Chairman Swain E. Whitfield on his recent appointment to Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute's (GTI) Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC)! GTI is a research, development, and training organization that addresses energy and environmental challenges to ena-

ble a secure, abundant, and affordable energy future. The PIAC provides public and gas consumer interest guidance to the GTI and its Board. The Committee is made up of public utility commissioners, consumer advocates, and environmental, economic, and university-based experts.

Vice Chairman Whitfield said of his appointment, "Serving on the GTI PIAC is one of the most interesting things I have done since becoming a Commissioner. It is critical that we have quality research and development in the natural gas industry. Natural gas is a clean, abundant, domestic ener-

gy source and continuing to advance new technologies in natural gas is crucial to our nation. While South Carolina does not produce natural gas, GTI's focus does impact ratepayers in South Carolina, including, but not limited to: pipeline distribution safety and integrity, combined heat and power distribution generation, and gas-electric interoperability. I am very fortunate to be associated with GTI, along with a few members from the NARUC Committee on Gas, and very honored to be elected Vice Chairman by my colleagues."

Commissioner Whitfield has been a member of the PIAC since October 2013.

Cyber Security Presentation

In August, the PSC hosted two presenters from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board (B&CB), Division of Information Security (DIS), and the Enterprise Privacy Office (EPO), to discuss Cyber Security Awareness and Information Security.



The PSC hosted Sarah Marrow, Chief Privacy Officer of the EPO, and Marcos Vieyra, Chief Information Security Officer of DIS, in August to discuss the increased importance of Cyber Security Awareness and Information Security.

The presenters stressed that “anything that is connected to the Internet is accessible by anyone that is on the Internet.” This concept is concerning due to the reality that everything today from point-of-sale systems to power grids are connected to the Internet. The presentation emphasized that even with recent improvements to security and privacy efforts, we will always live with a certain amount of risk.

People, processes, and technology are the most important fac-

tors in alleviating the risks associated with cyber security and information security. The implementation of technology can make the environment safer to enable us to be better stewards and guardians of information. Processes can be aided by policy and practice guidelines; however, “people” is the most important factor. People have to utilize the technology available to them and must be aware of the policy guidelines. Ultimately, people will have the largest impact on cyber security and information security efforts.

Allowable Ex Parte Briefings & ORS Special Presentations

Since July, the Commission has held several Allowable Ex Parte Briefings at the request of parties and a Special Presentation by the Office of Regulatory Staff. These briefings and presentations cover topics and issues pertinent to current matters being placed before the PSC. Visit the “ND” dockets referenced below to view the transcripts from these briefings.

| Presenter/Requestor | Topic | Date |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Office of Regulatory Staff | Dual Party Relay Fund | July 28, 2014 |
| ORS & DHEC | ND 2014-23-E: EPA Clean Power Plan Proposal | August 28, 2014 |
| Duke Energy Carolinas & Duke Energy Progress | ND 2014-24-E: Smart Meters | September 10, 2014 |
| Duke Energy Carolinas & Duke Energy Progress | ND 2014-28-E: Coal Ash Basin Closure | September 23, 2014 |
| SELC, Upstate Forever, & Save Our Saluda | ND 2014-28-E: Coal Ash Basin Closure | September 25, 2014 |
| South Carolina Electric & Gas Company | ND 2014-25-E: Construction Progress at V.C. Summer | October 15, 2014 |

Staff Spotlight >>>



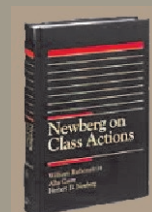
For fourteen consecutive years, PSC Staff Attorney, Randall Dong, has authored the South Carolina portion of the annual Survey of State Class Action Law, which provides practitioners with summaries and legal citations in all fifty states. The Survey is published by the American Bar Association Section of Liti-

gation, and is reprinted in Newberg on Class Actions.

Newberg on Class Actions is a subscription service of West Publishing. West Publishing has published the Survey of State Class Action Law, including Mr. Dong’s contribution, since 2001.

Randall started working at the Public Service Com-

mission in January of 2006. Prior to his time at the PSC, he was involved in private practice, where he devoted a large portion of his time to class actions.



DMS Update

In October, the PSC's Docket Management System (DMS) was updated to differentiate between a Commission Directive and a Hearing Officer or Hearing Examiner Directive. A Commission Directive is issued during a Commission Meeting, while a Hearing Officer or Hearing Examiner Directive is issued by the attorney assigned to that matter. The Directives issued by a Hearing Officer or Examiner that stand as an Order are assigned an order number with an "H". The update will allow the Commission to efficiently serve all of its decisions/orders and to collect accurate data. The screenshot below details the DMS update.



Public Service Commission
Docket Management System South Carolina

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:: ORDER DETAIL

Order Number 2014-820H

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Dockets: | 2013-451-WS |
| Date Filed: | 10/14/14 |
| Summary: | Standing Hearing Officer Directive Granting Motion |

Downloadable Documents

| File Type/Size | Title |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| PDF/12k | Standing Hearing Officer Direct |

One Morning, One Mission

The PSC came together during the month of October to participate in the Palmetto Health Foundation's 2014 Walk for Life. The annual fundraiser raises money for the Palmetto Health Breast Center in an effort to beat breast cancer in the Midlands. The PSC donated over \$400 to the cause. In all, more than 11,000 walkers and runners helped raised over \$719,000.



PSC staff members (from left) Jocelyn Boyd, Deborah Easterling, Afton Ellison, and Bill Richardson participated in the 2014 Walk for Life on October 18, 2014.

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