

PSC News

December 2015

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Over 100 Years of Service

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Commissioner Appointments

In June, Commissioner Swain E. Whitfield was appointed as 2nd Vice President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). SEARUC focuses on the advancement and education of commission regulation through the study and discussion of subjects concerning the operation and supervision of public utilities to protect the people with respect to regulation of the Southeastern States. As 2nd Vice President, Commissioner Whitfield will support the 1st Vice President and President of SEARUC in the duties and actions of the Association.

Commissioner Whitfield represents the 5th Congressional District and is currently serving as Vice Chairman of the PSC. He is an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he serves as Co-Vice Chairman of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure and is a member of the Washington Action Committee, Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal Subcommittee, and Committee on Gas. He is also Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute's Board.



In September, Commissioner John E. "Butch" Howard was appointed as the Chairman of the NARUC Subcommittee on Education and Research by NARUC President Lisa Edgar. The Subcommittee is responsible for the oversight of NARUC's educational and research programs. In 2015, the Subcommittee organized the 13th edition of the NARUC New Commissioner Regulatory Orientation, State Electricity Regulators Capacity Assistance Training, NARUC's Summer Internship Program and established several scholarship opportunities.

Additionally, Commissioner Howard serves as Director of NARUC's Utility Rate School, and is a member of the Committee on Water and Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Sequestration. Commissioner Howard is also a member of the Water Research Foundation's Public Council on Drinking Water Research, New Mexico State Center for Public Utilities' Advisory Council, and the Department of Homeland Security's Water Sector Government Coordinating Council.

In July, Commissioner Elliott F. Elam, Jr. was appointed as a member of the NARUC Telecommunications Act Modernization Task Force (TeAM). The mission of TeAM is to ensure that the State's voice is heard and that NARUC is positioned to respond quickly to any effort to amend the laws governing the nation's telecommunications sector. "The level of legislative, regulatory, and consumer activity in modern telecommunications is unprecedented. TeAM will be a prime vehicle for ensuring that NARUC and its members are actively engaged in these discussions," NARUC President Edgar said of the Task Force.

Additionally, Commissioner Elam is a member of NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications and the Federal Communication Commission's Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services. He assumed his Commissionership in July 2014, and represents the 2nd Congressional District.





Reflections of Chairman Nikki Hall

As we approach the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on the accomplishments that have been made. It has been a busy and challenging year, but with the help and hard work of our Commissioners and Staff members, we have successfully carried out our mission.

We've rounded out the year with a host of public hearings from South Carolina's Coast to the Upstate. Listening to public testimony reminds

us how critical the decisions we make really are.

Our Commissioners continue to ardently represent South Carolina nationally. Vice Chairman Whitfield was recently appointed as 2nd Vice President of SEARUC. Additionally, Commissioner Howard was appointed as Chairman of the NARUC Committee on Education and Research and Commissioner Elam was appointed to NARUC's TeAM Task Force.

South Carolina has endured a difficult year, but has shown immense resiliency and is stronger than ever. I'm proud of our agency for its recent contributions to the community.

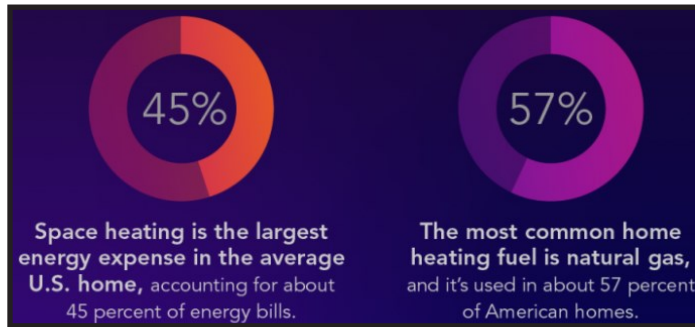
On behalf of the PSC, I would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2016!

Did You Know?

Interesting facts and an energy saving tip from the US Department of Energy (Energy.gov).

Energy-Saving Tip

Before upgrading your heating system, improve the efficiency of your house. This will allow you to purchase a smaller unit, saving you money on the upgrade and operating costs.



Appliance Energy Calculator

The DOE's website contains an appliance and electronic energy calculator that allows you to estimate your annual energy use and cost per year to operate specific products.

Allowable Ex Parte Briefings

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

Presenter/Requestor	Topic	Date
Competitive Carriers of the South, Inc. (CompSouth)	ND 2015-27-C: Telecommunications Transition	October 22, 2015
Palmetto Utilities, Inc., Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC, & Palmetto of Richland County, LLC	ND 2015-29-WS: Installation of New Telecommunications Software	October 22, 2015
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company	ND 2015-30-E: Recent Activity Concerning the New Nuclear Units at V.C. Summer Nuclear Station	November 19, 2015
Office of Regulatory Staff	ND 2015-24-E: Clean Power Plan	December 2, 2015

On the Road

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.

Docket	Location(s)
Docket No. 2015-103-E: Petition of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company for Updates and Revisions to the Capital Cost Schedule and Schedules Related to the Construction of a Nuclear Base Load Generation Facility at Jenkinsville, South Carolina	Columbia, SC
Docket No. ND 2015-20-E: Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project—45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC	Campobello, SC
Docket No. 2014-346-WS: Application of Daufuskie Island Utility Company, Inc. for Approval of an Increase for Water and Sewer Rates, Terms and Conditions	Daufuskie Island, SC
Docket No. 2015-199-WS: Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Water and Sewer Service	Rock Hill, SC Clover, SC Anderson, SC Georgetown, SC Columbia, SC



A public witness testifies during the hearing in Docket No. 2014-346-WS in Daufuskie Island, SC.



A public witness is sworn in before delivering his testimony during the hearing in Docket No. 2015-20-E.



Commissioner Whitfield asks a question during the public hearing in Docket No. 2015-199-WS in Clover, SC.

Team Member of the Year >>> Jo Wheat



Congratulations to Jo Wheat on being named PSC Team Member of the Year! Jo is the Commission's Court Reporter, and is tasked with the important and tedious job of transcribing all hearings and meetings that take place at the PSC.

Jo has worked at the PSC

since 2007. Previously, she worked with the Workers' Compensation Commission and as a freelance reporter.

In her free time, she enjoys knitting, gardening, and walking in the woods. She is an avid animal lover, especially of her dogs and cats. Her favorite part of

working at the PSC is the teamwork, and the opportunity to participate in other areas of the job that keep things interesting and fun. She likes to help a co-worker in need or to solve a problem. She says the most difficult part of her job is producing a transcript in a tight timetable.

Annual Ethics Training

As mandated by Act 175 of 2004, PSC Commissioners and Staff recently completed the six required hours of annual ethics training. This year, the PSC hosted Judge Elizabeth Drews, affiliated with the National Judicial College (NJC) and Dean Colin Miller, USC School of Law.



(Left) The Honorable Elizabeth H. Drews, Administrative Law Judge with the State Office of Administrative Hearings in Austin, TX provided a comprehensive overview of SC's Code of Judicial Conduct, Ethics Reform Act, and Administrative Procedures Act. (Middle) The NJC training had two breakout discussion sessions, where teams discussed "thorny" ethical issues ranging from ex parte communications to procedures regarding pro se litigant parties.



Dean Colin Miller discusses the Administrative Procedures Act Rules of Evidence with Commissioners and Staff Attorneys. The training incorporated different cases where the Rules applied.

P.O. Drawer Closure

The Commission's P.O. Drawer will be closed on January 1, 2016. If you have not already done so, please begin directing all correspondences to the PSC's physical address:

Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Flood Relief Efforts

In response to the recent devastating floods that took place in South Carolina, PSC Commissioners and Staff banded together to provide relief to those displaced. The PSC donated food and paper items to Beacon Church so they could host a worship service and lunch for the Pine Glen Community in Irmo, SC. The PSC's efforts helped feed over 150 people in the community.

Additionally, the PSC donated \$125 to Harvest Hope Food Bank, equating to 625 pounds of food for those in need following the floods.



Items donated to Beacon Church for the lunch to feed those affected by the floods. Items included drinks, condiments, chips, plates, cups, and other items, leading to a successful effort by the Church.

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