

PSC News

June 2016

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Over 100 Years of Service

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Commissioner Appointments

In January, Commissioner Comer H. “Randy” Randall and Commissioner John E. “Butch” Howard were appointed to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ (NARUC) Transportation Task Force. The Transportation Task Force was created in response to a renewed interest in transportation regulation and rail safety issues. The task force will propose resolutions to NARUC’s board and outline the approaches States can take in response to emerging issues in these industries.

Commissioner Howard was elected to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2004. He is an active member of NARUC, the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), 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. Commissioner Randall was elected to the PSC in 2013. He is also an active member of SEARUC and NARUC, where he serves on the Committee on Gas, Committee on Water, and Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal. Both Commissioners Randall and Howard were recently re-elected by the General Assembly to serve another four year term at the PSC.



Commissioner Howard



Commissioner Randall

At the beginning of 2016, Commissioner Swain E. Whitfield was appointed as a member of the NARUC-Department of Energy (DOE) Natural Gas Infrastructure Modernization Partnership. The technical partnership between NARUC and DOE is striving to help establish leak measurement protocols and to identify new technologies and cost-effective practices for enhancing pipeline safety, efficiency, and deliverability.

Commissioner Whitfield was elected to the PSC in 2008, and is currently serving as the Commission’s Vice Chairman. He is an active member of NARUC, the 2nd Vice President of SEARUC, and serves as the Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute’s Advisory Board. He was recently re-elected by the General Assembly to serve another four year term at the PSC.



Commissioner Whitfield

Staff Spotlight >>> David Butler

Staff Attorney, David Butler, can now check performing at New York City’s Carnegie Hall off his list. In November, David was invited by his church Choir Director, Dr. Alicia Walker, to perform alongside University of South Carolina (USC) choir members and Honors High School choir members at the venue. Dr. Walker is the Associate Director of Choral Studies at USC. The group performed one piece by Mozart, and another piece that was a “world premier” by a modern composer. The concert was sponsored by Distinguished Concerts International New York, and featured singers from California, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, and others from throughout the United States.





Reflections of Chairman Nikki Hall

My time as chair has flown by. I am proud of the milestones the Commission has met and the challenges we have overcome. Notably, shortly after I became chair of the Commission I also became a Liberty Fellow. The Liberty Fellowship is much deeper than your conventional leadership academy, so I was grateful to have that experience during the challenging times that the Commission faced. My fellow commissioners continue to excel and lead in the national energy arena. I am thankful that all Commissioners were successfully reelected and that we will proceed with our team. Commissioner Whitfield will become Chair on July 1 and I am confident that he will be the leader the Commission needs in the face of adversity and challenge.

I would like to thank my staff for their support during my time as Chair. They were responsive and helpful, and often went beyond their reach to ensure the Commission serves the public efficiently.

I love serving as an energy regulator and I anxiously await what is imminent. Thank you!

Allowable Ex Parte Briefings & ORS Special Presentations

Since January, the Commission has held several Allowable Ex Parte Briefings and Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) Special Presentations at the request of parties. These briefings and presentations 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
BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina	ND 2015-31-E: Telecommunications IP Transition	January 12, 2016
Duke Energy Corporation	ND 2015-32-G: Acquisition of Piedmont Natural Gas	January 13, 2016
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC	ND 2016-5-E: Coal Ash Disposal	February 10, 2016
Office of Regulatory Staff	Special Presentation regarding National Consumer Protection Week	March 9, 2016
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC	2015-8-E and 2015-10-E: Integrated Resource Plans (IRP)	March 23, 2016
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC	ND 2016-14-E: Potential Solar Facility	April 21, 2016
SouthWest Water Company and Kiawah Island Utility, Inc.	ND 2016-8-W: Update on Operations of Kiawah Island Utility, Inc. and Introduction of its New Parent Company, SouthWest Water Company	May 11, 2016
Office of Regulatory Staff	ND 2016-23-C: Act 181: State Telecom Equity in Funding Act	June 8, 2016

New eTariff System Launch

In December, the Commission launched its newly redesigned eTariff System. The system was reconfigured to utilize a “.net” platform, improving the site’s security.



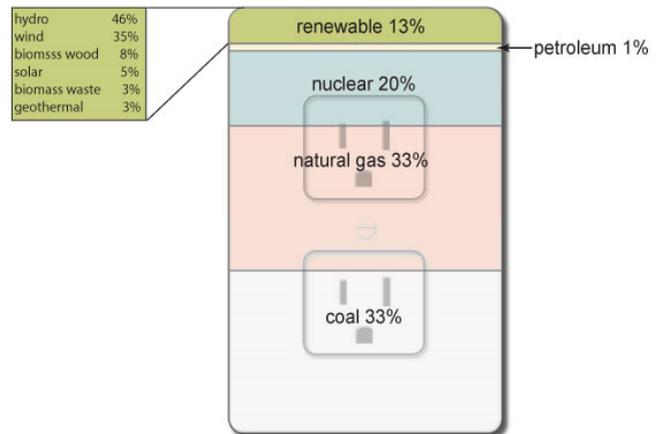
The Commission completed the migration of its servers to a “.net” platform in December, with the release of the newly reconfigured eTariff System. The updated platform improved the security of the site’s information and data.

The reconfigured eTariff System features a new look with improved functionality. The updated system includes sort and filter features that streamline the search process for users. Users can filter items by industry, and sort using keywords.

With the launch of the new system, the Commission also released an updated eTariff System User Guide that includes step-by-step instructions for general users of the system and registered users of the system. The guide is located under the “Help” tab on the eTariff’s website at <https://etariff.psc.sc.gov>.



Sources of U.S. electricity generation, 2015



Source: US Energy Information Administration



Representatives from the Office of Regulatory Staff present an Allowable Ex Parte Briefing on Act 181—the State Telecom Equity in Funding Act before the Commission on June 8, 2016.

CPR AED Training

In April, the Public Service Commission hosted two training sessions for 12 of its employees to become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine. The training also included basic First Aid instruction. The need for CPR/AED training arose with the Commission’s recent purchase of two AEDs for the PSC offices and Hearing Room. The training sessions were conducted by Nurse Betsy Hossenlupp, and each participant received certification through the American Red Cross.



PSC Court Reporter, Jo Wheat, practices CPR compressions during the training session.



Training participants observe as Nurse Betsy demonstrates how to properly produce an airway before administering CPR.



An example of the AED purchased by the PSC. The machine administers step-by-step instructions.

P.O. Drawer Closure

The Commission's P.O. Drawer was 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

Literacy Initiative

In recognition of Literacy Month in March, PSC Commissioners and Staff held a book drive to collect books to donate to the Lexington County Library's Bookmobile. The Library was especially interested in collecting picture and board books for their Bookmobile. In all, the Commission was able to donate 35 books to the cause.



Commission Staff members (L-R), Tom Ellison, Afton Ellison, Patty Shoutz, Judy Matthews, Calvin Woods, Tricia DeSanty, Jim Spearman, and David Butler display some of the books the PSC donated in front of the Lexington County Book Mobile.

Transportation Applications Updates

In March, the Commission's transportation applications were reviewed and updated. Updates included removing no longer relevant procedures and information, as well as a revised financial statement. The financial statement now includes fields that automatically sum the asset and liability values on the application. The updates were made in an effort to reduce application errors. The updated applications can be found on the PSC's website under "Forms".

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