



# PSC News

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Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
100 Years of Service

## Special points of interest:

- Website Update
- Wireless Availability
- NARUC Appointment
- Staff News
- Recent Hire—ARRA Attorney

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## New PSC Website Launched

On October 29, 2012, the Public Service Commission launched a new website. The new site features a redesigned layout that provides a more user friendly environment, and allows users to quickly access important links, including: DMS, Commission Agendas, the E-Tariff and E-filing systems, Laws and Guidelines, and the Commission calendar. These

“Quick Links” are located on the left hand side of the page.

The site will allow

matters and issues that may come before the Commission. There are also information boxes at



the bottom of the Home Page that will allow the Commission to communicate information on current issues or helpful tips for South Carolina’s utility consumers.

the Commission to provide helpful information to the public about upcoming hearings and meetings, as well as learning tools to better educate the public on

We hope you are enjoying the updated features on the new site!

## Connected! Hearing Room Wireless Availability



The PSC is pleased to announce an installed, upgraded wireless network for navigating the internet using your own personal devices. This wireless capability is available throughout the Commission’s offices,

including the PSC Hearing Room. If you have any questions regarding accessing the PSC public wireless network, please contact Randy Erskine at (803) 896-5104 or Jackie Thomas at (803) 896-5202.

## Reflections of Chairman David Wright



David Wright was elected Chairman of the PSC in July 2012

Christmas is just around the corner. Can you believe it? In fact, as I write this today, it dawns on me that this is the first time I have had a moment to relax and reflect since leaving the NARUC annual meeting in Baltimore last month, where I officially ended my year as national president. It has been a great year!

The support I received from my wife, Amy, and my family, my fellow commis-

sioners and PSC staff (especially my executive assistant, Melissa Purvis), the Public Utilities Review Committee, the NARUC staff and commissioners across the nation allowed me to dig in and do the best job I could as president.

In about a week we will celebrate Christmas, followed by the coming of a new year. I encourage each of you to reflect on your year, to give thanks for all

the things in your life, and then challenge yourself to make 2013 just a little better.

Don't sit on the sideline and watch life go by, because it will. Instead, involve yourself in life each day—actively. The difference it makes will be noticeable to everyone, but especially you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



Dr. Jim Spearman

## NARUC Appointment

On December 6, 2012, Dr. James E. Spearman, a member of the PSC's Senior Advisory Staff, was appointed to be Chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues -Waste Disposal. Dr. Spear-

man's appointment will take effect upon a vote of staff subcommittee members, expected to take place by December 21, 2012.

Dr. Spearman has said of his appointment, "The issues facing this subcommittee have been virtually the same for twenty years

with no resolution. Unfortunately the issues have been more political than technical. I will continue to advocate for the resolution of the nuclear issues as subcommittee chairman, just as I have as a member of the subcommittee for nearly twenty years."

## ORS Pipeline Safety Presentation

On September 12, 2012, the Office of Regulatory Staff presented an overview of their Pipeline Safety Program to the Commission. The program is comprised of four staff members who are responsible for pipeline safety oversight of natural gas distribution and transmission pipeline systems, liquefied natural gas facilities, certain liquefied pro-

pane systems, intrastate liquid pipelines, landfill gas systems, and lateral pipelines from interstate pipeline systems. Other areas of responsibility include field inspections of facilities, accident investigation, and various types of operator training. The program currently has 24 gas system operators, 6 master meter system operators, 23,874 total miles

of distribution pipelines, 876 total miles of transmission pipelines, and 747,176 total gas services under its jurisdiction.

The ORS Pipeline Safety program works hard to foster an environment of clear guidance and firm, but straightforward, expectations regarding compliance. They are responsive and cooperative regarding compliance.

### 2011 Pipeline Safety

#### Inspection Activity

Total Person Days Spent on Inspections	<b>291</b>
Total Inspections Performed	<b>240</b>
Total Number of Non-Compliance Issues Found	<b>32</b>
Total Number of Issues Resolved	<b>17</b>

## Late Nights

The Public Service Commission has overseen many rate cases in 2012. Several of these cases have called for public night hearings to be held at various locations around the state. A night hearing is typically held at the request of an Applicant or a third party. Featured here are some pictures from our most recent night hearings:



A public witness is sworn in during the SCE&G Night Hearing held in Columbia, SC in Docket No. 2012-203-E.



Vice Chairman Mitchell asks questions to a public witness during an SCE&G Night Hearing held in Aiken, SC in Docket No. 2012-218-E.



A public witness signs in before the Tega Cay Water Service, Inc. Night Hearing held in Tega Cay, SC in Docket No. 2012-177-WS.



A public witness presents a PowerPoint presentation during her testimony in Docket No. 2012-177-WS in Tega Cay, SC.

### 2012 Night Hearings

April 3, 2012	<b>2011-515-W: Application of Utilities Services of SC, Inc.</b>	Fort Mill, SC
April 30, 2012	<b>2011-229-WS: Application of Daufuskie Island Utility Company, Inc.</b>	Hilton Head, SC
October 2, 2012	<b>2012-203-E: Petition of SCE&amp;G</b>	Columbia, SC
October 24, 2012	<b>2012-218-E: Application of SCE&amp;G</b>	Aiken, SC
November 5, 2012	<b>2012-218-E: Application of SCE&amp;G</b>	Charleston, SC
November 27, 2012	<b>2012-218-E: Application of SCE&amp;G</b>	Columbia, SC
December 3, 2012	<b>2012-177-WS: Application of Tega Cay Water Service, Inc.</b>	Tega Cay, SC

## Commission Corner



Commissioner Whitfield visited the Amos Coal Power Plant in West Virginia. Commissioner Whitfield said, "My visit to the Amos Coal Power Plant was one of the most beneficial things I have done since becoming a Commissioner."



Commissioner Mitchell has been an avid member of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board and a member of the FCC Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. During his membership, the USAC board provided funding to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC for a telemedicine pilot program. The Joint Board works with Eligible Telecommunications Companies to provide funding for broadband expansion in rural communities. Commissioner Mitchell is a proud representative on the USAC and Joint Boards and has said, "Our work on these boards is positively affecting the health and welfare of the rural community. All of the work we do brings economic growth throughout the nation."



Congratulations are in order for Josh and Allison Minges on the birth of their son, Miles Atticus, September 12, 2012. Josh is a member of the PSC Legal Staff and Allison is part of the Executive Administration Staff.

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## Our Mission:

A Fair, Open, and Efficient  
Regulatory Process That  
Promotes Cost-Effective and  
Reliable Utility Services

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## David Stark, ARRA Electricity Attorney



David Stark

David Stark was recently hired by the Public Service Commission to the position of electricity attorney, joining the Commission's legal staff. In his assignment, Mr. Stark will be responsible for providing legal analysis and advice on electricity-related matters such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grid, demand-side management, climate change, and

transmission line siting. This position is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Prior to coming to the PSC, David worked for a discovery process contractor on large litigation projects. David grew up in Aiken, South Carolina, but came to Columbia to attend college at USC, majoring in Business Administration. David

notably holds degrees in several areas: BS in Business Administration, USC; Masters of Accountancy, USC; Juris Doctorate, USC; and Masters of Environmental Law and Policy, Vermont Law School. David is a member of the South Carolina Bar.

In his free time, David enjoys spending time with his parents in Aiken and golfing.

### PSC Service Project — "Christmas Stockings"



PSC IT Specialist, Jackie Thomas, orchestrated the Salvation Army Christmas Stockings project. Jackie said, "We may be a small agency, but with a little, a lot can be accomplished!" The PSC donated 33 stockings.