



# PSCnews

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100 Years of Service

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Patty Shultz, Editor

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## Commissioner David Wright Elected NARUC President

At the recent Annual Meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ([NARUC](http://www.naruc.org)) in St. Louis, Missouri, Commissioner David Wright was elected president of the organization. As president, Commissioner Wright will provide general oversight of the Association, which represents state public service commissions from across the nation, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. He will serve a one-year term.

In this role, President Wright will serve as the primary voice of the Association, leading NARUC before Congress, the courts, and administrative agencies. He will also be responsible for designating members to the NARUC Board of Directors, committee leadership positions, and other Association appointments.

Following the election, Commissioner Wright stated, "I am honored and humbled to be elected by my peers to lead this Association. There is no reason to sugarcoat it – we are in difficult financial times, and the utility industries and their consumers are facing unprecedented challenges. Effective regulation is key to maintaining reliable utility services at affordable, reasonable rates. Surpassing our

challenges will take an inclusive, team-based approach, and I look forward to working with my state regulatory colleagues in leading the charge."



Commissioner David Wright addresses fellow NARUC attendees as the newly elected NARUC President.

In addition to members of the Commission in attendance at the Annual Meeting, members from the Office of Regulatory Staff and the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) witnessed this historic event as well. PURC Vice Chairman Representative William Sandifer said, "All of the South Carolina contingency is very proud of Commissioner Wright and his accomplishments. His remarks highlighting South Carolina's regulatory process and the teamwork involved in making our process more transparent, accountable, and efficient should serve as an example of what we can do if we all work together for the good of our state." (Continued on Page 4)

## From the Chair...*Butch Howard*



With all that the Commission has been engaged in during the fall, I would like to extend my appreciation to my fellow commissioners and staff for their work in advancing the goals of the PSC.

We are extremely proud of Commissioner David Wright's election as President of NARUC. This not only reflects positively on Commissioner Wright, but also on the entire Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Again, we offer our sincere congratulations to David and our renewed pledge to assist him in any way we can.

Recently, our Commission has been the vanguard on pending EPA legislation. Our state filed a petition to form a joint state-federal board to evaluate select pending EPA legislation and the impact it will have on our state's electric ratepayers. Commissioner Wright has taken the lead in this endeavor and represented our Commission before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) extremely well. (Commissioner Wright's address to FERC can be viewed at [http://capitolconnection.net/capcon/ferc/113011/fercarchive\\_flv.htm](http://capitolconnection.net/capcon/ferc/113011/fercarchive_flv.htm). Forward to

minute 77 in the Panel III video.)

My fellow commissioners have been very active as well on national issues that will have a major impact for ratepayers. Commissioner Mitchell's membership on the Universal Service Administrative Company's Board of Directors will enable him to participate in discussions on the FCC's recent decision concerning the revision of the Universal Service Fund and interconnection compensation. Commissioner Fleming's involvement with the Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council will support South Carolina's position on future national transmission sitings. Commissioner Hamilton's input on the National Petroleum Council will help determine policy on national energy issues, and Commissioner Whitfield's participation on the NARUC Committee on Gas and Commissioner Hall's membership on the NARUC Energy Resources and the Environment Committee add to South Carolina's voice. And, as Chair of the NARUC Committee on Water, I am active in protecting and sustaining this most important resource.

As our nation continues recovering through these difficult economic times, our participation in national interests and involvement in current issues will be beneficial to the future of our state.

## PSC Holds Night Hearings Across State

This fall, the Public Service Commission traveled across the state to provide forums for the public to testify in two rate cases that are currently before the Commission.

During the months of October and November, four night hearings were held in different counties in the Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC service area. These counties included Anderson, Greenville, Lancaster, and Spartanburg, and were in response to the Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC application to adjust and increase its electric rates and charges (Docket 2011-271-E). The Commission also traveled to the Lowcountry in October to conduct a night hearing

in the rate case filed by Kiawah Island Utility, Inc. (Docket 2011-317-WS). All of the hearings were well

(Continued on next page)



Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Night Hearing at Spartanburg Community College

## Water & Wastewater Workshop

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC), the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) hosted a Water and Wastewater Workshop on December 6, 2011, in the Commission’s Hearing Room. The workshop was entitled “From Production to Disposal: Overview of Management Challenges and Opportunities” and featured speakers from the hosting agencies and SC811. Topics included reporting requirements, rate application requirements, customer relations, sanitary sewer overflows, and drinking water compliance testing.

Attendees included owners, managers, and operators of water and wastewater companies regulated by the Commission, accountants, contractors and consultants. Dawn Hipp, Director of the Telecommunications, Transportation, and Water/Wastewater Division at ORS opened the workshop. PSC Chairman Butch Howard engaged the audience



Dawn Hipp of ORS welcomes attendees to the workshop.

with his remarks urging them to become active in their communities in organizations such as homeowners associations, youth recreation programs, and town hall meetings, as well as joining together to collectively address issues that small water and wastewater companies face.

The day-long workshop focused on issues that are common among privately owned water and wastewater utilities in South Carolina. Attendees were informed of new laws and regulations that will impact their operations in the coming year. In addition, DHEC and ORS explained the objectives of site visits and audits. Jeff Nelson, an attorney with ORS, also explained the role of ORS and the PSC in legal proceedings and the types of proceedings that water and wastewater companies may experience.



PSC Chairman Butch Howard shares his remarks with the audience.

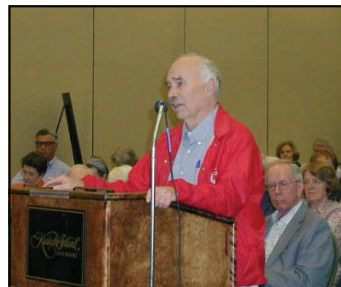
Attendees were urged to ask questions during the presentations and helpful dialogue ensued. The workshop was very beneficial to those in attendance.

## Night Hearings *continued*

attended by the public and the media. Testimony from the public witnesses became part of the official record for each case.

Location	Date	Signed-in Attendees	Public Witnesses
Spartanburg	October 19	140	42
Lancaster	November 8	100	16
Greenville	November 9	194	47
Anderson	November 10	180	44
Kiawah Island	October 20	76	16

Public night hearings provide the opportunity for customers and stakeholders to be involved in the rate case process without having to travel to Columbia to attend a hearing during normal business hours. More importantly, they provide a



forum for members of the general public to voice their concerns and learn more about the Commission’s operations and procedures.

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**INSIDE: NEW NARUC PRESIDENT — WATER/WASTEWATER WORKSHOP — NIGHT HEARINGS**

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Commissioner Lib Fleming said, "It was a proud day for South Carolina when David was installed as President of NARUC. He recognized the commissioners and staff at the PSC and members of PURC and ORS, and the value of working together to problem solve. I look forward to his leadership at NARUC."

And fellow commissioner Swain Whitfield added, "During my time at the Commission, I have watched David overcome adversity in his own calm, steady demeanor and be ready to meet the challenges and opportunities before him. I look forward to David's leadership on a national level as NARUC deals with the many difficult issues facing utilities across the nation."

The last time a NARUC President was elected from South Carolina was in 1988 when Commissioner Henry G. Yonce was elected president of the organization.

## Reference Information

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