

PSC News

December 2016

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Over 100 Years of Service

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PSC Elects New Officers

The Public Service Commission has elected new officers. Swain E. Whitfield (5th District) was named Chairman and Comer H. “Randy” Randall (3rd District) was named Vice Chairman.

Chairman Whitfield has served on the Public Service Commission since 2008. 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, Gas Infrastructure Modernization Partnership, and Committee on Gas. He is also the 1st Vice President of the Southeastern

Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), and Vice Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute’s Advisory Board.

As Vice Chairman, Commissioner Randall will assist the Chairman with the continued advancement of Commission procedures, regulations, and rulings. Commissioner Randall is a member of NARUC, serving as a member of the Committee on Water, Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal, and Transportation Task Force.

The newly elected officers will serve two years as Chairman and Vice Chairman.



The Honorable Mark N. Willis administers the Oath to Vice Chairman Randall.



The Honorable John Cannon Few, Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court administers the Oath to Chairman Whitfield. Remarks were also made by The Honorable Creighton B. Coleman and The Honorable F. Gregory Delleney, Jr.

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.

Public Night Hearings



A public witness is sworn in before delivering his testimony during the Duke Energy Progress, LLC public night hearing in Florence, SC.



Office of Regulatory Staff Attorney, Andrew Bateman, gives an opening statement to the public night hearing attendees during the Harbor Island Utilities, Inc. hearing in Harbor Island, SC.

Reflections of Chairman Swain E. Whitfield



As we approach the end of 2016, I would like to share some of my reflections and some of the accomplishments of the Commission. Commissioner Randy Randall and I were sworn in as Vice Chairman and Chairman, respectively, effective July 1 of this year. I would like to thank my colleagues for this honorable and yet awesome responsibility. It has been a very busy time these past six months as we have held numerous hearings, including a major Base Load Review Act case. These cases continue to be critical to all South Carolinians. Our Commissioners continue to hold Committee Chairmanships and other important roles at NARUC and NARUC affiliates. Through the dedication and hard work of our Commissioners and Staff, the Commission has continued our core mission and continues to be a National model of restructuring through South Carolina Act 175, as the Legislature intended.

South Carolina has again endured another tough year with the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. However, with the proactive measures taken by our State Leaders and many others, damages and loss of life in South Carolina were not as bad as was predicted. We suspended a major hearing so that utilities and others could go into hurricane readiness mode. The state's utilities, the Coops, the Office of Regulatory Staff, the Emergency Operations Center, and many others are to be commended on how quickly they restored power to most areas of our State, and for the tireless efforts to continue to work until everyone's power was restored. Once again, South Carolina survived a major event and showed resiliency. As we don't know what the future holds, continue to pray for our great State as we head into this holiday season. I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2017.

PSC Participates in Annual Ethics Training

As mandated by Act 175 of 2004, members of the Public Service Commission must attend a workshop of at least six contact hours concerning ethics and the Administrative Procedures Act. This year, the PSC hosted a joint ethics training with the Office of Regulatory Staff. The diverse panel featured six speakers from many different backgrounds.



Michael Burchstead, General Counsel of the SC State Ethics Commission, discussed the Rules of Conduct and other State Ethics Act issues for public employees.



Judge Thomas W. Cooper, Jr. covered the Code of Judicial Conduct, including a history of the Code, and the five Judicial Canons.



Colin Miller, Associate Dean of Faculty Development at the University of South Carolina School of Law, presented on the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act and Rules on Evidence.



Desa Ballard, Esquire, presented examples of judicial misconduct, including cases of impartiality and social media blunders.



Dr. R. Gregg Dwyer, MD, EdD, DFAPA, FASAP, discussed healthy ethical stress coping mechanisms, substance abuse, and mental health.



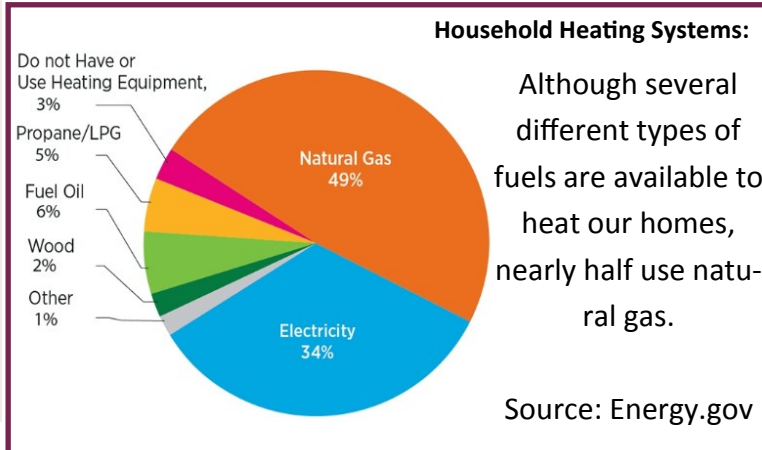
Chris Johnson, Esquire, presented on ethical issues in the workplace. Examples included office gossip and social media.

Allowable Ex Parte Briefings & Special Presentation

Since July, the Commission has held several Allowable Ex Parte Briefings and a Special Presentation at the request of parties. These briefings and presentation covered topics and issues pertinent to current matters being placed before the PSC.

Presenter/Requestor	Topic	Date
Duke Energy Corporation	ND 2015-32-G: Acquisition of Piedmont Natural Gas	August 18, 2016
FCC Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn	Current and Emerging Issues before the FCC	August 23, 2016
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)	ND 2016-36-WS: Drinking Water and Wastewater Public Health Challenges	September 15, 2016
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Incorporated	ND 2016-64-E: Storm Damage and Restoration	December 13, 2016
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company	ND 2016-65-E: Hurricane Matthew Impact & Response	December 13, 2016
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC & Duke Energy Progress, LLC	ND 2016-66-E: Hurricane Matthew Impact, Response, & Restoration	December 13, 2016

In August, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn returned to the Public Service Commission to discuss current and emerging issues before the FCC. She discussed Lifeline, Broadband, and Inmate calling issues, among others.



Commissioner Swain E. Whitfield Elected as Chairman of GTI PIAC

In October, Commissioner Swain E. Whitfield was elected Chairman of the Gas Technology Institute's (GTI) Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC). Julie Brown, Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission, was elected as Vice Chairman of the PIAC.

GTI is the research and development arm of US natural gas consumers and gas distribution companies. Its research has produced over 700 products, processes, and tech-

niques that have lowered the cost of natural gas supply, increased the safety of gas pipeline and distribution systems, and increased the efficiency of consumer and industry end-use appliances.

The PIAC provides GTI with strategic advice on which research and development is in the public interest. As Chairman of the Committee, Commissioner Whitfield will lead the PIAC in its duties. "I am honored to be elected Chairman of the PIAC. It is

a representative committee that includes many of my fellow Commissioners from NARUC, and I am so glad Commissioner Julie Brown of Florida was elected Vice Chairman. GTI is a cutting edge research and development organization and operates an R&D lab like no other in the world. GTI continues to provide benefits and cost savings to Americans through new technologies," Commissioner Whitfield said of his election. "I am thrilled to have been elected Vice

Chair of the PIAC, and am especially looking forward to working with Chairman Whitfield, whom I have known and worked with for more than 6 years. Chairman Whitfield has been a national leader on important gas and critical infrastructure issues, and the work GTI does is integral to the industry," Julie Brown said.

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

PSC Releases DMS Training Modules

In June, the Commission released Training Modules for its Docket Management System (DMS). The training videos teach users how to effectively use the system through narration and simulations that illustrate how to execute certain functions on the DMS. The videos are an important and useful resource for new and current users of the system. The modules were made in partnership with SCETV, and are available on the Commission's homepage and DMS homepage.



PSC In the Community

In September, the PSC held a food drive to collect canned goods and non-perishable food items for Harvest Hope Food Bank. In all, Commissioners and Staff were able to donate 146 pounds of food to Harvest Hope.

In December, the Commission came together for its annual Christmas Project. This year, staff and commissioners donated items to children in need from Chapin Elementary School. In all, the Commission was able to donate 4 pairs of shoes, 3 remote controlled cars, clothes, and sports gear to the children.



The Teachers and Administrators of Chapin Elementary School accepted the gifts from the Public Service Commission.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina



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