

PSC News

November 2013

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
100 Years of Service

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PSC Elects New Officers *Inducts New Commissioner.*

In July, the Public Service Commission elected a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Commission also welcomed a new Commissioner, Comer H. "Randy" Randall.

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina has elected new officers. G. O'Neal Hamilton of Bennettsville (7th District) was named Chairman and Nikiya "Nikki" Hall (6th District) Vice Chairman. At the swearing-in ceremony, Chairman Hamilton stated, "This is a special day for us all, and I'm overwhelmed by all the support here today. Our mission as Commissioners is to have well maintained companies that can provide reliable service at an affordable cost. We have many opportunities and challenges ahead of us, and we view our challenges as opportunities to change and do better for the people of South Carolina. It is our responsibility to do right for the citizens of South Carolina, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of this Commission." In addition to his South Carolina Commission duties, Chairman Hamilton is a member of the National Associa-

tion of Regulated Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he serves on the Board of Directors.

As Vice Chair, Commissioner Hall will assist the Chairman with the continued advancement of its procedures, regulations, and rulings. As an active member of NARUC, Commissioner Hall is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Washington Action Program and Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access.

In addition to the induction of new officers, the Commission swore-in newly elected Commissioner Comer H. "Randy" Randall. Commissioner Randall is from Clinton, South Carolina and represents the Third Congressional District. Prior to his Commissionership, Commissioner Randall served as the Mayor of the City of Clinton and was employed by Presbyterian College. He assumed his Commissionership on July 1, 2013.



Reflections of Chairman O'Neal Hamilton

As we near the end of another year, I reflect on the past year, and the many changes that have taken place here at the PSC. We have lost two Commissioners this year, both who served this Commission and the State of South Carolina admirably. They are certainly missed by all; however, we are pleased to welcome Commissioner Randy Randall, and we are excited about his background in local government, and the experience he brings to this Commission.

I am honored to have been elect-

ed to serve as Chairman, and I appreciate the opportunity. The first quarter as Chairman has been extremely busy with some very important rate cases being heard before this body. These cases have required a lot of effort and energy from our Commissioners and Staff, and I commend the hard work and long hours endured by all. In addition to the busy hearing schedule, the Commission has been working diligently to better our internal practices and procedures. Specifically, we

have initiated procedural changes that allow us to conduct night hearings in a better structure, which has been of great benefit to the public and the Commission.

I am excited about the future of this Commission, and I look forward to my time as Chairman. I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving!



Training >>>

Continuing Education

During the second half of 2013, the PSC continued its efforts to provide training and educational sessions for its Staff members and Commissioners.

In July, the Commission hosted another expert from the SNL Knowledge Center, John Bowen. Mr. Bowen presented “Principles of Valuation in the Power Sector” to the training attendees. This two-day session covered valuation methodologies and techniques, and detailed the circumstances in which to apply these techniques. The presentation included case studies that illustrated the difference between valuing a single plant and valuing a regulated utility.

In August, the PSC hosted five experts on energy and environment from the National Regulatory Research Institute

(NRRI). The three-day session covered all of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) topics, including: transmission, energy efficiency, electricity-based renewable energy, energy storage, smart or smarter grid, electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, demand response/equipment, and coal with carbon capture and storage. The session provided an open discussion between the attendees and the NRRI team. In addition to the PSC, the Office of Regulatory Staff and Public Utilities Review Committee staff also attended the SNL and NRRI training sessions.



John Bowen, SNL Knowledge Center, discusses the Principles of Power Valuation.



Dr. Rajnish Barua leads a discussion during the NRRI Training held at the PSC.

ORS Briefings

Since July, The Office of Regulatory Staff has conducted three briefings before the Commission on various issues pertinent to current matters being placed before the Commission.



The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) has presented three briefings before the Commission since July. The presentations were held to update the Commission on current events and issues which may need PSC action in the near future.

In response to an ex parte briefing held by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) to discuss the construction progress of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Units 2 and 3, ORS presented the Commission a review of SCE&G's construction status. The review provided an overview of the construction challenges and emerging issues facing SCE&G, but showed SCE&G has remained vigilant in its efforts to respond to

these challenges and issues.

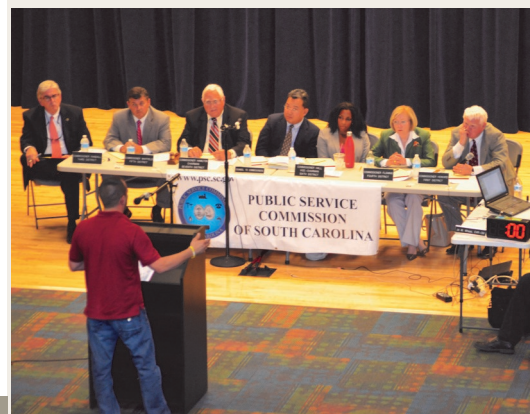
In September, ORS presented a "Prevention of Waste, Fraud & Abuse" briefing in regards to the Lifeline program. The presentation detailed the Lifeline responsibilities of ORS and their implemented phased approach to minimize Lifeline waste, fraud and abuse in South Carolina. One approach ORS uses to monitor the abuse of Lifeline benefits is to audit Lifeline information sessions held by companies. ORS also discussed the introduction of the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD). This federal database will allow ORS to see whether the Lifeline program is being abused by individuals participating in the program.

In October, ORS presented a briefing on the South Carolina Dual Party Relay (DPR) Fund. The DPR funds programs for the hearing impaired, including: relay service, equipment distribution, and closed captioning. Currently, the DPR is funded by wireline telephone carri-

ers. Due to the reduction in access lines over the past few years, the fund has become unsustainable. Based on this realization, ORS proposed wireless providers should also be contributing to the DPR fund. Legislative changes will need to be made to the governing statutes before this proposal can be implemented.

On Location!

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.



A public witness testifies during the Anderson night hearing in Docket No. 2013-201-WS.

Commission Corner >>>



Congratulations to **Commissioner Swain E. Whitfield** on his appointment as a Co-Chairman of NARUC's Committee on Critical Infrastructure. Commissioner Whitfield was appointed to the position by NARUC President Philip Jones, who also appointed Jeanne M. Fox of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities as his Co-Chair. The Committee provides State regulators a

forum to analyze solutions to utility infrastructure security and delivery concerns.



In honor of breast cancer awareness month, the commission staff wore pink and attended an informational session about the disease.



Commissioner Fleming questions a public witness during the Union night hearing in Docket No. 2013-199-WS.

eService System Update

In response to a PSC survey of the Commission's Advisory Committee, where some concerns regarding the recently launched eService System were indicated, the Commission held an Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the issues and propose an action plan for updates to the system.

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Ten Year Observance of Act 175

PSC 2013-2014 Ethics Training

In April, the PSC surveyed its stakeholders on its online systems, including the DMS, E-Tariff System, E-Filing System, and eService System. Based on responses to the survey, the Commission decided to schedule a meeting to discuss users' suggestions on ways to improve the recently launched eService System.

At the Advisory Committee meeting, members suggested that attorney assistants should be copied on all Orders being

serviced on the system. This suggestion will improve the rate of receipt confirmations on the system. Committee members also suggested that it would be helpful for them to be able to see the Service history of each matter and whether a party has confirmed receipt of an Order.

In response to the meeting, the Commission has scheduled a timeline of updates to be made to the system with its IT group.



Charlie Terreni poses a suggestion for the eService System at the August Advisory Committee Meeting held at the PSC.

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