



PSCnews

1910

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
100 Years of Service

2010

Volume 6, Issue 1

December 2010

Public Service Commission
of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Dr.
Synergy Business Park
Columbia, SC 29210
803-896-5100
fax 803-896-5199
contact@psc.sc.gov



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Chair</i> Butch Howard	2
<i>Commissioner Updates</i>	2
<i>Allowable Ex Parte</i> <i>Workshops & Briefings</i>	3
<i>Staff News</i>	3
<i>ARRA Attorney</i>	4
<i>Contact Information</i>	4

Patty Sands, Editor

We're on the Web
www.psc.sc.gov

PSC Elects New Officers

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina has elected new officers. John E. "Butch" Howard of Charleston (1st District) was named Chairman and David A. Wright (2nd District) Vice Chairman. Upon his appointment as Chairman, Commissioner Howard stated, "I am looking forward to working with this group of commissioners and drawing on the experience of the three past chairmen who continue to serve on the Commission." In addition to his South Carolina Commission duties, Commissioner Howard is a member of the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he serves as Chair of the Committee on Water.

As Vice Chair, Commissioner Wright will assist the chairman with the Commission's operations and the



David Wright (l) and John E. "Butch" Howard (r) will serve as the new officers for the PSC.

continued advancement of its procedures, regulations, and rulings. As an active NARUC member, Commissioner Wright is presently serving as the First Vice President of NARUC and as a member of the Committee on Electricity and the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal. The newly elected officers will serve a two-year term.

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Public Service Commission. To commemorate the event, a celebration took place on December 8, 2010. The program included presentations by past commissioners and executive directors and was very entertaining. Many past commissioners and staff members were on hand to reunite and recollect.



Current and past commissioners and executive directors enjoyed the 100th anniversary celebration of the PSC.

From the Chair...*Butch Howard*



As this year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on its highlights and accomplishments. It has been a challenging one for our Commission.

The depressed economy has presented many issues to the regulatory world. These issues were never more evident than in the public hearings that were held throughout our state this year. Listening to the plight of the citizens in these difficult times and the need to keep our utilities viable made all of us very aware of how critical our decisions are.

The Commission continued to meet the challenge of our nation's energy crisis and the reduction of carbon emissions by approving energy efficiency programs for three of our electric utilities (SCE&G, Progress Energy & Duke Energy) and one of our gas utilities (Piedmont Natural Gas). We are recognized as a leader in the resurgence of nuclear generation made possible by the Base Load Review Act of 2005.

In June, we welcomed Nikki Hall as our newest commissioner, representing the 6th District, and in July, Jocelyn Boyd was named Chief Clerk. In her role as Chief Clerk, Jocelyn brings to the Commission fresh, new ideas and her dedication and enthusiasm.

In November, Commissioner David Wright was named First Vice President of NARUC. The recognition and exposure this office brings to our Commission is tremendous. Congratulations, David!

And to close out the year, we had a celebration recognizing our 100th anniversary. Many former commissioners and staff were on hand to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. It was truly a special day.

I am thankful and appreciative of the continuing support of my fellow commissioners, our staff, the Public Utilities Review Committee and the Office of Regulatory Staff in carrying out our mission: To regulate the state's investor owned utilities through a fair, open, and effective process.

In closing I would like to wish you, on behalf of the PSC, a happy and safe holiday.

Announcements & Appointments

Commissioner **David A. Wright** was elected by his peers as First Vice President of NARUC. At the conclusion of the NARUC Annual Meeting on November 17, 2010, in Atlanta, Commissioner Wright was installed into office. He will serve in this capacity until next November. As first vice president, Commissioner Wright will serve on the NARUC Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and assist the president in providing general oversight of the Association.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to become First Vice President of this prestigious organization,"



Commissioner Wright said. "I value deeply the confidence my fellow regulators have placed in me, and I will do all I can to represent them going forward. As regulators of essential utility services, our jobs touch the pocketbooks of most Americans. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we maintain and improve upon the regulatory compact."



Congratulations to Commissioner **Elizabeth "Lib" Fleming** on her appointment to the Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC). Commissioner Fleming will serve as the Council's secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee, representing the interests of the southeastern states. As a member, Commissioner Fleming will participate in meetings and strategic planning activities to discuss electricity transmission for the Eastern Interconnection, which includes thirty-nine states, Washington, DC, New Orleans, LA, and a number of Canadian provinces. According to Commissioner Fleming, "The data and information collected during this process will be used to make good policy decisions for years to come." She is also a member of the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative's (EIPC) Stakeholder Steering Committee which provides strategic guidance on the transmission planning studies being performed by the EIPC Analysis Team.

Ex Parte Workshops and Briefings Enhance Education

The Commission's calendar has been busy this last half of the year with several requests for allowable ex parte briefings. These briefings provide a forum to present information to the Commission on pending cases or emerging issues while following legal procedures for communications among parties.

Topics ranged from emerging and foundational issues within the electric and gas industries to the US Nuclear Infrastructure Council's update



Hazardous waste being safely disposed of at the Chem-Nuclear Systems, LLC facility in Barnwell, SC.

on hazardous waste transportation in the United States. Parties in attendance at the workshops and briefings included members from the Commission, the SC Public Utilities Review Committee,

and the SC Office of Regulatory Staff, as well as members from the regulated community and their representatives.

These workshops and briefings allowed for dialogue between the parties through informational presentations, followed by discussions, and question and answer sessions. All parties benefited from the exchange of information.

A complete list of the topics is shown in the

table below. Copies of the reference materials can be obtained from the [Commission's website](#).

Date	Topic
7/16/10	Fundamentals of Electricity Regulation in SC
8/18/10	Emerging and Foundational Issues in the Electric Utility Sector
8/25/10	Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. - Financial Conditions and Future Generation and Infrastructure Projects
9/8/10	U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council - Update on Hazardous Waste Transportation in the U.S.
9/29/10	Settlement Policy and Procedure
10/8/10	Educational, Foundational, and Emerging Issues in the Gas Utility Sector
10/21/10	South Carolina Electric & Gas Company - Update on Construction Progress of New Nuclear Units at V.C. Summer Nuclear Station
10/25/10	The Rate Case from the Financial Officer's Perspective
11/8/10	Tour of Chem-Nuclear Systems, LLC
11/9/10	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC - 2010 Integrated Resource Plan
11/9/10	Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. - 2010 Integrated Resource Plan
12/2/10	The Telecommunications Network
12/15/10	Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. - Issues Related to Renewable Energy Sources
12/15/10	Gas Technology Institute - SC Natural Gas Research and Development Essentials

Kudos to Our Staff...

Much has been said, and justifiably so, of the leadership positions that our commissioners hold on the national level. However, the involvement of our staff on the national level is just as impressive and important. Jim Spearman, Phil Riley, Tom Ellison and Lynn Ballentine, all members of the Commission's Advisory Staff, are active in several NARUC Staff Subcommittees, including the Electricity, Critical Infrastructure, Nuclear Issues & Waste Disposal, and Accounting and Finance Subcommittees.

Randy Erskine, PSC IT Manager, is the chair of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Information

Services, and Bill Richardson is co-chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Water. The educational benefits of these positions are a tremendous aid in preparing the Commission for its duties and responsibilities.



Congratulations to Josh and Allison Minges on the birth of their daughter, Marie Azalee "Mazzy" Minges, November 3, 2010. Josh is a member of the PSC Legal Department and Allison is part of the Executive Administration staff at the PSC.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Dr., Saluda Bldg., Columbia, SC 29210
P.O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, SC 29211

Contact Information:

John E. "Butch" Howard, Chairman
 1st District
 (803) 896-5220
 Chairman.Howard@psc.sc.gov

David A. Wright, Vice-Chairman
 2nd District
 (803) 896-5250
 ViceChairman.Wright@psc.sc.gov

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk
 (803) 896-5133
 jocelyn.boyd@psc.sc.gov

INSIDE: **New Officers Elected — Ex Parte Workshops & Briefings — 100th Anniversary Celebration — & More**

Rebecca Dulin, ARRA Electricity Attorney

Rebecca J. Dulin was recently hired by the Public Service Commission to the position of electricity attorney, joining the Commission's legal staff. In her assignment, Ms. Dulin 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.



While attending USC School of Law, Rebecca worked with a law

firm providing assistance to the firm's energy practice that represented energy companies to the federal regulatory agencies. She is excited to be a part of the electric power sector as it experiences enormous change.

Rebecca grew up in Easley, South Carolina, but came to Columbia to attend college at USC, majoring in Public Relations. She has made Columbia her home for the last ten years, and loves football Saturdays at Williams Brice Stadium and the city's proximity to the coast and the mountains.

When she has free time, Rebecca likes to play the piano and is also a singer and former board member of the Columbia Choral Society, Columbia's oldest volunteer professional chorus. Music

has always been an integral part of her life, and she has played the piano professionally. In addition, Rebecca has recently started running and has run several half marathons and hopes to run a full marathon soon.



Employees of the PSC recently donated over forty stuffed stockings to the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy in hopes of making the holidays brighter for those less fortunate.