



# PSCnews

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
100 Years of Service

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Public Service Commission  
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Patty Shultz, Editor

We're on the Web  
[www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov)

## Ethics Update 2012

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) completed its required annual ethics training this spring. In order to provide a variety of insights into the application of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Ethics Reform Act of 1991, and Act 175 of 2004, the Commission invited several attorneys to conduct the training. Each presenter covered the ethics topic from their professional perspective, providing real-life anecdotes.

Desa Ballard, a former South Carolina Supreme Court law clerk and presently a private practice attorney, gave the advice that, while it is not against any judicial code of conduct to have a social media account such as Facebook, good judgment in its use and content is a must.

As Chairman of the South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Conduct, Judge Thomas Cooper, Jr. is familiar with improprieties that are committed by the judiciary.

He stated, "It is not enough to do right - it has to look right also. Perception is in the eye of the beholder."

Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Director and General Counsel of the State Ethics Commission is a regular presenter to the Commission on ethics training. She discussed the need to file Statement of Economic Interests Forms in a timely manner. She also outlined the changes that went into effect this past year to the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.

As a member of the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC), Senator Brad Hutto serves as the chairman of the oversight committee responsible for the PSC. Senator Hutto, along with commissioners and members of staff, engaged in an informative discussion centered around S. C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-260(H), which governs the attendance of commissioners and employees at educational seminars



Desa Ballard



Judge Thomas  
Cooper, Jr.



Cathy  
Hazelwood



Senator  
Brad Hutto



Jane Shuler

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



This will be my last column as chair of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow commissioners and excellent staff for all the help and support I have received during my term. Being chairman provides a unique perspective into the inner workings of the Commission. I appreciate the high level of coordination that takes place day in and day out to make sure this commission carries out its mission of giving the ratepayers of South Carolina the affordable and reliable service they deserve.

During my watch, we had several momentous events to celebrate. Two that come to mind are the Commission's 100th birthday celebration and the election of Vice Chairman Wright as the President of the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

The 100 year celebration was a great and exciting day for the PSC. Former Commissioner Moseley did a great job contacting many former

commissioners and staff members so that they could join us for this commemoration. I will never forget the stories and anecdotes that former Commissioners Mitchell and Yonce shared with the audience. We truly have a wonderful heritage that has laid the foundation that guides us today.

Vice Chairman Wright's election as the President of NARUC was another exciting time. The recognition that this brought to the PSC and South Carolina was and is still overwhelming. The continued achievements of my fellow commissioners and staff members is a source of great pride.

Of all the things I have to be grateful for during my chairmanship, the most important is the support I have received from my colleagues and staff here at the PSC. They have always been there to give me advice or answer any concerns that I might have. The former PSC chairs (Commissioners Mitchell, Hamilton, and Fleming) formed a safety net that kept me on target. And of course, thanks to Jocelyn and the entire staff for all their help and encouragement. Each one of you has been invaluable.

I am looking forward to working with Vice Chairman Wright as he takes over the helm here at the PSC as chairman.

## Hearing Room Upgrade

The Commission's Hearing Room is used for a variety of activities, including hearings in docketed cases, allowable ex parte briefings, and training assemblies. To enhance the audio-visual experience in the hearing room, the Commission upgraded its visual display system by installing an 80" Sharp LED Interactive Display System and four 32" NEC LCD displays mounted in the audience seating area. The touch screen display gives users the ability to annotate exhibits and save and print the additions. These displays replaced the projector and screen previously used in the hearing room.



## Announcements & Appointments

Commissioner Randy Mitchell was recently appointed to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Federal – State Joint Board on Universal Service. The Federal – State Joint Board on Universal Service was established in March 1996 to make recommendations to implement the universal service provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The Board is comprised of FCC Commissioners, state utility commissioners, and a consumer advocate representative, and is currently co-chaired by FCC Commissioner and former South Carolina Public Service Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Commissioner James Cawley of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Mitchell was elected to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina in 1998 and will continue to represent the 3rd Congressional District while serving on the Joint Board.



Also, congratulations to Commissioner Lib Fleming on her appointment to the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). Commissioner Fleming said of her

appointment, “What an honor and pleasure it is to be asked to serve on the NRRI Board. The work of this institute is so important in providing effective public service research information for public service commissioners and their staffs. I look forward to my work with this group.”



Founded in 1976 by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), NRRI serves state utility regulators through its efforts in identifying regulatory challenges, both current and future, and creating and disseminating cutting-edge research to assist regulators with their public interest decision-making. State commissioners constitute the majority of the nine-member board. Commissioner Fleming's appointment begins July 1, 2012, and runs through December 31, 2014. While serving on the Board of Directors, she will continue to represent the 4th Congressional District on the Commission.

Both appointments were announced by NARUC President and fellow South Carolina Commissioner, David Wright.

## Upcoming Rate Cases

The Commission is gearing up for a busy second half of the year. Five utilities have notified the Commission through letters of intent that they will be requesting approval of revised rate structures. Two additional investor-owned electric utilities regulated by the PSC have also announced to the media that they intend to file with the Commission applications seeking rate increases. For more information concerning these cases, visit the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

<u>Water/Sewer Utilities</u>	<u>Docket Number</u>
Condor Environmental, LLC	<a href="#">2012-101-WS</a>
JACABB Utilities, LLC	<a href="#">2012-199-S</a>
Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC d/b/a Alpine Utilities	<a href="#">2012-94-S</a>
Tega Cay Water Service, Inc.	<a href="#">2012-177-WS</a>
<u>Electric Utilities</u>	
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	N/A
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.	N/A
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company	<a href="#">2012-218-E</a>

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**INSIDE: ETHICS TRAINING — HEARING ROOM UPGRADE — UPCOMING CASES!**

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sponsored by state, regional, or national organizations and seminars not affiliated with any utility regulated by the PSC.

One of the new faces to the ethics training panel was Jane Shuler. Ms. Shuler is an attorney with the Senate Judiciary Committee and is also Chief Counsel on the Judicial Merits Selection Commission, which screens candidates for the judiciary and reports the findings to the General Assembly. Ms. Shuler's presentation focused on the Code of Judicial Conduct. The application of the Code of Judicial Conduct around extracurricular activities raises a lot of questions. Topics such as fundraising, political gatherings, social media accounts, and speaking engagements are just a few of the areas that tend to get judges in trouble.

Thanks to all our speakers, and we look forward to next year.

### New Phone System

The PSC installed a new phone system recently. The Commission's phone system now runs on the NPLS network, a private, state owned network. Avaya 9600 Series IP desk phones that run as VoIP devices replaced the old digital phones. Some of the features of the new



phones include:

- 250 Contacts List
- 24 Programmable Speed Dial Numbers
- Unified Messaging (voice messages sent to email)
- Call History
- Conference Calls (6 parties)
- EC500 Capability
- Fast Ethernet Network Connectivity (100Mbps)

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