

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kickoff Forum

# DEMAND GROWTH & RISK MANAGEMENT

## *Investing in Energy Infrastructure to Meet Customer Needs*

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 am PST; Program: 9:30-11:45am PST  
Anaheim Marriott ♦ Marquis Ballroom (Lobby Level)

### Agenda

Registration desk opens by 8:00 am. Hot breakfast available at 8:30 am. Program begins promptly at 9:30 am.

9:30 – 9:35 **Welcome, Introductions & Recognitions**

**Ms. Katrina McMurrian**, CCIF Executive Director

9:35 – 10:30 **Exploring Risk Mitigation Strategies & Tools for Infrastructure Investment**

**Presenter (15 mins):**

- **Mr. Matthew DeCoursey**, Vice President, Charles River Associates

**Respondents (40 mins):**

- Commissioner: **The Honorable Leo R. Asuncion, Jr.**, Chairman, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
- Consumer Advocate: **Mr. Christopher J. Ayers**, NASUCA President Emeritus and North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff Executive Director
- Electric Company Rep: **Mrs. Brooke Trammell**, Regional Vice President of Regulatory and Pricing, Xcel Energy/ Southwestern Public Service Company

10:30 – 10:45 **Break**

10:45 – 11:40 **Meeting Rapid Demand Growth with Investments that Balance Reliability & Affordability**

**Presenter (15 mins):**

- **Mr. T. Bruce Tsuchida**, Principal, The Brattle Group

**Respondents (40 mins):**

- Commissioner: **The Honorable Jehmal Hudson**, Chairman, Virginia State Corporation Commission
- Consumer Advocate: **The Honorable Michael Moody**, NASUCA President and Michigan Attorney General Special Litigation Division Chief
- Electric Company Rep: **Mr. Jose Esparza**, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Arizona Public Service

11:40 – 11:45 **Closing Remarks by NARUC President**

**The Honorable Julie Fedorchak**, NARUC President & North Dakota Public Service Commissioner

11:45 **Adjourn** (Please adjourn to NARUC & NASUCA Sunday Schedules.)



CCIF thanks NARUC & NASUCA for promotional support; 6 NARUC Staff Subcommittees for their collaboration; and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) for funding the event.

## **PART 1: Exploring Risk Mitigation Strategies & Tools for Infrastructure Investment**

### **Presenter**



**Matthew DeCoursey**  
*Vice President*  
**Charles River Associates (CRA)**

Matthew DeCoursey is a vice president in CRA's Energy Practice with two decades of experience in the regulated energy space.

Mr. DeCoursey focuses on services to utilities, investors, and institutional stakeholders on a wide range of matters related to regulated strategy and finance. He has held senior roles in-house and with leading consultancies, during which time he has represented utilities before their regulators, supported large and complex transactions, and helped drive innovation that has created value for both shareholders and

customers.

He has extensive experience leading docketed proceedings and has made numerous personal appearances before state, provincial, and federal regulators in the US and abroad on issues that include ratemaking and rate design, alternative regulation, policy, and the recovery of costs from investments made on behalf of utility customers.

Before joining CRA, Mr. DeCoursey led the regulatory department for a utility holding company where he was responsible for all elements of regulation and ratemaking for each of the firm's gas, water, and electric utilities. Prior to that, he held senior roles with leading consultancies specializing in regulated energy.

Mr. DeCoursey holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Massachusetts and a BA in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

### **Respondents**



**The Honorable Leodoloff ("Leo") R. Asuncion, Jr.**  
*Chair*  
**Hawaii Public Utilities Commission**

Leodoloff ("Leo") R. Asuncion, Jr. was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Governor David Y. Ige for a term to expire June 30, 2026. He has served as a Commissioner since April 2019 and as the Chair since July 1, 2022.

Prior to his appointment to the PUC, Commissioner Asuncion was a Planning Program Administrator II at the Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and from 2013 to 2018 served as Director of the Office. As Director, he was responsible for the overall management, development, and implementation of state policy, and coordination and planning support to state and county agencies. He also served as Planning Program Manager of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program from 2011 to 2013.

Commissioner Asuncion has over 30 years of extensive experience in planning, policy analysis, and management throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Region, in both the public and private sectors, through previous positions with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., SSFM International, Inc. the Hawaii State Judiciary, and the State Land Use Commission. He has also chaired or been a member of several governmental boards, commissions, task forces and councils during his professional career, currently serving on the NARUC Board of Directors, and the American Flood Coalition's Executive Advisory Board, and recently serving as President of the American Planning Association, and Chair of the Coastal States Organization.

Commissioner Asuncion holds a Master in Business Administration from Hawaii Pacific University, and a Master in Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



**Christopher J. Ayers**  
*Executive Director*  
**North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff**

Christopher J. Ayers serves as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff, a position he has held since July 1, 2013. The Public Staff represents the using and consuming public and investigates electric, gas, water, wastewater, and transportation matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Prior to joining the Public Staff, he practiced law in Raleigh, North Carolina with the law firms of Poyner Spruill LLP and Hunton & Williams LLP.

Mr. Ayers serves on the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) Executive Committee, Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council, University of Missouri Financial Research Institute Advisory Board, Keystone Energy Board, and New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council. He also currently serves as Chair of the SECU Foundation Board of Directors. He has previously served as President of NASUCA, Chair of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors as well as a member of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee, and a two-year term on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

Mr. Ayers earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University and received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina. He resides in Apex, North Carolina with his wife Rebecca.



**Brooke Trammell**  
*Regional Vice President, Regulatory & Pricing*  
**Xcel Energy – New Mexico & Texas**

Brooke Trammell is Regional Vice President, Regulatory & Pricing, leading Xcel Energy's regulatory strategy in New Mexico and Texas.

Trammell has been with Xcel Energy since 2012 and is an experienced navigator of the regulated utility environment. Over the last six years, she has led regulatory strategy in two of Xcel Energy's four operating companies, Southwestern Public Service Company and Public Service Company of Colorado. Trammell prioritizes working with communities, regulators, and stakeholders in crafting a shared vision for delivering safe, reliable, resilient, and affordable energy for Xcel Energy customers.

Prior to her Regional Vice President roles, Trammell worked as director of Customer and Community Relations in Texas and New Mexico as well as Rate Case Manager, overseeing SPS's regulatory filings and projects before the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Prior to joining Xcel Energy, Trammell held various technical and project management roles at PNM Resources, the parent holding company of Public Service Company of New Mexico and Texas-New Mexico Power Company.

Trammell was named in Public Utilities Fortnightly's "Fortnightly Under Forty" in 2019 and one the Denver Business Journal's Top Women in Energy in 2020. Trammell is also a member of the Edison Electric Institute's Regulatory Affairs Executive Advisory Committee and working groups of the Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Task Force. She earned her MBA with an emphasis in Management from West Texas A&M University, as well as a Master of Arts degree in Economics with a specialization in public utility regulation and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business from New Mexico State University. Trammell supports Xcel Energy's Women's Interest Network business resource group, currently serves as a business mentor to students in West Texas A&M University's Engler College of Business and has been a member of the NMSU Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council for many years.

Brooke and her husband Ty have two daughters ages 5 and 6, and call Amarillo, Texas home. The Trammells enjoy team roping, wake surfing, and raising miniature dachshunds. They are actively involved with Will Rogers' Range Riders, the longest continually operating riding club in the United States, the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo, and supporting their daughters' many adventures.

Xcel Energy Inc. is a utility holding company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, serving more than 3.3 million electric and 1.8 million natural gas customers in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico. It consists of four operating company subsidiaries: Northern States Power-Minnesota, Northern States Power-Wisconsin, Southwestern Public Service Company and Public Service Company of Colorado.

## **PART 2: Meeting Rapid Demand Growth with Investments that Balance Reliability & Affordability**

### **Presenter**



**T. Bruce Tsuchida**  
*Principal*  
**The Brattle Group**

Mr. T. Bruce Tsuchida is a principal of The Brattle Group and has more than thirty years of experience in domestic and international power generation development, utility operations, and energy market analysis. He specializes in bridging technology, economics, and regulatory policy, particularly in assessing the impact of new technologies and regulatory changes.

His expertise, largely in the electricity industry but also expands into the natural gas industry, includes integration studies for intermittent resources such as wind and solar power, storage technologies, operational logic studies, ancillary service studies, new load studies, and analyses required for regulatory proceedings. His work associated with regulatory proceedings includes cost benefit analyses, such as evaluating new technologies and the resource portfolio, as well as cost of service studies and rate design. He has analyzed and modeled market restructuring for the energy industry and power systems and evaluated utility business model options associated with the change in markets (structural changes through deregulation or varying cost allocation methods, and landscape changes such as increase in renewables, change in fuel requirements, or evolving load types).

Mr. Tsuchida holds two M.S. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the other in Technology and Policy. He holds a B.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan.

### **Respondents**



**The Honorable Jehmal T. Hudson**  
*Chairman*  
**Virginia State Corporation Commission**

Judge Jehmal T. Hudson is serving in his first term at the Virginia State Corporation Commission. In this role, he is one of three Commissioners regulating utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, and the newly enacted Virginia Health Benefit Exchange.

Prior to being elected to the Commission, Judge Hudson was Vice President of Government Affairs at the National Hydropower Association. He was a regulatory practitioner for 10 years managing public policy issues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where he held several roles including Director of Government Affairs. In that role, he worked closely with attorneys and policymakers to carry out the agency's mission to assist consumers in obtaining reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy services at a reasonable cost through appropriate regulatory and market means, and collaborative efforts.

As a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), in January 2024, Judge Hudson was appointed as chair of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. In July 2024, Judge Hudson was appointed as a member of the NARUC Executive Committee, and he is also a member of the NARUC Board of Directors. Previously, Judge Hudson chaired the NARUC Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity from December 2021 until January 2024. Regional leadership includes serving as President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners and as the Virginia member of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. He also serves on the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute.

Judge Hudson earned his B.A. from Adelphi University, his J.D. from Vermont Law School, and his LL.M. in Taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court.





**The Honorable Michael Moody**  
*President, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates*  
*Chief, Special Litigation Division, Michigan Department of Attorney General*

Michael Moody is the Division Chief of the Special Litigation Division which handles utility consumer advocacy for the State of Michigan as well as special assignments from the Attorney General. He also serves on the Elder Abuse Task Force and was the Governor appointed State Public Administrator for nine years. He has served as an assistant attorney general with the Michigan Department of Attorney General since 1995. Before coming to the Michigan Department of Attorney General, he worked at the Michigan Court of Appeals and a law firm handling municipal law.

Michael currently is the small end-use electricity customer sector representative on the member representatives committee for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and is a member of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, Keystone Energy Board, and New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council. He also serves as the President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

Michael graduated from Michigan State University from the James Madison College and Honors College with a degree in international relations and a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and obtained his law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.



**Jose Esparza**  
*Senior Vice President, Public Policy*  
*Arizona Public Service (APS)*

Jose Esparza is APS's senior vice president, Public Policy. In his role, Esparza leads APS's Federal and State Regulatory and Legislative teams, its Rates and Rate Strategy teams, as well as the Sustainability team.

An Arizona native, Esparza joined APS after a 25-year career at Southwest Gas, where he served as senior vice president, customer engagement and information technology.

Gained through years of practice in regulatory and public policy affairs at both state and federal levels, Esparza possesses deep insights into Arizona's regulatory and political landscapes. Previously, he held positions of increasing responsibility for customer service, corporate strategy, regulatory affairs and public affairs – after beginning his career as a meter reader.

Esparza earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Political Science and an executive MBA from Arizona State University.

**Closing Remarks**



**The Honorable Julie Fedorchak**  
*President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners*  
*Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission*

Julie Fedorchak has served on the Commission since 2013. She heads the pipeline, electric transmission and energy conversion siting; gas economic regulation, railroad safety and regulation portfolios and is the state's liaison to the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Organization of MISO states (OMS).

Julie is currently the President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Julie has held numerous leadership roles including president of the Organization of MISO States (OMS), vice-chair of the NARUC Gas Committee and vice president of the Gas Technology Institute's advisory board. She is a member of the Aspen Institute's Rodel Class of 2015.

A North Dakota native, Julie was appointed to the Public Service Commission in December 2012 by Gov. Jack Dalrymple. She was confirmed by voters in 2014 and was elected to a full six-year term in 2016 and again in 2022.

Julie is a strong voice regionally and nationally for a sustainable transition of the electricity industry. She advocates that utilities, policy makers and regulators must maintain the reliability and affordability of the U.S. power grid, which is the backbone of our society. In North Dakota, she developed and received legislative approval for a state rail safety program, pushed for innovative ways to connect rural areas to natural gas service and led efforts to enhance the Commission's pipeline reclamation program. She has led the Commission's siting portfolio for more than a decade and has overseen the permitting of more than \$10 billion of investments. In this process, Julie helps oversee a transparent process that invites public input, provides regulatory certainty and mitigates landowner concerns, safety risks and long-term environmental, historic and cultural impacts.

Julie graduated with honors from the University of North Dakota. She is married to Mike Fedorchak of Minot and they have three children. Julie is a trustee for the University of Mary, a volunteer for her local homeless shelter and enjoys many hobbies including golfing, entertaining, swimming and reading.

## CCIF Executive Director



**Katrina McMurrian**  
*Executive Director*  
**Critical Consumer Issues Forum**

A former Florida Public Service Commissioner (2006–2009), Katrina McMurrian draws upon extensive regulatory experience to organize and facilitate relevant policy forums and to advise an array of entities on key regulatory and policy issues in the energy arena.

McMurrian currently serves as the Executive Director of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF), a unique national forum in which state utility regulators, consumer advocates, and electric companies—via a series of facilitated, interactive dialogues—engage in productive debate and often develop consensus on key issues of importance to consumers and policymakers. CCIF has produced reports on a range of energy topics including the clean energy transition, rate design, smart communities, electric transportation, resilience, and supporting electricity customers through times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 global pandemic.

McMurrian also serves as the Executive Director of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, an ad hoc organization representing the collective interests of member state utility regulators, state consumer advocates, other state officials, tribal governments, local governments, electric companies, and other experts on nuclear waste policy matters.

McMurrian serves on the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Nuclear Waste Policy Task Force and ExchangeMonitor's Radwaste Summit Advisory Committee. She also is a member of ANS, the Institute for Nuclear Materials Management, and U.S. Women in Nuclear.

A Northwest Florida native currently residing near Nashville, Tenn., McMurrian received a Bachelor's degree in finance and an MBA from Florida State University.