

# NC UTILITIES COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Wilmington, NC  
September 9, 2008

## **Call to order**

The September meeting of the NC UCC was held at PSNC in Wilmington. Mark Hannah thanked them for allowing us to use their facilities again. A good turnout was on hand (attendance sheet follows) with 33 attendees.

## **Old Business**

Mark opened the meeting with discussion of the old minutes. There was none, so the old minutes were approved.

## **Treasurers Report**

Next was the treasurer's report from Sandra Johnson. There is currently a balance of \$9,064.79, with no outstanding debt. \$428.00 was paid to the NC OCC for cards. Sandra pointed out we were out of home owners brochures from the NC One Call Center. Ron Fairbanks made a motion to purchase 2500 for \$600.00. With little discussion, the motion was approved.

## **Presentation**

Jim Lowry from NC UCA (<http://www.nuca.com/>) gave a very thorough presentation on current and future litigation affecting the utility industry. The following bills were discussed, and listed will be their numbers for research if desired (<http://www.ncleg.net/>)  
HB2353 Irrigation contractors licensing requirements.

SB1852 Tax on heavy equipment rental, shifting taxes from the leaser to the lessee.

HB2610/ S2002 Employers must use E-VERIFY. Both versions died in committee. Bill would take the burden off employers who operate under the "safe harbour" umbrella.

On the budget, 14.6 million was allocated to provide water and sewer infrastructure to rural communities.

An 857 million allocation, with most monies going to the UNC system, helping to create 20 thousand new jobs.

"Land for Tomorrow" received 1.45 billion for waste water treatment.

The NC General Assembly has given the NC Executive Branch the authority over local governments mandating water conservation measures, connectivity, leak detection and repair.

Jim encouraged the group to visit the legislative branch's web site, listed above. There is a search mechanism on the right side of the page where one can enter the bill number to view status.

## **New Business**

There was some discussion about the need for a presentation committee. Thoughts were for a line on the survey form, or email recommendations, and to discuss it further in meetings.

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There was some discussion about bringing issues to the bimonthly meetings, and trying to put them into the agenda if possible.

## Reports

### NC DOT

Robert Memory told us that the DOT is undergoing reorganization. The utility unit is now under the chief engineer's office.

Federal Highway Administration has not passed a budget yet, and many of the State DOTs are short on funding.

NC DOT has recommended adding a \$1.00 fee to utility bills to help fund operations. PUEs (permanent utility easements) The DOT is looking at budget, scope and timeliness for feasibility to implement. Many delays are caused by utilities, right of way engineers, etc. on finishing projects. PUEs may help complete projects in a timely manner. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the new policy will be finalized. Plans are for the DOT to have a "hearing" map. Map will show proposed corridor and clear zone. Comments can be inputted from utility companies, engineering firms, municipalities, etc. Once corridor is final, DOT will begin purchasing R/W. If there are issues, the DOT could purchase "larger" right of way to accommodate facilities.

George Glenn from NCOCC asked about the accuracy of the maps the state uses for these proposals. There was discussion about Robert and George talking off line on choosing accurate maps, and all working off the same maps.

David West reported encroachment requests are down 20% state wide, a reflection of the housing slow down. Review time has improved, but he urged all to make sure encroachments have accurate information, and are all inclusive. This will help them return the agreements in a timely manner.

### NCOCC

Ron Fairbanks reported the volume of tickets has dropped 6.9%, and there were barely 100,000 calls in to the center last month. Transmissions are down 13%. In house calls were down 4.9% and RTEs were down 9.2%. The amount the One Call Center will contribute to contractor breakfasts has been reduced from \$400 to \$200 per request. There was discussion from the center on a proposal that for the remainder of 2008, and on all tickets for 2009, a field be added called "locate by." Ron was throwing it out there for the group to have discussion. It was generally agreed it was a good idea, but would have to be watched to see how it impacts operations. Ron would like members to email him at the Center for comments/concerns ([ron@ncocc.org](mailto:ron@ncocc.org)). Ron thought it possible that it could go in to affect before the end of 2008. There was a proposal before the board of NCOCC to change their hours of operations to 7 AM to 7 PM weekdays, with no weekends. Utilities must make a concerted effort to have their locates done through RTE. This proposal could help keep operating costs low.

Remote Ticket Entry activity is up 60% and growing strong.

The NCOCC Newsletter has had a facelift, with links to the web.

Ron encouraged members to look at the mapping, and make sure they are accurate.

Seventeen counties were being converted that week. The maps can be checked out on the "migration" server.

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## RAILROADS

No one present

## POWER COMPANIES

Lola Ausby from Dominion Power reported 48,000 customers lost their power due to Hurricane Hanna.

Dominion is converting to "Smart Meters" which is a status monitoring system for meter reading, as well as watching performance.

Dominion is reconducting 3300 miles of plant in the northeast, with 250 miles completed to date, and expectations of completion in 2012.

## GAS COMPANIES

Danny Harris stated that PSNC wanted to be riding their pipelines with ATVs, but the law signed into affect in August prevented their activity. There were certain requirements they were going to have to meet before riding these ATVs, which they were researching. His company is also mailing out damage prevention guides. The company is raising awareness on pipeline emergency response in case of an accident.

Theresia Von Cannon from Piedmont Natural Gas reported an incident in Charlotte, resulting in 7,000 customers lost service. It required 230 technicians from both North and South Carolina, as well as techs from PSNC assisting, to restore service.

The group discussed the practice of issuing fines for negligence resulting in damages or loss of service. Wilmington's practice is to fine the excavator. Kernersville, Cary and New Hanover County bill for all manpower responding to incidents. This helps the fire and police departments recoup lost man hours as well as overtime paid.

## CATV

Robert John from Time Warner Cable reported on the successful transition to digital TV in the Wilmington market. This was the first area in the nation to convert. People came from as far away as Japan to study how TWC was implementing the switch. This will happen nationwide in February 2009, and the government was heavily involved with Time Warner Cable so they could learn best practices, and head off any potential problems.

## CONTRACTORS

Jim Lowry from NCUCA let the group know of upcoming meetings the state has scheduled meetings across eastern NC to discuss storm water runoff

Bill Gattis from ANSCO brought up his concern about using flaggers on two lane rural roads. This was a time for the state to remind the group of the upcoming date of flagger certification January 2009. Robert Memory informed the group that the Department of Transportation had all intentions of strictly enforcing the new regulations for lane/traffic control.

## UCCs

Carteret County UCC had 46 people in attendance at the last meeting. John Cole from NOAA gave a presentation about hurricanes. Tom Jenkins, chairman of Carteret, stated he would find out if John would be available to talk to the group at a later date.

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David/Yadkin is having a lunch on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Mocksville at the Masonic Shelter, from 11 AM to 1 PM

Cape Fear has a dinner planned on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Hugh McCray Park from 5:30 to 7:30. Wake County has had their last two meetings at lunch, which has notably increased attendance. Tom Callahan with Badger gave a presentation. 33 people were in attendance.

North Hampton/Halifax has noticed that their lunch schedule has increased attendance four fold. October 22<sup>nd</sup> they will be doing a contractor breakfast at Ryan's Steakhouse in Roanoke Rapids.

Rocky Mount/Nash/Wilson meets at Griff's Steakhouse on the third Thursday of the month, which is between Rocky Mount and Wilson.

The next meeting held in November will be switched to a Thursday, to avoid conflict with Veteran's Day. It will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Tarrboro, hosted at PNG. Yvonne Ellis from PNG has sent a link for motel reservations;

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/RWIDTDT-PIE-20081112/index.jhtml>

When you call in, use the group name Piedmont Natural Gas and the pass code is PIE. The hotel is Double Tree of Rocky Mount and can be found at 651 N. Winston Avenue. The phone number is 252 937 6888

Visit the site [www.ncucc.org](http://www.ncucc.org) for further information.

Bruce Sheldon  
Secretary, NC Utilities Coordination Committee

# NC UTILITIES COORDINATION COMMITTEE

## Attendees

David Jackson	Piedmont NG	Jim Nelson	Piedmont NG
Jim Lowry	NCUCA	Sandra Johnson	PSNC Energy
Doug Morris	Charlotte DOT	Bill Deal	Charlotte
Robert Memory	NCDOT	David West	NCDOT
Brandy Creech	LPA Group	Glenn Flowers	PSNC Energy
Rick Mahoney	Piedmont NG	Tom Jenkins	TWC
Lance Laliberte	Telics	Robert John	TWC
Joe Melite	Piedmont NG	Joyce Cantrell	Piedmont NG
Doc Asbury	NCOCC	Ron Fairbanks	NCOCC
George Glenn	NCOCC	Danny Harris	PSNC
Chris Isley	NCUC	Yvonne Ellis	Piedmont NG
Mark Hannah	PSNC	Cort Bennett	PSNC
Preston Vester	PSNC	Bill Gattis	ANSCO
Mike Davis	TBE Group, Inc	Lola Ausby	Dominion Power
Theresia Creswell	Duke Energy		
Teresa Von Cannon	Piedmont NG		
Bruce Sheldon	Time Warner Cable		
Harry Bryant	NC Utilities Commission		
David Jackson	Piedmont NG		