THE TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL REGULATORY CONFERENCE

 Regulation... Alternate Regulation... De-regulation... Re-regulation -- What's the Name of the Game?

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and AMERICAN BREAKFAST Marshall-Wythe School of Law

8:30 a.m. WELCOME: The Honorable Theodore V. Morrison, Jr., Chairman Virginia State Corporation Commission

W. Taylor Reveley, Dean
Marshall-Wythe School of Law
The College of William and Mary

James S. Copenhaver, Chair
Administrative Law Section
Virginia State Bar

8:45 a.m. “This is Your Life” – FORMER COMMISSIONERS’ ROUNDTABLE - In celebration of the NRC’s 25th anniversary, five former SCC Commissioners will reflect on the history of the NRC, prior case decisions, changes in the industry, or simply share good old fashioned war stories.

Moderator: The Honorable Theodore V. Morrison, Jr.

Panelists: The Honorable Preston C. Shannon
The Honorable Thomas P. Harwood, Jr.
The Honorable Elizabeth B. Lacy
The Honorable Hullihen Williams Moore
The Honorable Clinton Miller

10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. “Deal or No Deal” – Alternatives to Traditional Regulation
Alternative forms of regulation are becoming more prominent across the U.S. as nontraditional approaches such as rate caps, earnings sharing, performance-based and incentive-based plans are being implemented. Virginia has moved in that direction as the SCC has in the last year approved performance-based regulatory plans for two gas distribution utilities, and the General Assembly in 2007 passed legislation to put in-place a new incentive-based regulatory model for investor-owned electric utilities. Will these “alternative regulation models” provide more opportunities for capital investment and increased operating efficiency than under traditional regulation? How can things like conservation, usage erosion, or load growth affect utilities operating under different types of regulation? How can decoupling initiatives function under different types of regulation? Panelists will draw on their own experiences to provide a perspective on the trend toward nontraditional forms of energy regulation and how this will impact consumers and investors.
12:00 p.m.  LUNCH

University Center, Chesapeake Room A
College of William and Mary
(Transportation provided)

2:00 p.m.  “What’s My Line?” – Will “Carrier of Last Resort Obligations” Remain Valid in a Broadband World?

This panel will examine whether Carrier of Last Resort obligations will continue to have a place in a market where multiple carriers offer services over multiple technologies, including new, for the most part unregulated, technologies such as VoIP over cable, VoIP over power lines, and wireless. It will look at whether the Commission has the tools and flexibility it needs to ensure all customers have adequate service. The panel will examine whether "adequate service" is limited to voice, or whether it also should include data and video services, and, if so, at what speeds and capacities. It will examine how "carrier of last resort" obligations should apply in various circumstances, such as an instance where a real estate developer gives an exclusive communications contract to a CLEC, or where a building owner or developer grants exclusive access to a single carrier in a commercial, residential or mixed-use development. The panel will examine the Commission's existing carrier of last resort regulations, and whether those regulations will need to be strengthened, relaxed, or otherwise modified for a broadband future.

3:30 p.m.  BREAK

3:45 p.m.  “The 64,000 Question” – The Virginia General Assembly has prescribed a "hybrid" model for setting electric rates in Virginia. Now what?

This panel will examine legislation enacted by the 2007 Virginia General Assembly that ends Virginia's transition to deregulated electric generation and adopts a groundbreaking legislative framework for establishing electric rates in the Commonwealth. The panel will explore the legislation's implementation from the viewpoint of various stakeholders, including Virginia's electric utilities and residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Immediately following the conclusion of the program, members of the Administrative Law Section of the Virginia State Bar will hold their annual meeting to elect officers.

5:45 p.m. –  COMMISSIONERS’ RECEPTION

Williamsburg Hospitality House
Empire Ballroom

Everyone attending the National Regulatory Conference is cordially invited to this reception. Come and meet the SCC Commissioners as well as the panelists and speakers on the conference program.
8:00 a.m. AMERICAN BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. **“Wheel of Fortune” – Solving the Puzzle of Virginia’s Energy Infrastructure**
This panel will address Virginia’s energy utility infrastructure – focusing on the efforts and mechanisms to meet Virginia’s growing energy requirements in order to ensure the long-term growth and prosperity of the Commonwealth. This panel will explore a number of issues concerning the projected need for transmission and other infrastructure, industry planning for such infrastructure and regulation and oversight of its development, including FERC backstop siting authority. These issues include: federal-state jurisdictional questions; planning activities and questions related to undergrounding of transmission lines and other innovative delivery methods; how much infrastructure is enough; and are there viable alternative methods such as wind generation, conservation, and demand side management by which energy requirements can be met without simply scaling traditional infrastructure components.

10:00 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m. **Ethics “Jeopardy”**
Three contestants will test their knowledge of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct while “competing” with each other in this ethics version of the T.V. show “Jeopardy.” The answers and questions will focus on practice before the SCC and recent LEOs issued by the Virginia State Bar. The audience is invited to participate in discussions regarding the correct “questions.”

12:15 p.m. PROGRAM CONCLUDES

*The program will be submitted for 8.5 hours of Virginia Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit, including 2.0 hours of ethics credit. This is an estimate pending review of the written materials.*

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION
Parking is available at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.
The number of registrants will be limited to 140. Registrations will be processed in the order of receipt.
Registration Fee: $250 per person. Mail payments to:

National Regulatory Conference
c/o Mary Council
Virginia State Corporation Commission
P. O. Box 1197
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Business casual dress is encouraged for all attendees.

RESERVATION INFORMATION
A block of rooms is being held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House until April 21, 2007. Please see the enclosed reservation form.