

Batten Down the Hatches!

Examining the Role of Critical Infrastructure – Cybersecurity in Electric Regulation

(Time: 1 hour)

Moderator: Cheryl Walker Davis – Director, Office of Special Assistants, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Panelists: Mary Beth Osborne – Director of Regulatory Affairs, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

As the Director of Regulatory Affairs at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, which is charged with oversight of the Commonwealth's public utilities, Mary Beth O'Hara Osborne was charged with leading a team to study the agency's cybersecurity responsibilities and needs and to make recommendations to the Commissioners about the path forward regarding this dynamic topic. This task involved looking inward at the agency's own cybersecurity capabilities and resiliencies and outward at the PUC's regulatory and statutory duties and obligations to ensure the provision of safe and reliable utility service to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

The issues faced by Pennsylvania are not unique and are being encountered across the country. Hear their story.

Additionally, the presentation will focus on:

- PUC regulations regarding public utility preparedness through self-certification (52 Pa. Code §§ 101.1-101.7), as well as the statutory authority for these regulations (66 Pa. C.S. §§ 501, 504-506 & 150);
- PUC regulations which require jurisdictional electric, natural gas, water and wastewater utilities to report an occurrence of an unusual nature that is a physical or cyber-attack (52 Pa. Code §§ 57.11(b)(4), 59.11(b)(5) and 65.2(b)(4), respectively);
- the Public Utility Confidential Security Information Disclosure Protection Act (35 P.S. § 2141.1-2141.6);
- PUC involvement with other State agencies and the Federal Government; and
- Considerations for the future.