



Wednesday, October 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
- Alex Halper, Vice President of Government Affairs, PA Chamber
 - John Dixon, Associate, Saul Ewing
- 9:05 a.m. **Presenting Sponsor Recognition and Introduction of Keynote**
- GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
- 9:10 a.m. **Public Utility Commission Policy Updates**
- Commissioner Kathryn Zerfuss, Public Utility Commission
- 9:40 a.m. **PJM Electricity Policy Briefing: Market Reforms and Reliability Outlook**
- Asim Haque, Vice President — State and Member Services, PJM
- 10:10 a.m. **Sponsor Spotlight**
- Bentley Systems
- 10:15 a.m. **Water Quality Issues in Focus — Spill Reporting Clarification & Triennial Water Quality Standards**
- Bevin Ann Buchheister, Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, Department of Environmental Protection
- 10:45 a.m. **Sponsor Spotlight**
- Eckert Seamans
- 10:50 a.m. **Environmental Justice Issues in Focus — Revised Policy Guidance & Permitting**
- Fernando Treviño, Special Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Department of Environmental Protection
- 11:30 a.m. **Adjourned**

Speakers



Commissioner Kathryn Zerfuss, Public Utility Commission

Kathryn L. Zerfuss was nominated to serve as Commissioner by Gov. Tom Wolf on Sept. 20, 2022, and subsequently confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on October 19, 2022. Her term will expire on April 1, 2026.

In her confirmation testimony before the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, Zerfuss said she respects the mission of the PUC and will work in a transparent, bipartisan way on the pressing utility-related issues that impact the individuals, families and businesses of this Commonwealth.

Commissioner Zerfuss is a highly regarded government affairs strategist, public servant and trusted adviser who has spent nearly 20 years advancing regulatory and policy issues with a concentration in education, workforce development, worker protections, tax fairness, victim rights and the environment.

She joined the Office of Governor Tom Wolf in the beginning of his second term as a Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs. Among many of her key contributions in this position, she advanced the state's It's On Us initiative to combat sexual violence at postsecondary schools; secured Pennsylvania's first tax credit to help working families with childcare; and created the state's free school breakfast program that serves students in all public and private schools.

Commissioner Zerfuss is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), a non-profit organization dedicated to representing state public service commissions who regulate public utilities. Additionally, she serves on NARUC's Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.

Commissioner Zerfuss is only the ninth woman to serve on the PUC in its 85-year history. She currently serves with Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille making it only the third time two women commissioners have served concurrently.

An alumna of Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, she lives in Mechanicsburg and is married with three children. She grew up in Tamaqua, Schuylkill County.



Asim Haque, Vice President — State and Member Services, PJM

Asim State Government Policy, State Policy Solutions and Member Services, which includes Stakeholder Affairs, Client Management, Knowledge Management and State & Member Training. He leads PJM's policy development and interaction with state government, which includes state commissions, governor's offices, state legislatures and state security agencies. Haque also oversees PJM's member interactions, which includes the PJM stakeholder process.

Prior to joining PJM, Haque was the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). As the state's chief regulator, he guided Ohio through some of the most relevant energy policy issues facing the nation, including Clean Power Plan compliance, cases related to the future of baseload power plants in competitive markets and distribution grid modernization.

Haque, an attorney, began his career at a large general practice firm and went on to work as in-house counsel at a global auto manufacturer prior to his appointment to the PUCO. He also serves on the board of the Philadelphia Education Fund, which works to create equitable opportunities for all students to succeed in college and career.

Haque holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and political science from Case Western Reserve University and a Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



Bevin Ann Buchheister, Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, DEP

Bevin comes to DEP from the National Governor Association in Washington D.C. where she led the Water Policy Learning Network. In that role, she helped Governors advance their priorities by sharing best practices for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, agricultural water management and funding and financing water projects. She also managed the Federal Facilities Task Force, a group of state regulators working alongside the Department of Energy to clean up legacy nuclear weapons waste dating from WWII and the cold war. She also helped establish the Outdoor Recreation Learning Network that focused on economic development through outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources, health policy, equity, education and workforce training. Prior to her role with NGA, Bevin was the Maryland Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission that is party to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and whose members are legislators, agency leaders and citizens from PA, MD and VA. She advanced several pieces of key environmental legislation in this role. Bevin also managed the House Environmental Matters Committee in the Maryland Legislature for several years.



Fernando Treviño, Special Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, DEP

His work focuses on ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies, regulation, and laws; as well as with respect to the identification of environmental issues that affect the most vulnerable communities.

Fernando has focused his entire career on working with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, advocating for immigrants' rights, and empowering communities of color to have a voice in the political process and government. He joins DEP after having served as Pennsylvania State Director for NDRC and Pennsylvania Director of Constituency Outreach and Partnerships for For Our Future. He also served as Deputy Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs in Philadelphia, where, among other responsibilities, managed the City's Language Access Program and acted as the Mayor's liaison to the Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, Commission on Asian-American Affairs, and other diverse coalitions.

Fernando graduated from the UANL School of Law in Mexico, and received a postgraduate certification on International and Comparative Law at Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law.



John Dixon, Associate, Saul Ewing

John Dixon is an environmental and energy lawyer with Saul Ewing LLP in Harrisburg. John represents clients in matters involving environmental regulation, litigation, and transactions. John helps companies navigate state and federal environmental agencies in their effort to obtain permits to build projects that are regulated by the government or require considerations involving the impact on the environment. When projects are challenged or permits are denied, John helps companies defend their interest in court. John has litigated and defended environmental permitting decisions before numerous state and federal courts and administrative tribunals. John also counsels clients on a range of transactional matters including environmental provisions in leases, loan documents, sale contracts and other real estate agreements. John is a former Assistant Counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board.



Alex Halper, Vice President of Government Affairs for the PA Chamber

Alex Halper serves as Vice President of Government Affairs for the PA Chamber and oversees public policy development, advocacy and outreach, as well as the organization's political efforts. He specifically focuses on labor and employment, education and workforce policy.

Halper serves on the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, the Governing Board of the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau, the Pennsylvania Association for Chamber Professionals Board and the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations Board and was appointed to Gov. Josh Shapiro's Transition Advisory Committee. He regularly speaks to local chambers of commerce, trade associations and employers across the Commonwealth about key legislative issues impacting business and Pennsylvania's overall political landscape.

Alex Halper joined the PA Chamber's Government Affairs team in 2011. He previously served as a legislative assistant in Washington, D.C. to former U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter where he worked on numerous areas of public policy, including transportation and infrastructure, homeland security and appropriations.

Originally from Allentown, Halper graduated from the George Washington University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He lives in Lower Paxton Township with his wife, two children, and their dog, Kelce.