

I. Meeting Packet



State of Florida
Public Service Commission
INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA
Thursday – January 22, 2026
9:30 AM
Room 105 – Gerald L. Gunter Building

1. Public Utility Research Center 2025 Annual Report to the Florida Public Service Commission, Dr. Mark Jamison (Attachment 1)
2. Legislative Update
3. General Counsel's Report
4. Executive Director's report
5. Other Matters

BB/aml

OUTSIDE PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON
ANY OF THE AGENDAED ITEMS SHOULD CONTACT THE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT (850) 413-6463.

PUBLIC UTILITY RESEARCH CENTER



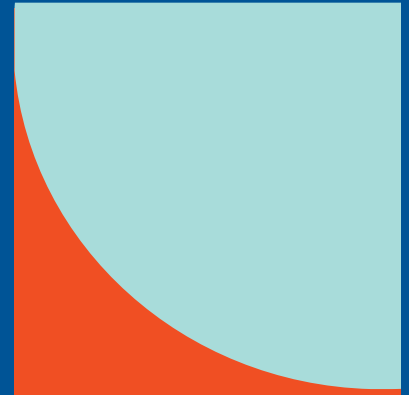
WARRINGTON
COLLEGE *of* BUSINESS

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Update on PURC Research and Outreach

This update on PURC research and outreach is intended to serve as an overview for FPSC commissioners and professional staff. At the end of this summary is a list of recent research papers that are also available through the research papers search engine on the PURC website at warrington.ufl.edu/purc. We truly appreciate the support of the FPSC and welcome opportunities for future collaboration.



PURC 2025 Annual Report to the Florida Public Service Commission

UPDATE ON PURC RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

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PURC 2025 Annual Report to the Florida Public Service Commission

UPDATE ON PURC RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

STATISTICS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Statistics

- 10 Training Courses providing 233 hours of in-person classroom instruction
- 28 blog posts
- 8 working papers, journal articles and book chapters
- 10 opinion editorials
- 9 presentations, panels, and events

Plans for 53rd Annual PURC Conference, February 18 – 19, 2026

We are excited to host our 53rd Annual Conference, *Future-Ready Florida: Utilities in a Digital Era*, in Gainesville, Florida. This event will bring together government officials, utility executives, and industry leaders to address the challenges Florida’s energy and water sectors are facing with data center growth, infrastructure demands, new generation technologies, and evolving workforce needs. We look forward to seeing you in Gainesville!

54th and 55th PURC/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy

We hosted our flagship PURC/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy, January 13 – 22, and June 9 – 18, 2025. We welcomed 116 participants from 26 countries to Gainesville for these two programs. Since its inception in 1997, this program has educated more than 4000 professionals representing 157 nations. In addition, 44 participants completed the **PURC Leadership Workshop: Practicing Leadership in a Political Environment** on January 19, 2025, and June 15, 2025.



Project Navigate: Fostering Future Leaders in the Age of AI Regulation

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across industries presents both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges. Among the most significant of these challenges is the evolving landscape of AI regulation. Understanding the span of and conflicts in current and future AI regulations and their potential impact on business is crucial for the next generation of business leaders.

This project, designed for high-achieving students at the University of Florida, provides a comprehensive and practical understanding of AI regulation and its implications. By engaging in in-depth analysis of real and proposed regulatory frameworks and applying this knowledge to business scenarios, students are developing critical analytical and research skills, strategic thinking, and a nuanced perspective on the intersection of technology, law, and business.

Student sponsorship to Florida Women in Energy Leadership Forum



We continue to sponsor students for the Florida Women in Energy Leadership Forum as an opportunity for university students to plug into Florida's energy industry. This year, Natalia Dambe, a PhD student conducting research on a holistic approach to renewable energy transition, and Erin Mariotti, a PhD student focused on integrating solar energy into land-use-planning to improve grid

resilience and reduce vulnerability, participated in the three-day forum. Both students' work was recognized with scholarships.



ChatPURC: Your Gateway to Utility Regulation Insights

ChatPURC is an AI-powered assistant that uses PURC's extensive libraries to help answer your questions about the regulation of utility services. ChatPURC launched in June 2025, and we are currently enhancing the user interface. The next step is to leverage ChatPURC to create customized learning opportunities for utility regulation professionals around the world. They'll go through materials, work on reports, and ultimately present them to PURC and their peers. Their research will then go into ChatPURC to continue building a dynamic repository of the latest and most impactful research.

Popular Op-Eds & Interviews

- [Data centers need electricity fast, but utilities need years to build power plants – who should pay?, *The Conversation*](#)
- [Is AI a Circular Money Machine? 3 Reasons Not to Worry. *Barrons*](#)
- [Innovation Shouldn't Be a Liability in the United States, *RealClearMarkets*](#)
- [DeepSeek's Direct Challenge to Antitrust Orthodoxy, *National Review*](#)
- [AI + Energy: A Quick Q&A with ... Mark Jamison on Permitting Reform, *Faster Please!*](#)

PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

ENERGY

Who Invests in Renewable Energy?

The federal and state governments have long encouraged utilities to use solar and wind technologies for producing electricity. But what really determines whether a utility does so? This research examines determinants of utility investment in renewable energy. It finds that natural endowments, such as amounts of sunlight and wind, are perhaps most important, and the availability of wind resources has a negative effect on solar investment, implying that there is competition between the two sources. Policies such as renewable portfolio standards sometimes promote renewable energy, but not always. Investor-owned utilities are more likely than municipal utilities to use renewables.

Preparing to Harden Electrical Resources for Hurricane Season

Communities that are likely to suffer effects of significant damage from named storms need to have confidence that cost estimates and projected benefits are reliable. This transparency to administrators, political leaders, and planners conveys a public message that utility hardening policies, such as undergrounding cables and vegetation maintenance, reflect a broad consensus among diverse experts. Collaboration among varied planners also ensures that widely noticed disparities among individual estimates do not confuse concerned public observers of the decision-making process.

Motivating the Optimal Procurement and Deployment of Electric Storage as a Transmission Asset

Examined the optimal choice between two means of relieving congestion in an electricity network: (1) traditional expansion of transmission capacity; and (2) storage as a transmission asset (SATA). Assuming the electric utility has unique knowledge of both the cost of implementing SATA and the likelihood of local network congestion, the optimal policy differs considerably from policies under active consideration, in part by paying the utility relatively little for implementing SATA. Despite the relatively limited compensation, the utility profits from its unique knowledge, particularly its knowledge of SATA implementation costs.

Load-Following Forward Contracts

Load-following forward contracts (LFFCs) are becoming increasingly popular in the electricity sector. A LFFC obligates an electricity supplier to deliver at a pre-specified unit price at a fraction of the buyer's ultimate demand for electricity. This paper shows that relative to more standard ("swap") forward contracts, LFFCs can increase the expected wholesale price of electricity and thereby reduce expected consumer and economic benefits.

Market Structure, Risk Preferences, and Forward Contracting Incentives

This paper examines the distinct impacts of forward contracting on generators and buyers of electricity. Increased forward contracting systematically reduces the variance of a generator's profit but can increase the variance of a buyer's profit. Consequently, increased risk aversion or market uncertainty can lead buyers, but not generators, to prefer reduced levels of forward contracting. This paper examines how the extent of equilibrium forward contracting varies with industry conditions, including the number of generators, the number of buyers, their aversion to profit variation, and the structure of retail electricity prices.

Vertical Integration and Capacity Investment in the Electricity Sector

This paper examines the incentives for and the effects of vertical integration in the electricity sector. It finds that vertical integration often reduces retail prices and increases industry capacity investment, consumer surplus, and total welfare. Unilateral vertical integration is often profitable. However, ubiquitous vertical integration can reduce aggregate industry profit.

Energy Blogs

Dr. Kury blogs on energy issues for The Conversation. He addresses issues including increasing demand, storm hardening, and grid security. Dr. Kury's most recent essay on the increasing energy demand from data centers has over 20,000 reads on the platform and has been picked up by a dozen other outlets. His blogs are available at <https://theconversation.com/profiles/theodore-j-kury-406888/articles>.

ICT AND TELECOM

Broadband Pricing Under BEAD

This paper examines how price restrictions on broadband would impact broadband deployment and adoption. The federal government's preference for extensive price controls would be counterproductive as they would decrease investment, innovation, and new technology adoption. If states find themselves in situations where subsidized broadband providers are monopolies, deployment and adoption obligations would be more effective than price controls.

AEI's Broadband Barometer Project

PURC's Dr. Jamison led a team of scholars from five universities and a technology think tank to examine state policies for broadband deployment under BEAD. The effort produced scorecards for each state and sponsored several events where state leaders provided insights on how broadband efforts could be improved.

Platform Competition and Differentiation: Developer Choices in Mobile Platforms

This paper examines how app developers and other tech companies choose whether to build on the Apple platform, the Android platform, or both. It finds that the platforms compete for these businesses and differentiate

primarily in “thin” markets where it is uneconomical for more than one platform to accommodate specialized needs.

Comments filed with states regarding competition and rules for broadband subsidies

PURC researchers participated in comments filed with various state broadband offices regarding their plans for broadband subsidies. The comments emphasized lessons from research regarding imposing price constraints and how to have effective competition for grants.

Net Neutrality in the USA During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to review policy assertions about net neutrality. There was an expectation that without *ex ante* FCC net neutrality rules, there would be harmful demonstrations of market power and anticompetitive conduct. This paper offers a review of the evidence. Given that little to no incidence of net neutrality violations could be uncovered for the period, the paper suggests some explanations as to why broadband providers behaved opposite to predictions. Contrary to many policy assertions, broadband providers did not block or throttle service, nor did they increase prices arbitrarily or decrease quality. In fact, broadband providers appeared to take significant efforts to expand availability, lower broadband prices, and make more networks available, in many cases without charge.

Revealing Transactions Data to Third Parties: Implications of Privacy Regimes for Welfare in Online Markets

This paper examines the effects of privacy policies regarding transactions (e.g., price/quantity) data on online shopping platforms. Disclosure of transactions data induces consumer behavior that affects merchant pricing decisions and the welfare of platform participants. A profit-maximizing platform prefers the disclosure policy that maximizes social benefit. Although this policy benefits sophisticated consumers, it harms those who do not understand the implications of their behavior. Consequently, the welfare effects of alternative privacy policies, data breaches, willful violations of stated privacy policies, and opt-in/opt-out requirements differ sharply, depending on the level of consumer sophistication and on other factors such as the prevailing status quo.

Technology Blogs

Dr. Jamison blogs on technology issues for the American Enterprise Institute. He addresses issues of net neutrality, universal service, privacy, innovation, competition, and regulatory institutions. His blogs are available on the American Enterprise Institute website at <http://www.aei.org/scholar/mark-jamison-2/>.

WATER

Performance Assessment Using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Water Utilities: A Primer

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are widely recognized as a basis for evaluating water utility operations in developing countries and for designing both regulatory and managerial incentives that improve performance. A number of methodologies can be used for assessing performance. However, regulatory oversight requires data analysis of trends, current performance, and realistic targets. Quantitative studies can provide clues regarding the extent of economies of scale, scope, and density, but policymakers need much more detail and specificity than most scholars provide. Here, the focus is on information systems that provide accurate, reliable, and relevant data.

MULTISECTOR

Access Pricing in Mixed Oligopoly

Characterizes optimal access prices in mixed oligopoly where a private, profit-maximizing firm competes against a public enterprise after purchasing an essential input (e.g., network access). Optimal access prices tend to be lower for the private firm than for the public enterprise, and can be particularly low for a relatively efficient private supplier. The optimal access price for a private firm is the same whether it competes against another private firm or a public enterprise. Failure to tailor the prevailing access pricing policy to the objectives of the competing suppliers can reduce welfare substantially.

Principles and Strategies for Effective Leadership in the "New Normal"

To lead effectively during times of constant change and uncertainty, leaders should: (1) Lean into the uncertainty (Learning to live in the discomfort of uncertainty will free up some space for clearer thinking.); (2) Recognize that it is all about experimentation (It is about "next practices" rather than best practices.); (3) Embrace mistakes (Mistakes are a necessary part of this evolving process and need to be used as learning tools and experiments.); and (4) Lead with a focus on empathy and communication (In a time in which so many are struggling and uncertainty is king, we must ensure people know you are "there" for them.)

Inspiring Leadership for Innovation

This book chapter examines communication and cultural strategies for companies to provide industry-leading innovations.

OUTREACH

Why do only a few mobile apps succeed in crowded app stores?

At the Southern Economic Association's 94th Annual Meeting, Byoungmin Yu, a postdoctoral researcher at the PURC-DMI, explored how product differentiation shapes app success. The presentation showed that apps perform best when they share core features with the average competitor while differentiating themselves from the top apps. The research also highlighted that the presence of first-party apps can either stimulate demand (on Apple's App Store) or reduce it (on Google Play) for third-party apps. These findings offer practical insights for developers choosing market segments and designing effective differentiation strategies.

42nd U.S. Association of Energy Economists (USAEE) North American Conference

The electricity grid is experiencing considerable uncertainty in both the growth and interconnection of large load centers and the generation required to serve them. What factors contribute to this uncertainty on the supply side and the demand side? How are states managing the risk of this uncertainty and allocating it to the various stakeholders in the system? PURC Director Mark Jamison, Director of Energy Studies Ted Kury, and Billy Yancey of Electric Power Engineers addressed these questions in a lively panel discussion at the annual meeting of the US Association of Energy Economists in Fort Worth on November 19.

What would a fully AI-enabled grid look like?

It would look like Amazon, according to PURC director Dr. Mark Jamison. Amazon built the first AI engine about 20 years ago. The first step was putting all data in a common format on a common platform. With that the company was able to build AI systems everywhere. Getting to that future grid will be an evolutionary process, involving creative ideas that build on and change the technologies and institutions of the moment, and selection processes that emulate market forces. Leaders should keep in mind that evolution is a conservative process, both protecting the DNA that is truly essential to success and adopting changes that pass the market test. Dr. Jamison shared these thoughts at the AI Clean Energy Summit, sponsored by BrightNight in Portland, Oregon, November 6, 2025.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the global economy, and governments are racing to control it. Who will win?

That is the question Dr. Mark Jamison addressed at a symposium on October 13, 2025. China's top-down strategy to achieve global leadership in AI is struggling. For this to succeed, the Chinese Communist Party must accurately predict innovation, which it cannot do. Europe's precautionary regulations approach is also floundering because it assumes officials can accurately foresee AI's risks and benefits. Both approaches stifle creativity. The United States, by contrast, relies on markets, entrepreneurship, and limited regulation allowing investors, innovators, and consumers to determine which AI ideas succeed. That openness and diversity have made America the clear global leader in AI research, investment, and commercialization. The symposium was held at Oak Hammock in Gainesville, Florida.

Censorship by Perception: LLM Predictions of Social Media Behavior in the Face of Government Scrutiny

What happens when people believe the government is watching what they say? That is the question studied by PURC student Isabelle Hansen. Her research uses large language models (LLMs) to simulate how people adapt their social media behavior when they receive news that the government is monitoring social media. Early results indicate that people change their behaviors and that the change is influenced by whether users see themselves aligned with or in opposition to the government. Early results were presented at the 53rd Annual Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy (TPRC53), September 2025 in Washington, DC.

Investment Heroes: Tracking US Capital Investment in a Changing Economy

Which companies are investing most in America's future? That was the topic of the report *Investment Heroes 2025: The Shape of the AI-Enabled Economy* developed by the Progressive Policy Institute. PURC's Dr. Mark Jamison discussed this report with other economic experts at an event hosted by the PPI and the American Enterprise Institute in September 2025. Dr. Jamison emphasized the importance of light-handed and predictable regulation for encouraging investment.

Workshop on Rural x AI + Policy

What are the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) in rural areas, especially with respect to demands on rural water supplies? This was the question PURC Director Mark Jamison addressed in the Workshop on Rural x AI + Policy, sponsored by UF's Infrastructure for Communities, Ecology for Data (ICED) Hub. Dr. Jamison focused on the impacts of AI data centers and explained that electricity is the primary consideration for AI data center location, noting that water is also important for cooling the computing resources, which are often massive. Large AI companies, such as Meta and Google, sometimes address the water challenge by paying to expand local water infrastructure and by decreasing data center water needs. Dr. Jamison was joined on the April 4, 2025, panel by Professor Maura Allaire of Arizona State University and Karyn Riley of Oakwood Blue Advisory. Professor Jasmine McNealy of UF moderated the panel.

The Energy Demands of the Data-Driven Future: Challenges and Solutions

Data centers are popping up around the country, consuming vast sums of electricity and prompting concerns over whether the electric grid can cope with demand. Many fear that the grid will not be able to adapt, resulting in instability and higher electricity prices. At this March 25, 2025, AEI conference, PURC Director Mark Jamison moderated a panel that addressed business and regulatory challenges. Jose Esparza (Arizona Public Service), Martin Hermann (BrightNight), and Tricia Pridemore (Georgia Public Service Commission) discussed infrastructure investment, permitting reform, and how utilities and "hyperscalers" can collaborate to support growing energy needs while protecting consumers.

52nd Annual PURC Conference – Resilient Infrastructure in a Changing World: Technology, Policy and Preparedness

Accelerating use of artificial intelligence in infrastructure and across the economy is creating opportunities for new efficiencies and enhanced service, as well as new complexities. The 52nd Annual PURC Conference, hosted

February 19 – 20, 2025, provided utility and regulatory professionals with the platform to address investment strategies for capacity expansion, the effective use of AI, and cutting-edge approaches to cybersecurity.

State Leadership: Making the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Work

On January 9, PURC’s and AEI’s Mark Jamison hosted a discussion with state broadband leaders to evaluate the implementation challenges of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The participants first explored strategies to ensure BEAD funding reaches the most qualified broadband providers through competitive challenge and bidding processes. The discussion then shifted to accountability measures, focusing on developing robust systems to monitor provider performance and verify results. Finally, participants examined potential challenges and opportunities in coordinating with the incoming Trump administration.

Annual PURC Award for Best Paper in Regulatory Economics

The 2025 Public Utility Research Center Prize for the best paper in regulatory economics was awarded to Pello Aspuru (NYU School of Law) for *Delaying the Coal Twilight: Local Mines, Regulators, and the Energy Transition*. Pello Aspuru’s paper documents an important yet initially puzzling observation regarding the willingness of regulators in coal-producing states to allow coal-burning electric generating facilities to invest in pollution control rather than retiring plants. The paper estimates that regulators in coal-producing states were willing to sacrifice over \$200 of consumer surplus for every \$100 gained in mining revenue and concludes that without this protective regulatory stance, total CO2 emissions would be substantially lower. The prize committee commend the paper’s demonstration of how local political considerations significantly influence regulatory outcomes.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Regulatory Practice: Vision, Strategy, and Action

What is artificial intelligence? How can a regulatory agency use AI? What will it look like to work fully engaged with AI? This professional development workshop delivered for the Florida Public Service Commission helped the PSC staff explore how AI can enhance their work, envision AI's future integration into regulatory processes, and develop practical, collaborative strategies for implementation. It was hosted October 2 – 3, 2025 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Regulation by Contract in Brazil

Eighty-two (82) government and industry professionals from Brazil learned about the economics, political economy, and best practices for infrastructure regulation by contract. They studied regulatory tools, contract design, economic incentives, engaging with policy makers and other stakeholders, negotiation strategies, risk management, financing, applications of artificial intelligence, and causes of regulatory failure. Participants examined numerous case studies from around the world. This training was held May 19 – 24, 2025, in São Paulo, Brazil.

Artificial Intelligence for Utility Regulators: Navigating Opportunities and Risks

Delivered online in partnership with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), this professional development course provided regulators and others with insights into the key concepts, applications, and risks for utility applications of AI. Through a combination of presentations, case studies, practical problem solving, and hands-on work, participants will learn the basics of how AI works, where it is being applied by utilities, and challenges and future directions.

54th & 55th PURC/ World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy

One hundred and sixteen (116) regulatory and utility professionals from around the world travelled to the University of Florida for PURC's flagship program! The international training program is an intensive course specifically tailored to the professional requirements of utility regulators and regulatory staff. The course is designed to enhance the economic, technical, and policy skills required for implementing policies and managing sustainable regulatory systems for infrastructure sectors. This training was held in-person from January 13 – 22, 2025 and June 9 – 18, 2025.

Practicing Leadership in a Political Environment – A One-Day Intensive Training for Leaders in Utility Policy

Forty-four (44) regulatory and utility professionals participated in our January and June 2025 Leadership Workshops. Throughout the workshops, they identified and developed their individual leadership profiles; examined personal practices of successful leaders to develop vision, resolve conflict and set priorities; analyzed

what is different about practicing leadership in a political environment; and developed their own personal action plans and an accountability system to address their unique challenges.

Advanced International Practices Program: Benchmarking Infrastructure Operations course

We hosted 5 utility and regulatory professionals from the energy and water sectors for an intensive four-day technical course in benchmarking. Participants analyzed the benefits, best practices and pitfalls of benchmarking utilities. After completing the course, participants were able to understand why benchmarking is essential for improving the performance of infrastructure organizations. They could analyze the implications of partial, limited, or incorrect information as well as assess how information on trends in key performance indicators helps decision-makers. They could understand how model specification and data outliers affect performance comparisons as well as identify the strengths and limitations of alternative quantitative methodologies and how to communicate results. This course was held in-person on the University of Florida campus from August 4 – 7, 2025.

Advanced International Practices Program: Energy and Water Pricing course

We hosted 8 utility and regulatory professionals from the energy and water sectors for a week-long technical course in pricing. Participants discussed the challenges and best practices in pricing; the innovative ideas to addressing efficiency and environmental issues; and the core principles in pricing. After completing the course, participants were able to prepare for and perform price reviews, develop economic incentives appropriate for utilities in small economies, evaluate market competition and develop remedies for market failure, analyze financial statements for rate setting and evaluating sector performance, and develop innovative price structures that create incentives for consumers and producers to behave in a manner consistent with your utility policy. This course was held in-person on the University of Florida campus from July 28 – August 1, 2025.

FACULTY RESEARCH FOCUS



Mark A. Jamison, Director

Dr. Jamison conducts studies on regulation and strategy in telecommunications, information technologies, and energy. In recent years, his research has been presented at meetings of the American Economic Association, American Enterprise Institute, Industrial Organization Society, Western Economic Association, Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, and the International Telecommunications Society. He is the director of the university's Digital Markets Initiative and was a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant to examine barriers to adoption of solar technologies in developing countries. His current research examines artificial intelligence, broadband development, market competition, innovation, antitrust, and platform economies. He has conducted training programs for regulatory organizations in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, North America, and South America.



Ted Kury, Director of Energy Studies

Dr. Ted Kury's research has focused on two current issues confronting energy markets: risk allocation for new large load centers with a high degree of flexibility in consumption, and the efficacy of relocating power lines. Data centers may have far more flexibility in consumption than traditional large load centers such as refineries and mills. This flexibility represents an opportunity for efficiency but also impacts how risks in demand and supply growth are allocated. States are implementing several interesting mechanisms to address this allocation, but the challenge remains open. The relocation of power lines is a complicated question because relocation is very expensive and does not necessarily reduce the damage associated with storm events. In areas more susceptible to storm surge and flooding, the relocation may even increase damage, leading to a waste of valuable consumer and utility resources. Understanding how the efficacy of undergrounding changes with location is critical to ensure that customers are receiving safe, reliable electricity service at just and reasonable rates. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Kury has published several essays in the popular press on the topics.



Araceli Castaneda, Director of Leadership Studies

Ms. Castaneda researches effective leadership in regulatory environments. She helps agency leaders develop strategies for managing critical stakeholder relationships, fostering collaboration and team cohesion, and creating a vision that drives necessary change and progress. Most recently, her work has focused on how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming utility regulation—and why regulatory leaders need a clear vision for an AI-enabled agency, one that keeps human judgment, wisdom, and public purpose at the forefront.



Byoungmin Yu, Post-Doctoral Associate

Byoungmin Yu’s research lies at the intersection of industrial organization and microeconomics, with a particular focus on digital platforms. During his five years in the Ph.D. program at Iowa State University, he explored ongoing antitrust issues related to mobile app stores. Now a postdoctoral associate at PURC-DMI, Dr. Yu continues to investigate the app economy and has presented his work at conferences such as the Southern Economic Association and the American Economic Association. His future research agenda will delve into competition in the AI industry, especially examining the dynamics between foundation model developers (e.g., Meta) and downstream deployers working on generative AI models.



David Sappington, Lanzillotti-McKethan Eminent Scholar

Professor Sappington’s ongoing research focuses on the design of reward structures in the presence of limited information, particularly in regulated industries. Professor Sappington has also served as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

APPENDIX

Public Utility Research Center

Recent Publications and Working Papers

Barrentes, Roxana, David Cox, Mark Jamison, and Dorothy Okello. 2023. "Regulatory and Broadband Industry Responses to COVID-19: Cases of Uganda, Peru, and the Caribbean." In *Beyond the Pandemic? Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on Telecommunications and the Internet*, ed. Jason Whalley, Volker Stocker, and William Lehr, 169-193. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Castaneda, Araceli, and Mark A. Jamison. 2023. "Inspiring Leadership for Innovation," In *New Leadership Communication – Inspire Your Horizon: World Lecture*, ed. Nichole Pfeffermann and Monika Schaller.

Castaneda, Araceli, and Mark A. Jamison. 2025. "Beyond Algorithms: How AI is Transforming Utility Regulation" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business. PURC Working Paper.

Domonkos, Andrew, Lily Haak, Isabelle Hansen, Rafeh Khan, and Mia Molinelli. 2025. "Dynamic Pricing: The Functionality of Interactive Pricing Models" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Esmaelian, Behzad, Joseph Sarkis, Sara Behdad, and Mark A. Jamison. 2023. "Sustainable Future: Principles and Expectations in Cryptocurrency Design," In *Blockchain and Smart-Contract Technologies for Innovative Applications*, Berlin, Germany: Springer Nature.

Haak, Lily. 2024. "COMMENTARY: DataU: How Much Are You Worth Online?" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Hauge, Janice, Mark A. Jamison, and Jakub Tecza. 2023. "Mobile platform preference: A comparison of U.S., Indian and Japanese firms" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Howell, Bronwyn, Fernando Herrera González, Georg Serentschy, Mark Jamison, Petrus Potgieter, Roslyn Layton, and Íñigo Herguera García. 2024. "Perspectives on Political Influences on Changes in Telecommunications and Internet Economy Markets," *Telecommunications Policy*.

Jamison, Mark A. 2023. "An Alternative Focus for Antitrust: Addressing Harmful Competitive Advantage," University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, Digital Markets Initiative working paper, 2023.

Jamison, Mark A. 2023. "A Public Portal Option for Content Management" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark A. 2023. "Broadband Pricing Under BEAD" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark A. 2023. "Lessons From Economics Literature Regarding Title II Regulation of the Internet" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark A. 2024. "The State of Broadband in the United States" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark A. 2024. "Minimum Standards for Maximum Pricing Constraints" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark A. 2025. "Disbanding the Federal Communications Commission" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark and Byoungmin Yu. 2026. "Choosing Product Space: Lessons from the App Economy" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark and Jakub Tecza. 2024. "Determinants of Industry Concentration and Dispersion" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark and Jakub Tecza. 2025. "Vertical Integration in Platforms: Evidence from Mobile App Stores" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Jamison, Mark, Jakub Tecza, and Peter Wang. 2023. "Effects of platforms' entry into own marketplace: Evidence from the mobile application market" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Kury, Theodore. 2023. "Public-Private Cooperation in Broadband" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Kury, Theodore. 2025. "Potential Energy Savings from Load Shifting at University Chiller Plants" University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

Layton, Roslyn, and Mark A. Jamison. 2023. "Net Neutrality in the USA During Covid-19." In *Beyond the Pandemic? Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on Telecommunications and the Internet*, ed. Jason Whalley, Volker Stocker, and William Lehr, 195-214. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Rosston, Greg, Michelle Connolly, Janice Hauge, Mark Jamison, James Prieger, and Scott Wallsten. December 2023. "Economists' Comments on State BEAD Proposals," Comments filed with various state broadband offices.

Tecza, Jakub, Scott Wallsten, and Yoojin Lee. 2023. "Do Broadband Subsidies for Schools Improve Students' Performance? Evidence from Florida." University of Florida, Warrington College of Business, PURC Working Paper.

II. Outside Persons Who Wish to Address the Commission at Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that no outside persons addressed the Commission at this Internal Affairs meeting.

III. Supplemental Materials for Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that there were no supplemental materials provided to the Commission during this Internal Affairs meeting.

IV. Transcript

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA
COMMISSIONER BOBBY PAYNE

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2026

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.
Concluded: 10:15 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 105
2524 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Gerald L. Gunter Building
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Good morning.

3 MR. BAEZ: Good morning.

4 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Good morning.

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Today is January 22nd. You
6 guys heard the song as you walked in. That was
7 Power by SNAP. We are bringing back an oldie, but
8 a goody, also submitted by our New to the
9 Commission Suite Ryan Sandy. Importantly, this is
10 also his birthday, so -- and I really want to give
11 a shout-out to him. Not only is he the birthday
12 boy, but he went above and beyond, submitted a lot
13 of great songs for this month, so it was hard to
14 pick one. But when I listened, I was like -- I put
15 on my gym clothes actually, so thank you for that,
16 and Happy Birthday, Ryan.

17 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Happy Birthday.

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I -- we are going to start,
19 like as we do, usually acknowledging our Employee
20 of the Month. This, for January, is Mr. David
21 Sumner.

22 He -- I visited him a couple weeks ago, kind
23 of to give him a heads-up that I was going down
24 there because I didn't want to make him too
25 nervous, but he was super gracious, and I really

1 enjoyed getting to talk to him.

2 David has been with the Commission for almost
3 four years, has been a power house for the IDM
4 Market Analysis section. He is extremely sharp,
5 learns new tasks very quickly. He is not a grade
6 to dig to find the answers he is looking for, and
7 works independently and efficiently while producing
8 thorough work products.

9 He has been able to successfully maintain
10 positive working relationships despited cheering
11 for rival NFL teams. So I think there is more to
12 that story that we will have to find out about.

13 So if you could all just join me in
14 congratulating David.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I do want to also mention
17 another little perk we are doing for the Employee
18 of the Month. We have now a designated parking
19 spot right out front here for that Employee of the
20 Month. There is a plaque so that you are to be
21 thoroughly embarrassed, and everybody will know
22 exactly who you are. But please, utilize this
23 park. If it's -- I think it can be a really big
24 benefit if it's raining or like what's going to
25 happen next week and it's going to be freezing

1 temperatures, you have a much shorter walk to the
2 office, so please do that.

3 All right. With that, we are going to move on
4 for our presentation today. Sir -- Mark Jamison is
5 here from the University of Florida Public Utility
6 Research Center to present their annual report for
7 the 2025 annual report, so welcome, Mr. Jamison.

8 DR. JAMISON: Well, thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

10 DR. JAMISON: Chairman, thank you very much,
11 and Commissioners, and everyone else. I appreciate
12 the opportunity to talk with you.

13 We have had a very long relationship with the
14 Florida Public Service Commission. It's been very
15 fruitful for us. We hope it's fruitful for you as
16 well. And for those of you that haven't met me
17 before. I am Mark Jamison. I am the director of
18 PURC.

19 You know, PURC's mission is to make sure, to
20 the extent that we can, that everybody who is
21 involved in providing the water services, the
22 electricity services, the ICT as well, and
23 regulating it have all the tools they need to be
24 able to do their jobs really, really well. And so
25 we juice finished a week-and-a-half long course for

1 regulators. We had about 15 different countries
2 in, and operators as well. So we keep pretty busy
3 with this kind of a thing, and glad to do it with
4 you as well.

5 You have a copy of our report, so you can see
6 the different types of things we have been up to
7 this past year. Just to hit some highlights and
8 more forward-looking than backwards looking, we
9 have our annual conference coming up in about three
10 or four weeks, I think it is. The chairperson is
11 going to be keynoting that. We are grateful for
12 that.

13 What we are doing in the annual conference is
14 talking about kind of a future ready Florida. As
15 we are all experiencing, the future is changing on
16 us very fast. We don't really know what it will
17 be. So how do we actually build the right talent
18 stack so whatever comes we can adapt to that? And
19 how do we make sure that we energize that, deploy
20 it in the right way, and learn in the right way?
21 So we are going to have a lot of good panels that
22 will be talking about those different types of
23 issues. What's happening in Florida? What are the
24 different things that we will need to prepare for
25 that?

1 We worked long and hard to get Meta to come to
2 talk about what it does in water actually, because
3 they have two data centers that are water positive.
4 It's because they have invested in the
5 infrastructure in the community to improve water
6 there, and then they have made their own centers
7 water neutral as they can, so we managed to get
8 them to come in and talk about that. So we will
9 have a lot of different discussions at the
10 conference for it.

11 Related to that, we have done a few things on
12 data centers. We have participated in a couple of
13 events in different places talking about what
14 states are doing, you know, how utilities are
15 preparing for is going on for that kind of surge in
16 demand. That's how we characterize it. We don't
17 worry so much who the customer is, but what does
18 this demand look like, and how do you deal with the
19 risks involved with that, and who bears them?

20 So we will actually have a short paper coming
21 out sometime in the next couple of weeks. We have
22 one more review to go with that, that is reviewing
23 what states are doing. And so we will just kind of
24 march through -- it marches through some of the
25 different states, here's what it looks like. Not

1 judging what anyone has done, because everyone has
2 their context, but just saying here's how this
3 tends to be playing out.

4 We -- related to that, getting into the
5 artificial intelligence, we have developed our own
6 ChatPURC, which we would welcome you to take a look
7 at. It is a -- based on a large language model,
8 where people can ask questions about utility
9 regulation. It draws from our database of papers.
10 We have about 1,500 papers over the years that
11 we -- some we have written, some we have used, and
12 so it pulls from that database, and says, here is
13 the answer to your question, and here are all the
14 papers that it comes from. And it actually, you
15 know, highlights the different places so people can
16 check us.

17 So please take a look at that. We will be
18 advancing that as well, so we would really
19 appreciate people's feedback. What's useful here
20 and what's not.

21 Related to that as well, one of the things we
22 have had students looking into is how artificial
23 intelligence is being -- people thinking about
24 regulating it around the U.S. and around the world.
25 So they have developed a taxonomy of what all the

1 different state legislation looked like last year.
2 We will be tracking on what goes on this year as
3 well. Then looking at the federal level, Europe
4 and South Korea as well. It's a broad range of how
5 people think about regulating this particular set
6 of technologies.

7 And then related to that, their kind of next
8 phase of their work is, this spring, they will be
9 competing against each other. This has been a team
10 of about 15 students, so we will break them into
11 three teams. And they will compete against each
12 other on suppose that some of these regulations
13 came to fruition and you were an electric utility
14 in the state of Florida, what would you do? What
15 would be your strategy for dealing with that? So
16 we are kind of excited about that. Let the
17 students get in there and look at a real world
18 situation and how they would respond.

19 So that's kind of what we have been up to, and
20 are up to. There is a lot of things I did not
21 bother to mention, but they are in the report. I
22 am glad to take any questions that you might have.

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Commissioners, do you have
24 any questions of Mr. Jamison?

25 DR. JAMISON: Or comments, feedback. Yes,

1 sir.

2 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: It might be somewhere
3 in between, a question or comment, and maybe you
4 are going to cover this at the PURC conference, so
5 please burst my bubble and hopefully maybe promote
6 the conference a little bit in this question or
7 thought.

8 Because you do work in a lot of different
9 countries, and obviously you kind of hear what's
10 happening on an international scene, do you see the
11 same hype for AI and the need for data centers in
12 other countries? And kind of what countries are
13 maybe kind of leading the way? That may get into
14 some weeds and detail, but I am just kind of
15 curious and have some thoughts on it.

16 DR. JAMISON: Sure. We do hear a lot of the
17 same discussions about the data centers coming in
18 and wanting to use a lot of electricity. That is a
19 phenomena around the world. The -- that's even in
20 the Caribbean Islands it's happening, which I
21 didn't think actually would probably happen, but it
22 is, on some of them anyway.

23 Who is doing -- well, it's hard to say who is
24 doing this well, because we don't know what the
25 future actually looks like. The ones that's

1 building it the fastest is probably China. China
2 is building much faster than anyone else to be able
3 to supply the data centers. The U.S. is keeping
4 pace pretty well. Europe is slower, and that's
5 kind of how it plays out.

6 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. Cool. Well, I
7 am looking forward to this year's conference. And
8 I am just kind of looking back at some of the
9 things you guys have done, and phenomenal. And you
10 actually said it, right, you didn't mention some of
11 the things, and they are pretty -- some very
12 interesting topics, certainly vertically integrated
13 capacity investments in the electricity sector.
14 So, like, you know, serious in the state of
15 Florida, and of course how we do things. And we've
16 -- you know, some of us work with the national
17 organizations. And, of course, we hear from other
18 states, and we see sometimes how different Florida
19 is being vertically integrated compared to --

20 DR. JAMISON: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: -- transportation
22 states, so thank you for the work that you do, and
23 I appreciate and look forward to this year's
24 conference.

25 DR. JAMISON: Yeah, the way that the industry

1 is structured is looking like it matters, and that
2 we have states vertically integrated, and that
3 gives us adaptability that some of the other states
4 are struggling with we see as these markets change.

5 And that's -- and as you move into more and
6 more of an AI-based industry, that's going to
7 change as well, because we see with the big AI
8 companies, some of them are struggling financially.
9 The ones that are vertically integrated are not.
10 And so that ability to take advantage of the value
11 chain and leverage the risk within it just seems to
12 be really important this day and age.

13 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Awesome. Great. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, Commissioner Ortega.

16 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Can I piggyback? So I
17 wasn't going to mention it, but the economist in me
18 actually really was interested in that report and
19 the reduced profitability, and so off-line, I would
20 love to dig in on that with you a little bit --

21 DR. JAMISON: Sure.

22 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- but I would say kudos
23 on the ChatPURC, because I just asked: What does a
24 new commissioner need to know in Florida, and there
25 is some great information. It's really cool.

1 DR. JAMISON: Very good.

2 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And I also am very much
3 looking forward to the conference. And it's my
4 favorite. I have been going to it since 2012, and
5 it's always a good time, so excited for next month.

6 DR. JAMISON: Good.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thanks.

8 DR. JAMISON: Give us feedback on how --

9 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Oh, I will.

10 DR. JAMISON: -- no matter how wrong it is,
11 because one of the things we want to be able to use
12 with this is help people kind of develop
13 themselves. We get a lot of requests for highly
14 specialized training. You can't send instructors
15 for something that's highly specialized, but we can
16 use this kind of an artificial intelligence tool to
17 say, here's kind of what we know. How can we build
18 on it? And then make that available for other
19 people. So that's one of our aspirations for the
20 tool.

21 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Great.

22 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: I'm going to go on
23 there today and ask: What does an old commissioner
24 need.

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What have I missed in the

1 last four years?

2 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Chair, a question.

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Let me see if can figure
5 out how to phrase this to you. As far, you
6 mentioned the water discharge, water reuse --

7 DR. JAMISON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: -- that you are seeing a
9 percentage of water reuse with a certain amount of
10 evaporation instead of using new water, or looking
11 for new water, you are seeing a lot of zero
12 discharge reuse water in a lot of the models that
13 you seeing now?

14 DR. JAMISON: I can't say that we see a lot,
15 because I have not done much of a survey of what
16 the data centers are doing. I know there are a lot
17 that just took -- have to taken water for granted,
18 and they use it and discharge it back into the
19 system and, you know, that doesn't help very much.

20 But there are some that are very conscious of
21 that, and there is -- I know Meta's had two
22 situations. El Paso is the most recent one, where
23 they have been very cognizant of what happens with
24 the water supply. And so we just want to highlight
25 that. That people can't think well about this and

1 do a good job with the water.

2 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Follow-up, Chair.

3 So the concern is certainly what is the
4 limiting factor? I mean, we are all concerned
5 about where the generation side is going to come
6 from, and what the fuel source will be for that?
7 But what is the most limiting factor of the data
8 centers? Can it eventually be water use? Raw
9 water use or recycled water use with zero discharge
10 would make much more sense if they have -- I mean,
11 they certainly have the capacity and the ability to
12 do that, because the scarce resource of water in
13 Florida, that's a real limiting factor, especially
14 during drought seasons like we are having now.
15 That's the reason I mention it.

16 DR. JAMISON: Yes. And I think that's well
17 taken. I don't hear the data center people talking
18 about it very much. When they talk about it, they
19 say, well, gee, we need these GPUs and we need
20 electricity, and that's kind of where they stop --

21 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Where their focus is.

22 DR. JAMISON: -- but in some cases, the water
23 has to really be on their minds. I just -- they
24 don't talk about it a lot.

25 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anyone else?

2 Well, thank you, Mr. Jamison.

3 DR. JAMISON: All right.

4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I look forward to seeing you
5 next month. I am encouraged. I think -- I believe
6 we are all in attendance. It's a great conference.
7 It's Florida specific, which is really helpful for
8 us, you know, even if we go to the -- yeah, we
9 learn a lot from NARUC, but it's much more -- this
10 is much more concentrated on the work that we are
11 doing for the state.

12 I also am really interested in this
13 competition that you are talking about. I think
14 that is fantastic. I would love for us to even
15 just be bystanders to watch this. I think we could
16 maybe learn from your students about what their
17 responses are. So if we can -- we will follow up
18 with you about that if we can even be a part of it
19 in any way.

20 DR. JAMISON: I am trying to figure out how I
21 can take advantage of the talents you have here to
22 help the students out with that.

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And then, yeah -- and then we
24 could hopefully recruit some of your students if
25 any of them we are --

1 DR. JAMISON: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- we are always looking for
3 that, so, yeah.

4 DR. JAMISON: They would be glad to be
5 involved.

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Great. Well, thank you very
7 much.

8 DR. JAMISON: Well, thank you all very much.
9 I appreciate it.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. See you next
11 month.

12 All right. We are going to move to our
13 legislative update.

14 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Chairman. Good
15 morning, Commissioners.

16 We are now in week two of the 2026 legislative
17 session. I am tracking several bills, a few of
18 which I would like to highlight for you today.

19 To start, we are seeing, as we were just
20 discussing the data centers, quite a few policy
21 initiatives focused on the hyperscale data centers
22 here in Florida. Two of those bills I would like
23 to cover briefly.

24 Senate Bill 484, titled Data Centers, by
25 Senator Ávila establishes a statewide regulatory

1 framework for large load electric customers. The
2 bill directs the Commission to develop minimum
3 tariff and service requirements for customers with
4 50 megawatts or more of anticipated monthly peak
5 load at a single location. These requirements are
6 intended to ensure that large load customers pay
7 their own full cost of service, and that costs or
8 financial risk are not shifted to the general body
9 of ratepayers.

10 So I do think those are, like, the two areas
11 you are seeing resource protection and water
12 consumption landuse, and then protecting the
13 general body of ratepayers from shifting costs.

14 The bill requires the Commission to adopt
15 implementing rules by January 1st, 2027, with
16 utilities required to have compliant tariffs in
17 place by January 1st, 2028.

18 Earlier this week, the bill cleared its first
19 committee stop in Senate Regulated Industries.
20 It's now at Community Affairs.

21 The next one is House Bill 1007 titled
22 Hyperscale Data Centers by Representative
23 Griffitts. This legislation takes a broader
24 approach to hyperscale data centers which includes
25 two provisions that directly involve the

1 Commission.

2 First, the bill designates the Commission as
3 one of the reviewing agencies for local
4 comprehensive plans or plan amendments if they are
5 related to hyperscale data centers.

6 Second, the bill prohibits utilities from
7 recovering capital costs associated with the
8 construction of hyperscale data centers from
9 residential or commercial customers that do not
10 have comparable energy usage. House Bill 1007 is
11 currently at its first committee stop in the House
12 State Affairs.

13 And now I will just go ahead and run through
14 some of the other bills I am tracking. I will just
15 give you a high level snapshot.

16 We have the Senate Bill 1696 and House Bill
17 1461 both titled Advanced Nuclear Reactors, filed
18 by Senator McClain and Representative Miller.

19 These bills grant the Commission sole
20 authority to regulate advanced nuclear reactors in
21 Florida. The Commission would be responsible for
22 evaluation and approval of advanced nuclear reactor
23 designs, permitting related to nuclear materials,
24 and establishing safety and construction standards
25 and the certification of reactor construction and

1 significant design modifications.

2 Both of these bills are currently at their
3 first committee stop, and staff is working on a
4 staff analysis. So they are diving deep into this
5 policy, which I will provide your offices once
6 that's complete.

7 Next, we have Senate Bill 1482 and House Bill
8 1145, Electric Utility Ten-Year Site Plans. These
9 bills revise the electric utility ten-year site
10 plan statute.

11 The legislation requires the Commission to
12 issue a final order approving with amendments or
13 rejecting each ten-year site plan within a
14 specified timeframe, replacing the current suitable
15 or unsuitable classification approach.

16 So the bill would require public hearings for
17 plans filed by the public utilities, establish
18 procedures for intervention and prohibit utilities
19 from seeking power plant site certification for
20 facilities not included in an approved ten-year
21 site plan. Staff is also working on a bill
22 analysis for this legislation as well.

23 Next up Senate Bill 1532, titled Florida
24 Public Service Commission by Senator Smith. This
25 bill requires utilities to conduct in-person public

1 service hearings and disclose executive
2 compensation information, prohibits recovery of
3 certain categories of costs from ratepayers, and
4 authorizes the Commission to order refunds and
5 assess penalties for improper recovery. It
6 requires the Commission to ensure that utilities'
7 authorized ROE does not exceed the national average
8 to comparable utilities, and revises fuel and
9 electric supply costs recovery mechanisms to
10 require cost sharing between utilities and
11 consumers. The bill direct -- also directs the
12 Commission to adopt performance-based regulatory
13 rules linking utility ROE to specified performance
14 metrics.

15 The bill is in its first committee stop in
16 Regulated Industries, and staff is also working on
17 an analysis for this bill.

18 And then just quickly, two of the previous
19 bills I have been covering and monitoring, just a
20 quick update on those. Senate Bill 126, House Bill
21 187, titled Public Service Commission by Senator
22 Gaetz and Representative Andrade. These bills
23 expand the Commission from five to seven members,
24 requires certain negotiations with the Public
25 Counsel, and modifies procedures to rate, ROE and

1 settlement approvals.

2 And then Senate Bill 200 and House Bill 196 by
3 Senator Bradley and Representative Boyles, titled
4 Utilities, expands regulation for solar facilities
5 and updates storm protection plan requirements.

6 Both of these bills have cleared their first
7 committee stop in the Senate, and are in their
8 first committee in the House. So I will continue
9 to update as those develop.

10 And then finally are committee bills, Senate
11 Bill 7006, House Bill 7009 are related to the open
12 government sunset review. This removes the
13 scheduled repeal of the public meeting exemption
14 for certain commission hearings on proprietary
15 confidential business information.

16 Both of those bills are currently in the final
17 stop, so they are moving quickly. So those look
18 good.

19 And that concludes my update. I am happy to
20 answer any questions. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Frank. I
22 think it's clear you have been putting in a lot of
23 work. There is a lot of -- a lot going on downtown
24 that could potentially impact our agency, so we
25 appreciate you following this.

1 Commissioners, do you have any questions for
2 David?

3 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: You said Senator Smith.
4 Which Smith? Is that C. Smith?

5 MR. FRANK: Guillermo Smith? Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. FRANK: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I appreciate it. I
9 think just that -- it's obvious that both the work
10 that we do at the Commission is, you know, is on
11 the forefront both for, you know, in the
12 Legislature and Florida leadership obviously like
13 what we do even for the national conversation, and
14 so I will reiterate, you know, that we really -- we
15 are here, our -- us, as Commissioners, and our
16 staff are here to be a resource for Florida
17 leadership if they need -- any questions, anything
18 that we can do to provide information, we will
19 obviously -- those billing analysis I know are
20 extremely helpful, not only for us to understand
21 the impact, but obviously for those bill sponsors
22 and for those members who are looking at
23 potentially, you know, voting through on the
24 committees and stuff.

25 So if we can -- whatever we need to do to be

1 that resource, as far as answering those questions
2 and helping craft the most forward-thinking sort of
3 legislation. A lot of these -- a lot of these
4 issues are that, are very forward-thinking, and so
5 I appreciate the Legislature take taking this on
6 and we can, you know, whatever we can do to be that
7 support and be that expertise that -- the agency
8 expertise that they created, we are here for it.

9 So I appreciate you, Mr. Frank, and everything
10 that you are doing. We know you have a very busy
11 spring.

12 MR. FRANK: Of course. Thank you. It's an
13 exciting time.

14 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: You don't get a lot of
15 free time this time of year.

16 MR. FRANK: No.

17 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: It doesn't sound like
18 it.

19 MR. FRANK: But I enjoy it. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Good work.

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Good. Well, thank you.

22 MR. FRANK: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: General Counsel's report.

24 MS. HARPER: Thank you, Chairman Smith.

25 Just a reminder that we are staying busy over

1 here in the General Counsel's Office as well,
2 working very collaboratively with staff on --
3 recently on the FCG docket, CSWR, the large load
4 tariff that we have with Duke, multiple SARCs that
5 we have. So we are still staying busy this spring.

6 And I also wanted to, for the new
7 Commissioners, remind them that we are updating our
8 training materials and our educational courses
9 internally for staff, and so one of our
10 supervisors, Shaw Stiller, is also preparing a
11 discovery and hearing training. So if any of the
12 advisors want to go attend that. We are looking
13 forward to making this our spring education time,
14 and just sort of making sure our materials are
15 up-to-date and productive and useful.

16 Along those lines, another attorney in our
17 section, Major, has started his version of a book
18 club for lawyers, but it's actually going through
19 the digest of opinions and looking at PSC cases and
20 non-PSC cases, and sort of looking at the evolution
21 of our administrative law. And so he is meeting
22 with attorneys of Friday whoever wants to go. It's
23 not mandatory, and just talk about cases. So I am
24 encouraged to see them digging into some of our
25 history, and where we came from, and how we ended

1 up where we are today and our legal landscape.

2 And likewise, Susie has been working really
3 hard with helping us out with Energy Bar
4 Association. We have participation in the UF Law
5 School Conference next February. I am also
6 participating at PURC. And she has also been
7 helping coordinate a social event with the FSU Law
8 School in the spring. So kudos to her for working
9 really hard, and she really is enthusiastic and
10 enjoys actually doing this.

11 And so we are also hoping to recruit some fine
12 students that are interested in not even just
13 energy law, but in energy business, anything we do.
14 We have openings all over the Commission, and I
15 would like to share that with anybody that I meet
16 who is in college, or that's looking for a job.
17 And so we are looking forward to doing those events
18 as well, and maybe I will see you guys at PURC, or
19 any of those events.

20 And also we are having our EBA Southern
21 Chapter meeting in March in Atlanta, and
22 Commissioner Ortega is participating in that, so we
23 are very grateful for her participating in our
24 ethics panel, which is going to be a game show. So
25 if you can't attend in person, I will have to

1 record it for you, because she's going to probably
2 be -- she's going to be a good hostess. Hostess
3 with the mostest.

4 And other than that, that's -- you know, I am
5 available if you have any questions about anything
6 else that we are doing in the office. And if you
7 need anything from us, we are here. So that's the
8 end of my report.

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. That's -- book
10 club sounds so interesting. Thank you, Major, for
11 doing that. I remember when I was interning in
12 General Counsel's Office and, like, putting
13 together that digest, and it's -- I am really glad,
14 it, like, warms my heart to know that it's not just
15 sitting on a shelf, you know, like because that
16 was, like, basically my whole summer project. So
17 to know that I, like, whatever the month or two
18 that I was here that it's actually being used just
19 really makes me feel good. And it's really
20 helpful. I hope I will be able to say on one of
21 those, so I appreciate it. Yeah, thank you.

22 MS. HARPER: Thanks.

23 Executive Director's report.

24 MR. BAEZ: Thank you. Good morning, Madam
25 Chair and Commissioners. When Adria said book

1 club, I said, oh, and then she kept moving, oh,
2 but --

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's not Opra's, like, top --

4 MR. BAEZ: Well --

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's a little different.
6 Maybe, I don't know --

7 MR. BAEZ: It's spring. It's hopeful. But I
8 agree with you, it's an important window into the
9 past and the why the Commission, and I would join
10 in recommending participation and taking advantage
11 of it.

12 I have briefly just some numbers updating you
13 on our progress on the internship -- our internship
14 efforts, which I know that we put a lot of effort.
15 I want to give kudos to Kate Hamrick, who has taken
16 over the wrangling of the cats, so to speak, and is
17 doing a great job of providing our divisions with
18 opportunities as needed, right.

19 In the fourth quarter, so finishing up last
20 year, we had -- we actually had four interns
21 working at the Commission, and still have three, I
22 believe, are still with us, and the fourth was
23 actually hired on. So the purpose and the
24 opportunity that we have discussed, long discussed,
25 actually comes true, you know. So that's good

1 news. I won't embarrass the analyst with -- by
2 naming them, but, you know, they are doing well.
3 That's -- it's in -- that's in APA, actually.

4 From November 5th through the end of the year,
5 which is -- November 5th is roughly when the actual
6 website -- when our taking over the website and
7 kinds of doing our own advertisement a little bit
8 more independent from the known sources, known
9 resources, we had 197 applicants through the end of
10 the year, which is, as you can imagine, way more
11 than we could ever entertain. But obviously, it
12 shows up in being able to pick and have access to
13 really good candidates, so we are very excited
14 about that.

15 Since the new year, in just a couple of weeks,
16 we have had 30 new applications. Now, the results
17 will show soon enough, but I know that a few --
18 more and more divisions are having, as
19 circumstances arise, having more and more need, so
20 that's slowly on the increase as well, so I will
21 report back.

22 Looking into the future, our involvement in
23 the career fairs, there is two career fairs that we
24 are scheduled to be at. They are both local, at
25 FAMU and FSU, respectively. More details on the

1 dates to come. If anyone is interested, we can
2 pass on that information. They are scheduled for
3 mid-February for now, so dates to follow.

4 We are -- so, you know, our excitement
5 continues to grow. I think it's a healthy resource
6 for us, and it's thanks to you all's direction and
7 leadership on it, it's starting to become a real
8 thing for us, not just something that we did in
9 passing, so thank you for that.

10 Nothing else to report officially, but open
11 for questions if you have any.

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Questions?

13 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I do, if you don't mind.

14 Could you tell me again the number of
15 applicants for internships that we had in the last
16 bit of Chairman La Rosa's time.

17 MR. BAEZ: The -- well, it's really almost
18 only two months, right. So we clocked 197
19 applicants.

20 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: 197 applicants for
21 internships, and I just.

22 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: I appreciate you asking
23 that, because I -- because when you were saying
24 that, I kind of thought you were talking about job
25 openings.

1 MR. BAEZ: Oh, gosh no. I mean, that would --

2 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So we have a higher --

3 MR. BAEZ: There would be a dirge playing if
4 that was true. No -- yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So we have a higher
6 number of applicants. That's a great question.
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: You are welcome.

9 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: And you are as vested
10 as I am in this, right?

11 MR. BAEZ: We all are.

12 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: No. No. No. Right.

13 MR. BAEZ: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So we have a higher
15 number of appli -- of student applicants for
16 interns than we do applications for employment?

17 MR. BAEZ: I -- yeah, I think that's I
18 don't -- have the --

19 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: No. No. No --

20 MR. BAEZ: -- official number of applicants --

21 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: -- but just off the
22 cuff?

23 MR. BAEZ: Yeah --

24 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Oaky.

25 MR. BAEZ: -- head to head. Now, you know,

1 you can imagine applications for internships come
2 with, you know, semester strings --

3 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Yeah.

4 MR. BAEZ: -- and so forth, so it's kind of --
5 it gets kind of messy once you start breaking them
6 down in terms of timing, but I think the raw number
7 is fabulous. And to be fair, or to be honest, it's
8 really just about -- it's more a testament to how
9 we are better accessing the public networks where
10 these things, you know, are present and providing
11 the access to the students in terms of the
12 information, that there are -- there is
13 availability, and the agency is interested. So
14 just on that alone, the number is spectacular
15 really. I was -- I was -- I didn't know how many
16 that was.

17 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: I am blown away right
18 now, so yeah.

19 MR. BAEZ: Yeah, it's pretty good.

20 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: If I could just follow
21 up. I would love to hear more about the number
22 that we have that applied, and the process in which
23 they become interns off-line, not today, but in a
24 separate.

25 MR. BAEZ: We would be happy to visit with

1 you --

2 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yeah.

3 MR. BAEZ: -- and kind of walk you through
4 that. There is no -- I am warning you, you will be
5 underwhelmed. It's not -- there is no real great
6 science. It's pretty intuitive, obviously, but I
7 would be happy to sit and walk you through how
8 that's working out.

9 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And then just to --

10 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: In addition to the
11 schools, too.

12 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: In addition to the
13 schools, but then also -- and I think, to your
14 point maybe, is how are we taking that group and
15 maybe seeing if they are qualified or they meet
16 some of the qualifications for our vacancies?

17 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: It sounds like we have
18 one right now.

19 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Sounds like we have one.

20 MR. BAEZ: Well, one trans -- yeah, one
21 transition to, you know, one out of four that were
22 actually onboard. Remember, we are working with
23 limited -- we do have limited --

24 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Of course.

25 MR. BAEZ: -- availability. The massive

1 applications, right, the impressive number of
2 applications notwithstanding, you know, it allows
3 us to be selective, and that's -- I remember a wise
4 Commissioner mentioning, the Harvard of internship
5 program, so, you know, that sort of bears out in
6 numbers, you know, so --

7 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Well, I am really
8 excited to see how you are going to take it and
9 run, because I bet that you will take it and we
10 will have all of our vacancies filled.

11 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: No pressure.

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, thanks a lot.

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Setting the bar.

14 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Back to you.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, I am encouraged by just
16 the application number.

17 MR. BAEZ: Yeah.

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I mean, if anything, it's
19 puttings our agency on the map, and it's -- I think
20 it demonstrates that there is a real interest in
21 the work that we are doing. And, frankly, with --
22 when you combine that with these -- the bills that
23 we are seeing now in the Legislature, the potential
24 impact that that might have to our agency and what
25 that might do for our recruiting needs, but it

1 also, our topic areas that, I mean, Mr. Jamison
2 alluded to, that there are students that are
3 studying these things as far as data centers, and
4 so these are things that we are going to be -- that
5 obviously we are looking at and we are going to be
6 regulating more -- potentially regulating more
7 depending on how things go. So I think we are
8 going to see a lot more interest in these students
9 who want to get involved. And looking around, if I
10 work for the State, great benefits. Well, this is
11 the agency to go to to do that. So I am encouraged
12 by it, and I think we are -- that's a good sign. I
13 think we are just going to see more.

14 MR. BAEZ: It is a good sign.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

16 MR. BAEZ: It is a good sign, and I am
17 certainly excited about it, because the confluence,
18 as you say, the issues now all of a sudden are
19 matching the interest, and so it poses -- it poses
20 interesting, I don't want to say problems, but they
21 are good problems to kind of have, you know.

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, these are engaged in
23 the interested students --

24 MR. BAEZ: Yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And so those are exactly --

1 MR. BAEZ: Nothing better than that.

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- the type of people we are
3 looking, so, yeah, exactly.

4 Well, thank you. Thanks for that positive
5 report.

6 MR. BAEZ: Nothing but good news today.

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Yeah. Exactly.

8 Commissioners, do you have anything to add?

9 I have one last thing then -- oh, okay. I am
10 going to pass these out for you guys.

11 So I start -- fo -- as Chair, I am -- oh,
12 yeah -- okay, good. I am launching a new challenge
13 coin initiative to personally recognize PSC
14 employees who go above and beyond in service to
15 this agency and the people of Florida. So distinct
16 from the existing recognition programs, these coins
17 will be awarded directly from my office.

18 Throughout the years, we have acknowledged
19 exceptional dedication, professionalism and
20 commitment to public service. Each coin bearing
21 the state seal of Florida, serves as a tangible
22 symbol of appreciation respect for employees whose
23 efforts significantly amplify the highest standards
24 of the Florida Public Service Commission.

25 So we have -- David's office made this great

1 little video so you can see that this is what our
2 -- the front side. And it really is, if you look
3 at it, the colors are super vibrant. It's almost
4 hard to even get it on the picture. And then the
5 other side will be our seal of Florida.

6 This is just something that I know that they
7 do -- a lot of Senators do it, give out in their
8 offices, and so I just wanted something that -- you
9 know, I know we have, obviously, the Employee of
10 the Month, and that's an exceptional award. But
11 this is just something that will come directly from
12 my office for things that I just had noticed in the
13 last couple of years just certainly employees, I
14 was just like, they are -- it's amazing what they
15 are doing, but because of rotation or whatever, it
16 wasn't their time to be recognized, or -- and I was
17 like, we just -- I know it's a small symbol, but I
18 hope it means something to you if you get one.

19 There are a finite number, so, you know, it
20 won't be like everyone is going to have one. And
21 it's just, like, a little something that we wanted
22 to be able to do. So hopefully you get to see them
23 soon, and all of our Commissioners have one, so you
24 get one for showing up, so yeah -- no, you guys --
25 but anyways, so that's all I have.

1 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: What a great idea. They
2 are so beautiful, and what a fantastic idea.

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. Yeah. I mean,
4 it's like -- I get it from when you were Chair and
5 all these, like, just fun things. Like I said --
6 like, last year, when you were -- like at the
7 December, and you are passing out these little tiny
8 trophies. I was like, man, you got --

9 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: You got to work hard
10 for those trophies.

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I know. I mean, really
12 impressive ornaments that we saw, so exactly. So
13 this will be more like, you know, work specifically
14 related, but that can hit all facets of just being
15 a team player, or, you know, just whatever it is
16 going above and beyond, so anyway, I really --

17 Well, with that, any other business? I guess
18 that concludes our meeting for today then. Thank
19 you.

20 (Proceedings concluded.)

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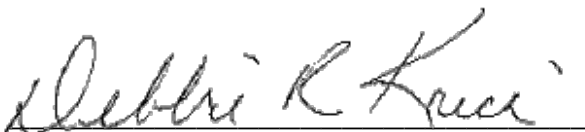
STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2026.



DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028