

UTC Connection

2018 Edition - January



Utilities
Technology
Council™

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Member News

NETWORKS

UTC'S CONNECTED COMMUNITY

When is the last time you utilized your UTC NetWorks Community? The most recent topic submitted for utility members is **Remote Monitory of Telecom Battery Systems**. [Check it out!](#)

Questions about using NetWorks? Contact membership@utc.org for assistance!

RECONNECT!

PLUG BACK IN TO YOUR
NetWorks!

MAKE **2018** YOUR TIME
TO NetWork!

KEEP YOUR UTC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

Have you renewed your membership?

If you are listed as the primary contact in UTC's database (to update your primary contact, please email membership@utc.org), [view, print or pay your membership online](#). Membership notices detail 15 months of membership instead of 12 months to accommodate the move from fiscal year to calendar year. Beginning in calendar year 2019 and thereafter, invoices will be on 12-month, calendar-year basis. Given that most of our members operate on calendar-year budgets; our hope is that this change will be a helpful one. If you have any questions, please contact Karnel Thomas or Tiffany Bennett at membership@utc.org.

Need to update the contacts for your company? Please contact us to add or remove individuals that are no longer with your company. Please send the first name and last name to membership@utc.org. If you need to make any changes to your existing information, please do so in the Account Profile section after logging into your [UTC Account](#).

New Year, New Meetings!

Event Schedule 2018

Utility Technology Forum: Regions 8-9-10 | RENO

Silver Legacy Resort Casino

02/04/2018 – 02/07/2018

Utilities Broadband Workshop | New Orleans

Hyatt Centric French Quarter

02/20/2018 – 02/21/2018

UTC Region 7 Meeting | New Orleans

Hyatt Place New Orleans Convention Center

02/22/2018 – 02/23/2018

UtiliSite Fiber Summit | Jacksonville

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront

03/05/2018 – 03/08/2018

Region 3 Spring Meeting & Expo | Jacksonville

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront

03/07/2018 – 03/08/2018

If you have any problems registering, please contact meetings@utc.org.

For vendor partners interested in exhibiting or sponsoring, please see the information for each meeting or contact [Cheryl Stratos](#).



Palm Springs, May 7 – 11, 2018

Don't miss out on The Oasis of Utility Education and Training and REGISTER today!



"Okay, well, remember I live in the D.C.-metropolitan area, not Minnesota like our esteemed Chairwoman Kathy Nelson, and we are experiencing some icy temps here as well as excessive wind, but the snow is to a minimum. So it might be blizzard with a lower-case 'b.'

Nonetheless, it is cold. And, to add to the cold weather, I also have a cold. Not the most inspiring way to start the new year, but...that sounds real whiny and not how I typically approach things...so, I will move on to warmer thoughts..."

Take a moment to read our CEO's blog from January 4, 2018. It gives great insight and information on the upcoming events in 2018 and their WARMER destinations!

[The Bottom Line – Musings from the CEO](#) Follow Joy on Twitter [@JoyDitto](#)

UTC Member Advocacy & Policy Update

ICYMI

- On December 28, UTC filed comments on the FCC's proposed changes to the existing 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service rules. The FCC in October proposed changes to the existing 3.5 GHz rules which were approved in 2015. In particular, the FCC sought comment on whether it should increase the size and terms of priority access licenses (PALs) within the 3.5 GHz band (GN Docket No. 17-258). In its [comments](#), UTC argued against such changes, stating that doing so will negatively impact utilities already operating mission-critical services in the band. Extending the terms of the licenses to 10 years and expanding their geographic size may make it difficult for smaller entities—including utilities—from acquiring a PAL in an auction. Additionally, they may be forced to acquire licenses that are too large or too long for their needs, UTC said.
- In November, U.S. Senators Thune (R-SD) and Schatz (D-HI) released a discussion draft of potential legislation meant to "speed the deployment of 5G." UTC has led a coalition of utilities and trade associations in meetings with U.S. Senate staff to explain utilities' concerns with the proposal. Those meetings will continue over the next few months as the Senate Commerce Committee continues discussing next steps. UTC has a number of concerns with the current version of the Thune-Schatz as drafted. So far, we have met with staff for Senator Moran (R-KS), Senator Johnson (R-WI), Senator

Capito (R-WV), Senator Daines (R-MT), and Senator Gardner (R-CO). Details about these meetings will be shared during the monthly PPD call, scheduled for January 18 at 2:00 PM Eastern.

- A few weeks ago, UTC requested members to submit ideas for policy resolutions that will be considered at the annual conference to be held in May 2018. This will mark the first time UTC pursues policy positions through the resolution process as approved by the UTC Board in its December 2017 meeting. Under the process approved by the Board, UTC staff will send the solicitation in November of each year; however, because the Board only took action last month, the solicitation for resolutions to be considered at the 2018 Telecom & Technology conference was sent in January. Resolution ideas must be submitted by UTC core utility members and must be received no later than January 31, 2018.

This Month

- On January 9, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing "DOE Modernization: Advancing DOE's Mission for National, Economic, and Energy Security of the United States." The hearing begins a series "in which members will explore what is necessary to ensure effective execution of the DOE's core national, economic and energy security mission." The Subcommittee will be hearing from numerous DOE officials and others.
- Comments on the FCC's notice of proposed rulemaking pertaining to pole attachments and the IP transition on are due on January 17. UTC will be filing comments and held a conference call to discuss our positions on January 9, 2018.
- UTC's PPD's monthly conference call will be held January 18, 2018, at 2:00 PM Eastern.
- On January 18, UTC's Board of Directors Chairwoman, Kathy Nelson, spoke at the U.S. Energy Association's (USEA) annual [State of the Energy Industry Forum](#). The annual forum brings together leading executives from the most influential and active energy trade associations to present their views, exchange ideas and engage in dialogue on major cross cutting issues facing the energy industry for the year. It was a tremendous opportunity to introduce UTC to this audience and highlight our key issues.
- UTC staff will be joining over 13,000 industry stakeholders at DistribuTech 2018. The 15-track conference "brings industry thought leaders from all over the world opportunities to network, share knowledge and problem solve with worldwide utilities and product and service providers. At its next Open Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Meeting on January 30, 2018, the FCC will consider a [Public Notice](#) establishing procedures for the Connect America Fund Phase II auction, which will award up to \$1.98 billion over 10 years to service providers that commit to offer voice and broadband services to fixed locations in unserved high-cost areas. (AU Docket No. 17-182; WC Docket No. 10-90). The draft [Public Notice](#) indicates that the CAFII auction will be scheduled for July 24, 2018 and the deadline for submitting short form applications to participate in the auction will be March 30, 2018. **This is big news for UTC and its utility members!**
<http://https://www.fcc.gov/document/proposal-finalizing-bidding-process-connect-america-fund-auction>

Committee Meetings and Information

The latest information on UTC leadership and staff contacts can be found [HERE](#). Brief descriptions of the committees/divisions/councils are below, and we encourage you to participate and get involved!

IT/OT

Facilitates the advancement of UTC's member intelligence across all utility types and strengthens the direction of IT/OT products and solutions.

Next Call: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 @ 1 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Bob Lockhart](#)

Knowledge and Learning

Provides strategic support to ensure focus, direction and support to the various Divisions/Committees within UTC. The goal is the creation and dissemination of clear, concise communication of UTC's experience and industry intelligence across all critical infrastructure types.

Next Call: Friday, February 9, 2018 @ 11 AM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Bobbi Harris](#)

Serves as a core resource for recruiting and renewing UTC members. The Division has developed a membership engagement strategy and plan along with encouraging existing members who are excited and interested in promoting membership in UTC to engage in a peer-to-peer 2018 recruitment and retention. campaign.

Membership Division

Next Call: Friday, February 16, 2018 @ 11 AM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Tiffany Bennett](#)

Set up to establish, review and execute a compelling program of work that supports and advances UTC's issues and policy positions with legislators, regulators and utilities, including UTC members.

Public Policy Division

Next Call: Thursday, February 15, 2018 @ 2 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Sharla Artz](#)

Regional Council

Represents the membership of our 10 U.S. Regions. The UTC Regional Council strives to support and align with the overall mission and vision of the UTC organization, consistently throughout our regions.

Next Call: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 2 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Karnel Thomas](#)

Security, Risk, and Compliance Committee

UTC core member-only body, which is used to facilitate a member driven conversation centered on industry issues which rest upon the pillars of cyber, physical, and human security, risk and compliance. Committee scope includes IT, OT, telecom, physical security, and any other systems that utilities deploy.

Next Call: Friday February 16, 2018 @ 2 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Sharla Artz](#)

A core resource for UTC staff, board of directors, committees and divisions around emerging technical topics which may span across multiple or previously unaddressed subject areas of existing committees. The division will guide questions and issues toward existing subject matter experts (SMEs) within the UTC organization and recruit new SMEs.

Technical Division

Next Call: Thursday, March 1, 2018 @ 1 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Bob Lockhart](#)

Focuses on specific industry related telecom issues, which may or may not include spectrum advocacy issues, technical reviews, or thought leadership through the development of white papers, presentations and webinars, etc.

Telecom Committee

Next Call: Thursday, February 15, 2018 @ 1 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Brett Kilbourne](#)



Role is to promote opportunities for utilities to provide broadband services and deploy broadband networks in rural unserved and underserved areas through legislative and regulatory advocacy and liaisons with other interested organizations.

Next Call: Tuesday, January 30 @ 3 PM EDT

[Staff Liaison: Brett Kilbourne](#)



Role is to provide thought leadership, advocacy with a unified industry voice, knowledge sharing, solutions development and educational opportunities for utility wireless collocation, joint use and fiber leasing.

Next Calls:

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 12 PM EDT

UtiliSite Joint Use call

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 12 PM EDT

UtiliSite Wireless Collection Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2018 @ 12 PM EDT

UtiliSite Fiber Programs

[Staff Liaison: Bobbi Harris](#)