



**Region 3 Spring 2023 Meeting  
Hilton Atlanta Northeast  
March 1-3, 2023**

**Wednesday, March 1st**

- 7:30 AM**                    **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**
- 8:30 AM**                    **CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS & Housekeeping notes**
- Speaker:**                    **Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair**
- 9:00 AM**                    **WELCOME MESSAGE & HOST UTILITY HIGHLIGHT**
- Speaker:**                    **Coy Trosclair, Director Telecom Services – Southern Company**
- 9:30 AM**                    **BREAK**
- 10:00 AM**                    **UTC Leadership Report & Federal Advocacy Update**
- 11:00 AM**                    **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM**                    **CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**
- Speaker:**                    **Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair**
- 1:15 PM**                    **UTC COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- Speakers:**                    **Present Committee Chairs or Delegates**
- 1:45 PM**                    **State of the Union Utility Presentations – 10 min each Utility**
- 2:15 PM**                    **Break**

**\*\*\*\*\* THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IS FOR UTC UTILITY MEMBERS ONLY \*\*\*\*\***

**2:30 PM**                    **REGION 3 BUSINESS MEETING**

**Call to Order**

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair

**Comments from UTC**

Sheryl Riggs, UTC CEO

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair

Dewey Day, UTC Chair



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**Review/Discuss future Region 3 meeting**

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair  
UTC Staff

**Treasurer's Report**

Shane Herring, Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer  
UTC Finance

**Old Business**

Michael Silvas, Region 3 Vice Chair  
Minutes from Region 3 Fall 2022 Meeting

**Confirmation of hosts for future meetings**

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair  
Fall 2023 – Currently working with University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
Spring 2024 – Call for venue, hosts, and dates  
Fall 2024 – Call for venue, hosts, and dates

**New Business**

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair  
Need to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer  
Call for Interest in Presenting/Training at Future Meetings  
Review Agenda format  
Announcements

**3:30 PM ADJOURN TO EXHIBIT HALL**

Please visit the Exhibit Hall hosted by our vendors between 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM. This is an outstanding opportunity to see the latest technology in our industry, plus network with peers and vendor partners.

**Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7:30 AM REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

**8:30 AM INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Speaker: Michael Silvas, Region 3 Vice Chair**

**8:45 AM Cybersecurity**



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**9:45 AM                      Avoiding Crispy Critters, Grounding & Bonding Overview for Telecom Sites**

This will be a high-level overview of grounding and bonding best practices used for telecom sites. References to industry standards will be included, as well as a case study of a problems encountered during a recent tower replacement and the remediation approach.

**Speaker:                      Tony Marshall, Telecom Power & Facilities Engineer - Duke Energy**

**10:45 AM                      BREAK**

**11:15 AM                      Cyber Presentation – ‘Spot the Robot’**

Southern Company (SoCo) has been conducting a pilot study of Spot, a quadruped robot made by Boston Dynamics (BD). The high-level goals of the pilot were to understand capabilities and limitations of the robot and demonstrate that it can navigate paths at a generating plant collecting data and performing inspections that are currently performed by humans. In this presentation we will discuss the use cases piloted, the limitations/challenges encountered, the data that was collected, and how AI was leveraged to turn that data into actionable information demonstrating possibility of a full cycle of automation from data collection to action. We will also have the robot on site and will present a demonstration of some of its capabilities.

**Speakers:                      Khanh Nguyen, Sr. Network Engineer, Southern Company Services  
Hengameh Pourfakhr, Innovation Program Manager, Southern Company Services**

**12:15 PM                      LUNCH**

**1:30 PM                      Benefits of long-haul underground fiber in transmission rights-of-way**

As network demands continue to grow, the need to run fiber to utility assets grows along with it. While optical ground wire (OPGW) has been used for years to provide fiber connectivity, leveraging existing utility transmission rights-of-way (ROW), there are some challenges. These include items like a limit on the fiber count, maintenance requiring transmission line outages, and exposure to weather elements — just to name a few. Utilities can choose to install underground fiber instead, avoiding many of these challenges while maintaining the benefits of staying out of the public ROW and in the transmission ROW. Today, there are new, innovative tools and technologies to accelerate fiber installation, moving from survey to in-service quicker.

**Objectives:**

- Learn about the challenges and differences when deploying fiber underground vs. overhead in transmission ROW.
- Learn about some of the innovative tools used to accelerate fiber deployments.



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- Discuss the importance of partnering with experienced design and construction entities for successful fiber deployments.

**Speakers:** Clay Phillips, Fiber Construction Project Manager - Burns & McDonnell  
Chad Segal, PE, Atlanta Telecommunications Department Manager - Burns & McDonnell

**2:30 PM** BREAK

**3:00 PM** SDN/SD-WAN

**4:00 PM** The evolution of Line Protection with IEC 61850 and MPLS

Line protection has always been a challenge due the restrictions that communication between terminals impose. With the evolution of technology, it has allowed protection engineers to deploy more efficient protection functions and schemes, increasing power system reliability.

This presentation will discuss the evolution of protection, reminding of first protection schemes based only in distance protection, its evolution with first telecommunication schemes and differential protection. With the large-scale installation of TDM, SONET, SDH and later MPLS, the capacity to use line protection relays was enhanced significantly.

As the relay-to-relay communication still relies heavily on serial communication, such as G/703 and C37.94, one can imagine where do we go from here? The answer, just like MPLS and packet-based communication have become the answer for telecom backbone within utilities, ethernet communication and IEC 61850 will do the same for line protection relays.

We will introduce how GOOSE and Sampled Values can play a role in this next stage of line protection, and even how to have MPLS nodes integrate themselves with protection and control systems networks.

**Speaker:** Guilhermme Lisboa, Electrical Engineer - BELDEN

**5:00 PM** ROUND TABLE, CLOSING STATEMENTS & ADJOURN

**Speaker:** Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair

**5:30 PM** NETWORKING EVENT - Cocktail reception

**Friday, March 3rd**

**7:30 AM** BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES



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**8:30 AM**

**UTC Region 3 Members Meeting**

Sue Hoffman, Region 3 Chair

UTC Region 3 Meeting in Review

Discussion Regarding Next Meeting

Lessons Learned / "Pens Down" Roundtable/TARFU

Adjourn