



Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission **Safety Conference**

INNOVATION & INTEGRATION WITHOUT COMPROMISE



September 9–10, 2026



Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center
State College, PA

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – General Session



Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
7:30–8:30 AM	Breakfast & Networking	N/A	Deans Hall
8:30–8:35 AM	Introductions	Robert Horensky, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
8:35–8:45 AM	Opening Remarks	Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
8:45–9:30 AM	PHMSA Update, Cybersecurity, and Physical Security	Timothy Gaither, U.S. Department of Transportation	President's Hall 1–3
9:30–10:10 AM	Pipeline Impacts of Increased Electrical Transmission Loads (Reconductoring)	• Shane Finneran, DNV • Jim Warner, Consumers Energy	President's Hall 1–3
10:10–10:35 AM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
10:35–11:15 AM	Olfaction: Establishing Normality and Ensuring Safety	Dr. Richard L. Doty, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and Sensonics International	President's Hall 1–3
11:15 AM–12:00 PM	Cybersecurity Panel	• Mike Holko, PAPUC (Moderator) • Chris Allwein, PA CyberCom • Ashley Bleacher, Pennsylvania State Police • Daniel Eliot, U.S. Dept. of Commerce • Derek Mueller, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) • David Wood, U.S. DHS	President's Hall 1–3
12:00–1:15 PM	Lunch	N/A	President's Hall 1–3

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Breakout Session A: Pipeline Safety



Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
1:15–1:45 PM	Pipeline Safety Update	Robert Horensky, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
1:45–3:00 PM	Advancing Gas Safety Through Early Leak Detection and Response	• Dennis Jarnecke, GTI Energy • Rick J. Trieste, Consolidated Edison	President's Hall 1–3
3:00–3:30 PM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
3:30–4:00 PM	Supervisors – Findings and Best Practices	• Robert Biggard, PAPUC • Mike Chilek, PAPUC • Dave Kline, PAPUC • Terri Cooper Smith, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
4:00–4:30 PM	Pipeline Safety Inspectors – PHMSA TQ, Mentoring and OJT Training	• Israel Gray, PAPUC • Peter Michaelson, PAPUC • Nick Nagele, PAPUC • Andrea Nash, PAPUC • Don Ontko, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
4:30 PM	Adjourn	—	President's Hall 1–3

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Breakout Session B: Electric Safety



Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
1:15–2:00 PM	EDC Storm Response Best Practice Group	• John Van Zant, PAPUC (Moderator) • Lindsay Baxter, Duquesne Light Company • Nick Gray, PPL Electric Utilities • Clint McKinley, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
2:00–2:45 PM	PAPUC Audits: How It Works	• Evan Baker, PAPUC • Mike Flynn, PAPUC • Nathan Paul, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
2:45–3:15 PM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
3:15–3:45 PM	The PAPUC's Bureau of Consumer Services: Handling Informal Utility-Related Complaints from Across the Commonwealth	• Sasha Berrier, PAPUC • Tim Clark, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
3:45–4:15 PM	Legislative Update	J.J. Livingston, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
4:15 PM	Adjourn	—	President's Hall 4

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – General Session



Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
7:30–8:30 AM	Breakfast & Networking	N/A	Deans Hall
8:30–9:15 AM	Damage Prevention	• William Kiger, Pennsylvania One Call System • Erika Lee, Common Ground Alliance	President's Hall 1–3
9:15–10:00 AM	Fatigue as a Human Factors Safety Risk	Dr. Jaime Devine, Institutes for Behavior Resources, Inc.	President's Hall 1–3
10:00–10:30 AM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
10:30–11:15 AM	Emerging UAS Technologies for Utility Infrastructure	Jimmy Dempsey, Overlay Aerials, Inc.	President's Hall 1–3
11:15–11:50 AM	Connected in Crisis: Coordinating Utilities and Emergency Management	Molly Dougherty, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	President's Hall 1–3
11:50–12:00 PM	Closing Remarks/Adjourn	Robert Horensky, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3

Thank you to our 2026 PAPUC Safety Conference Vendors

ARM Group | Blood Hound Underground Utility Locating
Bob Scullion & Associates | Consolidated Pipe & Supply
Eastcom Associates | Ecotech Hydro Excavation, LLC
Energy Materials & Controls | Entech Engineering, Inc.
ENTRUST Solutions Group | GTI Energy | Heath Consultants
I3 Engineering and Consulting, LLC | IBR/SAFTE-FAST
Ionix Gas Technologies | ISCO Industries
Kerr Engineered Sales Company
Kiely Family of Companies | Liberty Coating Co.
Liberty Sales & Distribution
MasTec Professional Services | Miller Pipeline
Mueller Company-Gas Products Division
Mulcare Pipeline Solutions | Overlay Aerials
Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.
PPI Gas Distribution, Inc. | Precision Pipeline Solutions, LLC
Primera Engineers | Progressive Pipeline Management
PureAire Monitoring Systems
RETTEW | Robert F. Young, Esq., PC LLC
Sander Resources/Buxus | Sensonics International
Traffic Plan | Trident Solutions | USDI
USIC | Wright Traffic Control

Thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave their time and energy to make this year's PAPUC Safety Conference a success. This conference would not be possible without your commitment, and we are truly grateful for everything you do to support our organization.

