

From: Mclaughlin, Katherine
Sent: Thu, 3 Jul 2025 12:07:17 +0000
To: Adrienne Lotto; Jereza, Catherine; Bindewald III, Gilbert
Cc: Desmarie Waterhouse; Amy Thomas; Michael Coe
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Wildfire & 6 GHZ

Good morning all,

Thanks Adrienne.

New dates/times are below.

Katherine

7/28	2:00pm
7/29	3:00pm
7/30	1:00pm
7/31	11:00am

From: Adrienne Lotto <alotto@publicpower.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 6:44 AM
To: Mclaughlin, Katherine <katherine.mclaughlin@hq.doe.gov>; Jereza, Catherine <catherine.jereza@hq.doe.gov>; Bindewald III, Gilbert <gilbert.bindewald@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Desmarie Waterhouse <dwaterhouse@publicpower.org>; Amy Thomas <athomas@publicpower.org>; Michael Coe <mcoe@publicpower.org>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Wildfire & 6 GHZ

Thanks Katie. This is super helpful.

Katherine- I always love seeing your name on my screen 😊-

Can we look at a few dates the following week? It would be most appreciated.

Adrienne

Adrienne Lotto
SVP Grid Security, Technical & Operations



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From: Mclaughlin, Katherine <katherine.mclaughlin@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:28 PM
To: Jereza, Catherine <catherine.jereza@hq.doe.gov>; Adrienne Lotto <alotto@publicpower.org>; Bindewald III, Gilbert <gilbert.bindewald@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Desmarie Waterhouse <dwaterhouse@publicpower.org>; Amy Thomas <athomas@publicpower.org>; Michael Coe <mcoe@publicpower.org>
Subject: [External] RE: Wildfire & 6 GHZ

Hi Adrienne,

Availability for Katie and Gil is below. Let me know if any of the dates/times will be available for you and your team. I can send an invite for a meeting at DOE. If needed, I can also look at the following week.

Thanks,
Katherine

7/23	1:00pm
7/24	10:00am
7/25	2:30pm

From: Jereza, Catherine <catherine.jereza@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:17 PM
To: Adrienne Lotto <alotto@publicpower.org>; Bindewald III, Gilbert <gilbert.bindewald@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Desmarie Waterhouse <dwaterhouse@publicpower.org>; Amy Thomas <athomas@publicpower.org>; Michael Coe <mcoe@publicpower.org>; Mclaughlin, Katherine <katherine.mclaughlin@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: Wildfire & 6 GHZ

Hi Adrienne - It was great to see you too! I've copied Katherine who can help schedule for week of 7/21.

As I mentioned during the ESCC meeting, I'm the DOE representative on the interagency committee to deliver on EO 14308 (Empowering Commonsense wildfire Prevention and Response) by Sept 10. I've summarized the 3 areas I'll be engaged in:

1. Sec 4d (primary role) to consider a rulemaking on best practices to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition from the BPS without increasing costs to consumers
2. Sec 4e (inform) on review of pending and proposed wildfire related litigation involving electrical utility companies
3. Sec 3bi (inform) to develop a technology roadmap to increase wildfire firefighting capabilities and identify wildland fire ignitions

My first committee meeting will be held on Mon 7/7 so the timing for us to meet later in July will work well. I will keep you informed as I learn more.

As for the spectrum discussion, I've been trying to keep up with the White House Spectrum Strategy and it's impacts across the sector, including the PMAs. Happy to hear more about APPA's concerns, and Gil will have to be the one to talk about OE's work.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great Independence Day!

Katie

Catherine (Katie) Jereza
Sr. Advisor, Undersecretary for Infrastructure

From: Adrienne Lotto <alotto@publicpower.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 5:54 AM
To: Jereza, Catherine <catherine.jereza@hq.doe.gov>; Bindewald III, Gilbert <gilbert.bindewald@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Desmarie Waterhouse <dwaterhouse@publicpower.org>; Amy Thomas <athomas@publicpower.org>; Michael Coe <mcoe@publicpower.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wildfire & 6 GHZ

Katie and Gil,

It was so nice seeing you both last week at the ESCC meeting. APPA was hoping to set up a brief meeting with you both to discuss 2 issues:

1. **Wildfire Executive Order:** As you know, the risk of wildfire remains a top concern for our members, and we would like to have a discussion on how best to help with the implementation on the wildfire EO; and
2. **6 GHz:** APPA would encourage DOE's Office of Electricity to examine the language in section 002 of the Senate Commerce Committee's mark for the Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, which would allow for the auctioning of spectrum in the 6 GHz band. This band is used by electric utilities for critical communications using microwave networks. **These networks are critical for system reliability and support real-time operations, including supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems used to monitor and control generating units, transmission lines, and substation equipment.** They are also used for system protection and voice communications between utility personnel in the field during natural disasters and other emergencies. Opening this band for commercial auction could lead to harmful interference to these critical networks and/or the possible forced movement of the electric sector out of this band. The House-passed reconciliation bill exempts the 6 GHz band from auction (section 43101 of H.R. 1), which we support.

DOE expressed concerns in 2019 to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration, on a proposal by the FCC to allow unlicensed operations in the band. The 6 GHz alert was presented at the September 2024 meeting of the NERC Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) meeting in this [packet](#).

We know it's a holiday week. Perhaps the week of 7/21 can work?

Thanks so much.
Adrienne

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