

### **Ashok Gupta - Senior Energy Economist, Natural Resources Defense Council**

Gupta works with his colleagues on energy efficiency, renewables, utility regulatory policy, sustainable building design, and transportation policy. He was NRDC's Director of the Air & Energy Program for almost ten years and also Director of Programs for almost three years. He has been with NRDC since 1991.

Mr. Gupta moved to the Kansas City area in September 2012 where he has been actively involved with Kansas City Missouri's City Energy Project on scaling up energy efficiency in large existing buildings as well as working with Blue Hills Community Services on an Efficiency for All initiative to expand efficiency in low-income multi-family buildings. He has also been an invited stakeholder in shaping the Missouri state energy plan and an expert witness in the recent Ameren energy efficiency proceeding before the Missouri Public Service Commission. He also works closely with Kansas City Power & Light on clean energy strategies.

Mr. Gupta has a bachelor's degree in physics and math from Georgetown University and a master's degree in economics from American University.

Mr. Gupta served as NRDC's representative on Mayor Bloomberg's Sustainability Advisory Board and Energy Policy Task Force. He received the US Green Building Council's 2007 Leadership Award for Advocacy, the Environmental Steward Award from Solar One in 2006, the Environmental Professional of the Year Award from the Association of Energy Engineers in 2003, and the Environmental Advocates' 2001 Advocate Award for leadership in support of clean air and energy.

Mr. Gupta also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies, Building Energy Exchange, PACE Now, Bridging the Gap, and Metropolitan Energy Center.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 2 million members and online activists.

### **Geoff Marke - Missouri Office of Public Counsel**

Marke is the lead electric and gas economist with the Missouri Office of Public Counsel, where he represents the interests of the public and utility customers in proceedings before the Missouri Public Service Commission and in appeals in the courts.

Marke is a member of the National Association of State Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) Distributed Energy Resources Committee which shares information and establishes policies regarding energy efficiency, renewable generation, and distributed generation, and considers best practices for the development of cost-effective programs that promote fairness and value for all consumers.

He is also a member of NASUCA's Electricity Committee that discusses current issues affecting residential electric consumers. Geoff received his doctorate from Saint Louis University in Public Policy Analysis and held policy positions previously with the Missouri Public Service Commission

and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Prior to working in the public sector Geoff was the Lead Researcher for the consulting firm Funston Advisory.

### **John B. Coffman – AARP**

Coffman is a St. Louis attorney who serves as a consultant and lobbyist for the AARP on utility issues.

The AARP has been active in rate cases involving investor-owned utilities in Missouri making appearances on cases involving Kansas City Power & Light and Ameren.

Coffman has 25 years of experience as a utility rate expert and attorney and routinely appears before the Missouri Public Service Commission. He also has appeared or participated in several other state public utility commission proceedings, including rate cases in Illinois, Georgia, Alabama, New Jersey, and North Dakota.

He previously served in the Missouri Office of Public Counsel which represents the public and the interests of utility customers in proceedings before the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) and in investor-owned electric, natural gas, telephone, water, sewer and steam heat utilities, including safety issues, adequate and quality service, complaints and disputes, connections and disconnections, and billing and collection practices. The Office of the Public Counsel is independent from the PSC and has a separate budget and staff.