



30 Years of the Roundtable: Electricity Restructuring and the Pursuit of Clean Energy in New England

Friday, December 5, 2025
Bios of Speakers/Moderators



Phil Giudice is the Board Chair for FirstLight which operates hydropower facilities in CT and MA. He is also an advisory board member for the Union of Concerned Scientists. Phil has worked in the energy field as a geologist, consultant, entrepreneur, executive, board director and official in state and federal roles. Most recently, he served as Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy during the startup of the Biden- Harris administration.

He also served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Undersecretary of Energy and Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources, as founding board member, Treasurer and Vice Chair for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), as board chair of the National Association of Energy Officials, the US DOE's State Energy Advisory Board, and EPA/USDOE's State Energy Efficiency Action Network. Phil worked at energy innovation startups in executive and board roles for Ambri, EnerNOC (now EnelX), as served as a board member of FirstFuel (now Uplight), and Nexus (now Aclara).

Phil holds an MS in geology from the University of Arizona and an MBA from Dartmouth.



Gordon van Welie is President and CEO of ISO New England, having previously served as Executive Vice President and as Chief Operating Officer. He joined ISO New England from Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution, where he served as Vice President and General Manager of the Power Systems Control Division and was responsible for managing information technology solutions for electric companies. Before coming to Siemens, Gordon held several positions at ESKOM, South Africa's electric utility based in Johannesburg.

Gordon is a member of several industry groups, including the National Academy of Engineering, the Executive Committee of the U. S. National Committee of CIGRE, the Member Representatives Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the ISO/RTO Council, and the IEEE Power & Engineering Society. He received a 2017 Utility Variable Generation Integration Achievement Award and a 2016 IEEE Power & Energy Society Leadership Award.

He holds a BS in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Rebecca L. Tepper is the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In this role, she successfully brokered a compromise to speed up clean energy siting and permitting practices, established new programs to protect communities from inland and coastal flooding, boosted investment in Massachusetts' climatetech and offshore wind industries, and significantly strengthened regional ties to advance New England's energy independence. Throughout these efforts, she's led with an environmental justice lens and a focus on lowering costs for Massachusetts residents and businesses.

Previously, Rebecca was the Chief of the Energy and Environment Bureau in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. She also served as General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and Director of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board. Before entering state government, Rebecca worked in the private sector as a Partner at Rubin and Rudman, LLP.

She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin/Madison and Boston University Law School.



Dr. Susan Tierney is an expert on economics, regulation, and environmental policy affecting the energy industries. At Analysis Group, she has consulted to a variety of clients including energy companies, state governments, environmental groups, foundations, grid operators, universities, Indian tribes, consumer groups, and others. Previously, she served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy, and in Massachusetts, she was the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Commissioner at the Department of Public Utilities, and director of the state's Energy Facilities Siting Council.

Sue serves on boards: the Barr Foundation, Resources for the Future, the Sloan Foundation, and the Coalition for Green Capital, and is a member of several National Academies' Committees.

Sue earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in regional planning at Cornell University and her B.A. at Scripps College. After 35 years in Massachusetts, she and her husband now live in the Chicago area.



Secretary Katie Dykes is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as the Commissioner of DEEP and was confirmed in February 2019. Katie previously served as Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and as Deputy Commissioner for Energy at DEEP. Katie also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI).

Katie joined CT DEEP in after prior service as Deputy General Counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and as a Legal Advisor to the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Katie is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School.



Dr. Jesse Jenkins is an Assistant Professor at Princeton University with a joint appointment in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Andlinger Center for Energy and Environment. He leads the Princeton ZERO Lab - the Zero Carbon Energy Systems Research and Optimization Laboratory -- which conducts research to improve decision-making to accelerate rapid, affordable, and effective transitions to net-zero carbon energy systems. He is also affiliated with the Center for Policy Research in Energy and Environment at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and at the High Meadows Environment Institute. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral Environmental Fellow at the Harvard

Kennedy School and the Harvard Center for the Environment, and as a researcher at the MIT Energy Initiative, the Argonne National Laboratory, and at Renewable Northwest. He also served as Director of Energy and Climate Policy at the Breakthrough Institute.

Jesse holds a PhD in engineering systems and MS in technology and policy from MIT and a BS in computer science from the University of Oregon.



Sheri Givens is the President & CEO of Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). Prior to joining SEPA, she served as vice president of US policy and regulatory strategy at National Grid. Her professional experience includes over twenty years in legal, regulatory, legislative, and external affairs. Prior to joining National Grid, she consulted on utility consumer education and regulatory policy issues in energy markets nationwide.

Sheri is a former Governor-appointed Texas utility consumer advocate and served on the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates' Executive Committee. She has also served on the boards of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), Texas Reliability Entity, Northeast Clean Energy Council, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, and Association of Women in Energy. Earlier in her career she was an attorney for the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Legislature.

She earned a BA in government from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center.



Jamie Dickerson is Senior Director of Climate and Clean Energy Programs at Acadia Center. Jamie's work covers policies, programs, and initiatives to drive clean energy on the grid, advance efficient-electric buildings, spur modern transportation solutions, and promote economic prosperity, community resilience, and environmental justice across the region.

Jamie has extensive clean energy policy, strategy, and management experience in the region as well as strong stakeholder relationships in New England and New York. Most recently, he served as Chief of Staff at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), after previously holding positions as Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the President and CEO. Prior to NYSERDA, Jamie was Senior Policy Manager and Policy Analyst at the Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC, now ACT) where he helped lead legislative and regulatory activity on behalf of clean energy companies.

Jamie holds an A.B. in Government, cum laude from Harvard College.



Dr. Jonathan Raab has been the convener and moderator of the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since 1995. He also convened and moderated the *Energy Policy Roundtable in the PJM Footprint* from 2015-2020.

A national leader in applying consensus building processes to energy, environmental, and regulatory issues, some of his major cases include the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the New England Demand Response Initiative; RPS rules for Massachusetts and Rhode Island; the energy plan for Tennessee and market rules for Alberta; energy efficiency stakeholder processes in California, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; DG interconnection standards for Massachusetts; Grid Modernization frameworks in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island; and the multi-sector Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Plans for Maine, Rhode Island, and the City of Boston. He has also run stakeholder processes for U.S. DOE, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and U.S. EPA.

Jonathan assisted both PJM and MISO and their respective members in reforming their stakeholder processes. He was the Moderator of the Joint Federal (FERC) and State (NARUC) Task Force on Electric Transmission and served until recently as the Liaison between the PJM Members and the PJM Board on matters related to the Independent Market Monitor. Prior to establishing Raab Associates, Jonathan was the Assistant Director of the Electric Power Division at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.

Jonathan holds a Ph.D. from MIT, and an M.S. and A.B. from Stanford. He has taught courses at the University of Oregon, Stanford, UMass (Boston) and MIT, and is the author of *Using Consensus Building to Improve Utility Regulation*.



Janet Gail Besser is a nationally recognized energy policy and regulatory strategy expert, with experience as a regulator, clean energy business association leader, utility executive, developer, consultant, and consumer advocate. She has been moderating the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since the beginning of 2023. Prior to 2023, she led the Smart Electric Power Alliance's Regulatory and Business Innovation work as vice president. Previously, she was executive vice president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council; VP, Regulatory Strategy and Policy at National Grid; Chair and Commissioner of the MA DPU; and an executive and expert at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire PUC, was policy director for a national IPP association, and worked for a small hydro developer and low-income consumer advocate.

Janet is the recipient of the 2019 NECA Vanguard Award and the 2014 Northeast Women in Energy and the Environment Achievement Award. She recently chaired the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on the role of net metering in the evolving electricity system. She is the chair of the Power Options Board and serves on the VEIC Board, where she chairs the Impact and Evaluation Committee.

Janet has an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Williams College.



Carol Holahan is a partner in Foley Hoag's Energy & Cleantech practice. She advises large, competitive regional generators and other participants in the wholesale and retail competitive electricity markets on regional policy initiatives, changing environmental regulations, decommissioning and sale of plants, and matters pending before the FERC. In addition to concentrating on traditional fossil fuel generation, Carol's practice includes renewable energy resources such as large solar, storage, and biomass. She has significant experience in the NEPOOL stakeholder process, and with legal challenges to new or existing laws and regulations, environmental permitting, facility siting, and assessment or limitations of liability due to the sale or retirement of generating facilities.

Prior to joining Foley Hoag, Carol was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Dynegy, Inc. Before that, she served as Director of Government Affairs for the NEPGA, representing competitive power producers before state policy makers, regulators, and infrastructure siting boards. She also served as the Director of the Office of Legislative Services in New Hampshire. Carol earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk Law School, and her BS from Georgetown.



David O'Connor is Board Chair of E4TheFuture. He is the Founder and President of O'Connor Energy Consulting, where he helps energy companies and non-profit organizations define and shape clean energy public policies. He spent 14 years in the role of Senior Vice President for Energy & Clean Technology at ML Strategies, the government relations/business advisory affiliate of Mintz, Levin.

David served as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Energy Resources 1995-2007. While Commissioner, he led an historic transformation of the electricity marketplace to provide consumers with the ability to choose their electricity supplier and implemented inaugural standards for the use of renewable energy across the New England states. As part of the restructuring process, he also founded the energy policy discussion forum that would grow into the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable. David was a member of the Massachusetts team that negotiated the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first-ever multistate agreement to limit carbon emissions from power plants. He also served on the state Energy Facilities Siting Board 1995-2007.

Prior to his appointment as energy commissioner, David held leadership positions in the dispute resolution field, and was an adjunct professor of public policy at Tufts University. He currently serves as President of the Northeast Energy and Commerce Association. David holds degrees from Middlebury College and the Harvard Kennedy School.