



Modernizing Siting for a Decarbonized Future (#182)

Friday, June 14, 2024 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Bios of Speakers/Moderator



Gretchen Kershaw is the Senior Advisor on Transmission in the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office, Transmission Division. In this role, she advises on the full breadth of GDO's transmission-related activities, from commercial facilitation to transmission siting and permitting and enhanced transmission planning. Prior to this role, Gretchen spent over a decade at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, most recently as a Senior Legal Advisor focused on the agency's top priorities, including FERC's various rulemaking efforts on regional transmission planning and cost allocation and generator interconnection, as well as the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission.

Gretchen earned a JD from American University, and a BA from Wake Forest University.



Larry Susskind is Ford Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning at MIT where he has been teaching and directing applied research for more than 50 years. He is co-founder of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, where he now directs the MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program, serves as Vice Chair for Instruction, and leads PON's Master Classes in Negotiation. Larry is also the founder of the Consensus Building Institute, a Cambridge-based not-for-profit company that provides mediation services in complex resource management disputes around the world.

Larry is author or co-author of more than 20 books published in eight languages and editor of *The Public Interest Technologist*. His research interests focus on the theory and practice of negotiation and dispute resolution, the practice of public engagement in local decision-making, global environmental treaty-making, renewable energy policy, water equity in older American cities, climate change adaptation, socially responsible real estate development and the land claims of Indigenous Peoples.

Larry holds a BA from Columbia in English literature and sociology and a Ph.D. in urban planning from MIT.



Penni McLean-Conner is Executive Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Strategy. She is responsible for developing the strategy to provide Eversource's 4 million electric and gas customers with high-quality customer service, energy products and services, and electric and gas energy management tools and solutions. Penni is a recognized thought leader in the utility industry with over 30 years of experience implementing positive change. She is the author of three books on customer service and energy efficiency.

Penni holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from North Carolina State University and is a registered professional engineer. She is active on industry and community boards.



Rev. Mariama White-Hammond is the former Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston, where she oversaw policy and programs on energy, climate change, sustainability, historic preservation, and open space. As chief, Mariama supported the amendment of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance to set carbon targets for existing large buildings and convened a city-led youth green jobs program. She has extensive background in embedding equity and environmental justice into Boston's communities. Mariama was a fellow with the Green Justice Coalition, chair of the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund and the co-chair of RENEW New England. She is the founding pastor of New Roots AME Church in

Dorchester. She previously served for 13 years as executive director of Project HIP-HOP (Highways into the Past - History, Organizing and Power), a youth organization that uses the arts to educate on social justice topics.

Mariama earned an undergraduate degree from Stanford in international relations and a Master of Divinity from BU School of Theology.



Michael Judge is Undersecretary of Energy at the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Chair of the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting. Prior to his appointment, Mike served as Vice President for Policy at the Coalition for Community Solar Access, managing CCSA's Policy Team and leading its policy advocacy at both the federal level and across more than twenty states. Mike has served various roles in Massachusetts state government, including Director of Electric Power, Regional, and Federal Affairs at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. Prior to his time at the DPU, he spent almost a decade in various roles at MA DOER, including as Director of the Division of Renewable and Alternative Energy. He was

responsible for DOER's Renewable and Alternative Portfolio Standards and oversaw the development and implementation of other programs supporting clean energy and energy storage, such as the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Energy Target (SMART) Program.

Mike holds two bachelor's degrees from UMass Amherst.



Adam Chapdelaine is the executive director and CEO of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. Over the past 12 years, he has held the roles of MMA president, co-chair of the DEI Advisory Committee and member of the Fiscal Policy Committee and the Board of Directors. Immediately prior to becoming executive director of the MMA, Adam was deputy director of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. He began his career on Beacon Hill working for then-State Senator Joan Menard. After leaving the State House, he worked as Fall River's elections director, community services director, and finally, as its city administrator. He later served two years as Arlington's deputy town manager before becoming Arlington town manager. Adam is a past president of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and served on the Metro Mayors' Coalition, the

Commonwealth's Group Insurance Commission, and the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. He is a Town Meeting member representative in Dedham.

Adam earned his bachelor's degree in political science from UMass Dartmouth and his MBA at Suffolk.



Michelle Manion is Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Trained as an economist, she has worked for two decades in environmental policy development and management, most recently as lead senior economist at the Washington, D.C.-based World Resources Institute. Before that, she was a senior associate with Abt Associates, the respected Cambridge research and consulting firm. Her past work includes serving as a program analyst and economist at NESCAUM and as a senior associate at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Michelle was also a board member at the Biomass Energy Resource Center.

Michelle holds a BA from Bucknell and graduate degrees in Public Policy and in Natural Resources & Environment from the University of Michigan.



Jeremy McDiarmid is Managing Director and General Counsel at Advanced Energy United where he leads the organization's national Policy Council and oversees state and regional policy activities in New England. Prior to joining Advanced Energy United, Jeremy served as Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs at the Northeast Clean Energy Council, playing a key role in helping northeastern states take significant strides along the path to 100% clean energy. He has served in leadership roles at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the NGO advocacy organization Acadia Center.

Jeremy holds a BA from Syracuse University and JD from Boston College.



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 Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities; and an executive and expert at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 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 Northeast Energy and Commerce Association 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.