Bonnie A. Suchman | Suchman Law LLC

(202) 236-8859 | bonnie@suchmanlawllc.com

Professional Experience

Suchman Law LLC

2015 - Present

Represents clients on energy legislative, regulatory and policy matters, including issues relating to both pending legislation and to the implementation of new energy laws, as well as matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Assists clients in analyzing legislation, recommending changes to legislation, and preparing testimony. Assists clients in understanding federal and state energy regulatory requirements. Represents clients on issues such as transmission policy, renewable energy, cybersecurity, energy efficiency, and smart grid.

Troutman Sanders LLP Of Counsel

1999-2015

Led the firm's Energy Policy and Legislation team. Represented clients on a variety of electricity matters before Congress, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Administration. Advised clients on electricity matters at both the federal and state levels, including issues relating to Export Authorization and Presidential Permit Applications, reliability, clean coal technologies, energy efficiency, cyber security, renewable energy support, smart grid technologies, transmission access, and transmission construction. Served as U.S. counsel to the Canadian Electricity Association and counsel to the US Partnership for Renewable Energy Finance.

Major Accomplishments:

- Worked with US PREF members to develop white papers that served as support for extensions of the Production Tax Credit and the Investment Tax Credit.
- Assisted clients in successfully submitting applications for cross-border permits for electricity transmission facilities.
- Developed an energy efficiency investment tax credit proposal for an investor-owned utility client and a reverse auction proposal for a private equity firm. I worked with the respective clients to build support for such proposals with Congress and within industry.
- Assisted clients in submitting successful applications to the Department of Energy for smart grid funding under the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program.
- Helped to achieve consensus for the reliability legislation that was passed as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005).
- Engaged in negotiations on the drafting of the investment tax credit for advanced coal technologies that was passed as part of EPAct 2005 and lobbied the Treasury Department to interpret the legislation in a manner that would be favorable to a client in the implementation of the ITC.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel

Special Counsel for Electric Utility Restructuring Attorney-Advisor

1998-1999 1995-1998

Provided counsel and advice to various program offices with regard to electricity-related issues. Assisted the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy on renewable energy projects and the Fossil Energy Office on Export Authorizations and Presidential Permits. Worked with the Policy Office on all issues relating to the draft electricity legislation. Received an award from Secretary Federico Pena for work related to the drafting of the electricity legislation.

Major accomplishments:

- Worked on all aspects of the Administration's electricity legislation. Such work included drafting the legislation, participating in the interagency process and representing DOE on the North American Electric Reliability Organization's Government Interface Issues Task Group to develop the reliability legislation.
- Drafted a delegation order to FERC regarding open transmission access. This order delegated DOE authority to FERC to allow for open access transmission on cross-border facilities.
- Researched and drafted a memorandum concluding that Bonneville Power Administration had the authority to participate in a regional transmission organization. Such authority was ultimately clarified in EPAct 2005.

Law Office of Bonnie Suchman

1991-1995

Provided client support regarding various natural gas issues. General litigation.

Klein & Bagilio

1989-1991

Associate

General litigation support, including drafting pleadings and assisting in preparation for trial.

Edison Electric Institute

1988-1989

Senior Attorney

Focused on transmission-related issues. Provided legal support to other offices within EEI.

Webster & Fredrickson Associate

1983-1988

Served as outside counsel to the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. Advised the Commission regarding implementation of various federal mandates on state commissions under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. Assisted in the drafting of final Commission orders. Such representation included outreach to various industry stakeholders, providing recommendations on various policy and rate design matters, and assisting in Commission proceedings.

Education

The George Washington University Law School

J.D., 1983

Bard College

B.A. in Political Science, 1980

Presentations

- "Protecting Utilities from Liability for Cyber Incursions," EUCI Conference: Cybersecurity for Utilities. April 30, 2015.
- "Investing in System Resiliency and Hardening," Infocast 17th Annual Transmission Summit 2014, March 14, 2104.
- "The SAFETY Act: Challenges and Opportunities," EUCI Conference: Cybersecurity For Utilities, April 24, 2014.
- "Addressing Liability Issues for Electric Utilities," EUCI Cybersecurity for Utilities Conference, October 9, 2013.
- "Cybersecurity Regulation: What Liability Protection Provisions Are Necessary for the Electric Utility Industry," Troutman Sanders Webinar, April 15, 2013.
- "Renewable Energy Finance Market: Insights from US PREF Members," ACORE Member Day, December 6, 2011.
- "Cybersecurity and Reliability," Moderator, EUCI NERC Compliance 2.0: Ensuring Reliability of the Future Bulk Power System, May 12, 2011.
- "Impact of the Midterm Election on Energy Policy," EUCI Webinar, December 16, 2010.

"The Legislative and Regulatory Hammer: What We Should Expect from Congress and the Administration," American Public Power Association Pre-Rally Seminar, February 22, 2010.

"Impacts of Federal Legislation on Transmission," Moderator, Platts 2010 Transmission Planning & Development Forum, September 15, 2010.

"Hydro Support in the Recovery Act: An Overview of the Provisions," National Hydropower Association Annual Conference, April 26, 2010.

"Existing and Proposed Federal Electricity Mandates," Bonbright Center Electricity and Natural Gas Conference, October 8, 2009.

"Renewable Project Support at the Federal Level," Law Seminars International, September 9, 2009.

"Energy Financing Opportunities in the Stimulus and Bailout Acts," Stafford Webinar, May 7, 2009.

"Economic Stimulus Overview," ELFA Webinar, April 2, 2009.

"Greenhouse Gas Transactions: What are the Financial Opportunities? Who Will Come Out Ahead?" Law Seminars International, March 20, 2009.

"Impact of Reliability Standards on Transmission Investment," Infocast Transmission Project Development Rennaisance, October 16, 2008.

"Status of Action Items from EPAct 2005: Reliability Language," Infocast Reliability Summit, September 6, 2006.

"Hail to the Chief! The Impact of the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election on Canada-U.S. Energy Relations," Stikeman Elliott Energy Group Seminar, December 2, 2004.

"Policy Issues Relating to T&D Asset Management," Infocast Conference on Asset Management for Transmission and Distribution, May 12, 2004.

Publications and Client Alerts

Publication

"What the Energy Industry Can Expect from President Obama's Second Term and a New Congress," Cliff Sikora and Bonnie Suchman, American Bar Association Trends, March/April, 2013.

Client Alerts

"The President's Climate Action Plan and the Electricity Industry," Todd Coles, Peter Glaser, and Bonnie Suchman, June 26, 2013.

"The Executive Order on Cybersecurity and the Energy Industry," Bonnie Suchman, February 13, 2013.

"Congress Extends PTC for Wind and Other Renewable Technologies," Todd Coles and Bonnie Suchman, January 2, 2013.

"FERC Issues a NOPR Proposing Reliability Standards Addressing Potential Impacts of Solar Storms," Bonnie Suchman, October 22, 2012.

"House Passes Energy Bill with Climate Language," Peter Glaser and Bonnie Suchman, July 1, 2009.

"Secretary Salazar Pledges to Expedite Approval of Renewable Energy Projects and Transmission Projects on Public Lands," Todd Coles and Bonnie Suchman, May 7, 2009.

"Support for Energy in the Stimulus Package," Howard Cooper, Phillip Spector, and Bonnie Suchman, February 13, 2009.

"Congress Extends Renewable Tax Credits in Wall Street Rescue Bill," Phillip Spector and Bonnie Suchman, October 3, 2008.

"New Energy Bill Supports Renewable Fuels, Renewable Energy, and Smart Grids," Phillip Spector and Bonnie Suchman, December 20, 2007.

"Summary of the Energy Policy Act of 2005," Bonnie Suchman, July 29, 2005.

"Update on Energy Legislation," Bonnie Suchman and Joe Mandarino, October 22, 2004.