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An Important New Virtual Conference on

Siting and Permitting Electric Power Facilities

Regulatory structures and project review processes in Oregon and Washington

December 16 & 17, 2026

Live via Interactive Online Broadcast

Agenda—Day 1

9:00 Introduction & Overview

Jenna R. Mandell-Rice, Esq., *Program Co-Chair*
Van Ness Feldman ~ Seattle, WA
Karen M. McGaffey, Esq., *Program Co-Chair*
Ashurst Perkins Coie ~ Seattle, WA

9:15 Federal Agencies and Their Jurisdiction

Roles and scope of authority for the FERC, DOE, and BLM; National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors and their significance; developer reasons, strategic considerations, and tips for avoiding a federal nexus; prospects for federal permitting reform

Laura Smith Morton, Esq.
Ashurst Perkins Coie ~ Washington, DC

10:00 Oregon's Multi-Agency Approach to Review of Electric Energy Projects

Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) statutory authority; recent exemption of renewables from EFSC jurisdiction; Department of Energy coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality to ensure compliance with statewide planning goals

Sarah Esterson, *Senior Policy Advisor*
Oregon Department of Energy ~ Salem, OR

10:45 Break

11:00 Washington's Review Structure

Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC): Renewables specifically under EFSEC jurisdiction; Climate Commitment Act (CCA) considerations; EFSEC interplay with Washington's Electric Transmission Authority (WETA) and Department of Ecology

The Hon. Kurt Beckett, *Chair*
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Olympia, WA

Washington State Department of Ecology: Air and water quality permitting; SEPA environmental reviews; CCA GHG limit and carbon mitigation enforcement; interplay with Department of Commerce for clean energy project streamlining

Diane M. Butorac,
Clean Energy Coordination Section Manager
Department of Ecology ~ Olympia, WA

12:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:30 Tribal Nations as Sovereign Regulators, Essential Partners, and Co-Managers of Natural Resources

Tribes reviewing infrastructure projects as sovereigns: The role of treaty rights and circumstances where there are government to government consultation requirements at state and local levels

Andrew Fuller, Esq.
Ogden Murphy Wallace ~ Seattle, WA

Potential liability for damage to on and off reservation natural resources used by Tribes for cultural services; Tribal/state/federal co-management of regional natural resources

Connie Sue M. Martin, Esq.
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt ~ Seattle, WA

2:45 Break

3:00 State Legislative Activity

Recent proposals in Oregon and Washington and how the political dynamics played out; items we can expect to be on the agenda for the 2027 legislative sessions

Diane Brandt, *Policy & Legislative Affairs Director*
Renewable Northwest ~ Portland, OR

3:30 How Applicants Approach Environmental Impact Review

Utility perspective on effective strategies for passing muster on environmental reviews including mitigation of adverse impacts

Sara Leverette, Esq.,
Director Environmental Program Services
Puget Sound Energy ~ Bellevue, WA

4:15 Connecting Generating Projects to the Grid: The Process for Obtaining Access to BPA's Transmission Facilities

Interconnection through BPA Transmission Services; requests for new points of delivery under BPA's Line and Load Interconnection process; integration of connections to host utilities; agency initiatives to shorten the interconnection queue

Kevlyn D. Baker,
Manager of Customer Service Engineering
Bonneville Power Administration ~ Vancouver, WA

5:00 Adjourn Day 1

Agenda—Day 2

9:00 State Review of New Transmission Lines: The Challenge of Siting a Linear Project Across Multiple Jurisdictions

Oregon: Projects must address local comprehensive plans and land-use standards unless specific narrow legislative exceptions apply; private developers cannot exercise eminent domain without a certificate of convenience and necessity from the PUC

Jocelyn Pease, Esq.
McDowell Rackner Gibson ~ Portland, OR

Washington's Electric Transmission Authority streamlines state-level planning by coordinating with the Department of Commerce; if the developer selects the EFSEC pathway, state approval preempts local processes; all developers can exercise eminent domain

Heather Moline, *Senior Energy Policy Specialist*
Department of Commerce ~ Olympia, WA

10:30 Break

10:45 Siting and Permitting for Generation Projects

Oregon's permitting framework including local designation of Microgrid Zones for easier permitting, particularly for clean power facilities; use of third party contractors for local utility interconnection review; building code safety standard provisions

Erin L. Anderson, Esq.
Van Ness Feldman ~ Seattle, WA

Washington's framework including standardized electrical permitting; building structural permits; lead agency status for SEPA environmental review; coordinated pathway process for simultaneous state and local environmental review

Ryan C. Thomas, Esq.
Ashurst Perkins Coie ~ Bellevue, WA

12:15 Lunch (on our own)

1:30 Development of Better Local Permitting Frameworks and Effective Participation in Local Permitting Processes

Perspectives on ways to streamline processes, facilitate public engagement, and negotiate community settlement agreements; zoning exemptions and conditional uses; effectiveness of moratoriums; examples from around the region for what works well and not

Karen M. McGaffey, Esq.,
Program Co-Chair, Moderator
Angela Crowley-Koch, *Executive Director*
Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association ~ Portland, OR
Michelle Mercer, *Planning Manager*
Grant County ~ Ephrata, WA
Benjamin Otto, Esq., *State and Regional Policy Director*
NW Energy Coalition ~ Boise, ID

3:00 Evaluations and Adjourn

Who Should Attend

Attorneys; project developers; land use planners; real estate, land use, and environmental professionals; Tribal, city and county officials; and anyone else involved in siting and permitting of electric power facilities

About the Conference

Forecasts of unprecedented growth in electricity demand, facility retirements, and market and regulatory pressures favoring zero-carbon technologies combine to spur the development of electricity generation facilities and related infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. With this development comes the challenge of selecting appropriate sites, engaging with affected communities, and navigating complicated permitting processes.

Speakers will address key issues that arise during the development of electric generation, storage, and transmission facilities in the Pacific Northwest. You will hear from leading regulators and policymakers, as well as from those experienced in developing and permitting projects in the region.

Join us for this conference on the Siting and Permitting of Electric Power Facilities in the Northwest. Register soon to reserve your virtual seat.

~ Jenna R. Mandell-Rice, Esq. of Van Ness Feldman and
Karen M. McGaffey, Esq. of Ashurst Perkins Coie, Program Co-Chairs

Registration & Other Conference Information

Tuition: Regular tuition for this program is $995 with a group rate of $895 each for two or more registrants from the same firm. For government employees, we offer a special rate of $745. For Tribal members, public interest NGO's,

students, and people in their job for less than a year, our rate is $497.50. All rates include admission to all program sessions and course materials.

Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Contact our office for more information. Make checks payable to Law Seminars International.

As a value-added bonus, you will receive access to audio and video recordings of the program at no extra charge..

Substitution & Cancellation: You may substitute another person at any time. We will refund tuition, less a $50 cancellation fee, if we receive your cancellation by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2026. After that time, we will credit your tuition toward attendance at another program or the purchase of an audio or video replay.

Continuing Education Credit: Live credits: This program qualifies for 10.50 WA MCLE, 10.50 OR MCLE, 10.50 AICP land use planner, and 10.50 ABCEP environmental professional credits. Upon request, we will help you apply for CLE credits in other states and other types of credits.

Time Shift Your Content: Audio and video replay files, with course materials, are available for download or on a flash drive at the same price as live attendance. Files are available for downloading five business days after the program or from the date we receive payment. Flashdrive orders are sent via First Class mail within seven business days after the program or from the date we receive payment. The course materials alone are available for $100.

Faculty

Jenna R. Mandell-Rice, *Program Co-Chair*, is a partner at Van Ness Feldman and co-leader of the firm's Environmental, Land Use, Natural Resources and Real Estate practice. Her primary focus is on energy infrastructure (wind, solar, hydropower and transmission) and water infrastructure projects.

Karen M. McGaffey, *Program Co-Chair*, is Of Counsel to Ashurst Perkins Coie. She advises clients on the development and permitting of all types of energy facilities, including wind, solar, hydrogen, renewable fuels, natural gas power, cogeneration facilities, electricity storage, transmission lines, and pipelines.

Erin L. Anderson is a partner at Van Ness Feldman. She is a leader in the firm's Energy Transition practice and has significant experience representing independent power producers; fuel processing, handling and transport companies; and regulated utilities in site certification and environmental review.

Kevlyn D. Baker is Manager of Customer Service Engineering within Transmission Planning & Asset Management at the Bonneville Power Administration. She is responsible for leading, overseeing, and administering BPA's Customer Service Engineering programs, including the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) interconnection queues.

Phaedra Beckert is the Executive Director of the Washington Solar Industries Association. She leads the association's efforts to advance solar energy across the state through effective legislative advocacy and industry collaboration.

Diane Brandt is the Policy & Legislative Affairs Director for Renewable Northwest working on strategies to support our state and regional goals to decarbonize our electricity sector.

Diane M. Butorac is the Clean Energy Coordination Section Manager for the Department of Ecology. In this capacity, she works with the Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council to support Washington’s clean energy transition and increase transmission capacity.

Elijah Cetas is an Energy Analyst in the Policy Development and Litigation Support Department at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. He is tasked with implementing the Tribal Energy Vision for the Columbia Basin.

Angela Crowley-Koch is Executive Director of the Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA). She previously served as the Legislative Director for the Oregon Environmental Council and worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Jeff Merkley as part of his Blue Wave Project.

Sarah Esterson is a Senior Policy Advisor at Oregon Department of Energy where she manages a team responsible for permitting large-scale energy facilities and serves as a direct contact for projects overseen by the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). Her previous experience includes environmental consulting with AECOM and air-quality program and policy roles with public agencies in Colorado.

Andrew Fuller is a member of Ogden Murphy Wallace and focuses on issues at the intersection of federal Indian law and environmental regulation. He assists tribal governments in building and implementing environmental programs, protecting treaty-reserved resources, and asserting tribal sovereignty.

Sara Leverette is the Director of Environmental Program Services and Assistant General Counsel at Puget Sound Energy. She previously worked in private practice advising clients on permitting and litigation related to energy infrastructure.

Connie Sue M. Martin is a shareholder at Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt and leads the Indian Country and Alaska Native Corporations industry group. She is one of the country's most experienced practitioners of environmental Native American law and helps Indian Tribes and companies address a wide variety of issues including environmental contamination and restoration of injured natural resources.

Michelle Mercer is the Planning Manager for Grant County focusing on rural land use, agriculture, energy, and water policy. She also serves as President of the Washington State Association of County Regional Planning Directors (WSACRPD).

Heather Moline is a Senior Energy Policy Specialist for the Washington Department of Commerce focusing on electric transmission and distribution delivery systems. She previously served as an Energy Policy Advisor at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission where here work included demand-side and delivery systems and virtual power plants.

Laura Smith Morton is a partner at Ashurst Perkins Coie. She previously held senior positions at the DOE, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget, where she led interagency efforts to streamline federal permitting for large infrastructure projects.

Benjamin Otto is the State and Regional Policy Director for the Northwest Energy Coalition. He leads the Coalition's work across Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to maintain and grow an affordable, reliable, and clean energy system.

Jocelyn Pease is a partner at McDowell Rackner Gibson focusing on energy and environmental law. She has represented utilities in state permitting for large projects including a 500-kV transmission line, supporting and defending requests for amendments to a Site Certificate, Oregon Public Utility Commission proceedings to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for transmission lines.

Ryan C. Thomas is a partner at Ashurst Perkins Coie. He helps clients navigate complex statutory and regulatory processes for obtaining and defending approvals and agreements necessary to complete projects, including data centers and large-scale solar, wind, and battery energy storage projects.