



## Linda L. Walsh

**PARTNER**

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### OVERVIEW

Linda focuses on regulatory issues affecting the electric utility industry nationwide.

Linda counsels and advocates for clients on a broad range of federal regulations covering electric utilities. Her experience representing utilities before FERC informs strategies for clients developing new business opportunities, handling compliance matters or faced with litigation. Linda advises on regulatory issues in connection with:

- Transmission rate proceedings
- Order No. 1000 transmission planning and development
- Section 203 acquisitions and dispositions
- Centralized service company requirements
- Standards of conduct issues
- Merchant generation interconnection issues
- Market-based rate applications
- Qualifying Facility (QF) certifications
- Utility reporting requirements

*"Linda is an excellent FERC attorney who is very practical in her outlook."*

— Chambers USA 2023

### Industry

Energy & Natural Resources

### Services

Electric Transmission

Energy Regulation

Hydrogen

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

## HUSCH BLACKWELL

- Interlocking director applications
- Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA) requirements

Linda also prepares transmission rate filings under the Federal Power Act (FPA) to establish forward-looking formula-based rate and incentive-rate treatments favorable to clients. She guides clients through North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) matters, as well as interconnection and regulatory issues underlying corporate and financial transactions in the energy sector. She provides policy advice on issues covered by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), net metering and the reliability results of environmental regulations.

## Experience

### TRANSMISSION

- Provides analysis and advice in RTO and non-RTO regions regarding transmission rate development, incentive rate requests, cost allocation, Order No. 1000 planning requirements.
- Provides strategic analysis for merchant transmission developers; obtained negotiated rate authority and approval of initial capacity allocation process.

### GENERATION

- Secures Section 205 market-based rate authority and assists with related FERC compliance filings, including notice of change in status filings, electronic quarterly reporting, relational database reporting and triennial market power analyses.
- Obtains project Exempt Wholesale Generator (EWG) status and advises on related Public Utility Holding Company (PUHCA) issues.
- Obtained Qualified Facility (QF) status for dozens of project companies and advises on all Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) requirements.
- Advises on FERC Section 203 requirements for the sale or acquisition of jurisdictional facilities; has prepared Section 203 filings for FERC approval for many generation and transmission transactions.
- Provides strategic guidance regarding generator interconnection procedures, transmission tariff developments, NERC requirements and FERC policy initiatives that affect development of generation both within and outside of RTO/ISO regions.

## Experience

### TRANSACTION SUPPORT

- Provides regulatory review and comments to transaction documents; performed federal and state regulatory due diligence in multiple renewable energy transactions. Proficient in Federal Power Act, PUHCA and PURPA issues and related FERC regulations.
- Assessed project risks of Generator Interconnection Agreements and procedures, Shared Facilities Agreements, Cost Sharing Agreements and Transmission Service Agreements.
- Analyzes passive nature of tax equity investor interests in project companies as relevant to required FERC approvals and disclosures.
- Work with developers to respond to diligence requests for projects both within and outside of RTO/ISO regions across the United States.

### NERC/RELIABILITY

- Represented clients in matters involving the development of, and compliance with, NERC's mandatory electric reliability standards.
- Advised clients in confidential NERC audits and compliance violation investigations.
- Represented clients in Compliance Registry disputes, standards compliance, penalty liability, hearing and audit issues, and monitoring the development of NERC and Regional Entity compliance and enforcement programs.

### COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Advise clients on FERC compliance and enforcement matters, including operational audits, nonpublic investigations, and self-reports.
- Provide guidance on FERC's enforcement and compliance policy statements and assist regulated companies to develop, implement and defend comprehensive internal FERC compliance programs.

## Experience

- Represented clients in the development of corporate governance programs designed to adequately identify, and support compliance with applicable FERC regulatory obligations.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- Advised clients in matters pending before Congress related to energy and environmental policy, including EPA's Clean Power Plan, PURPA reform, baseload generation cost recovery issues, grid reliability, integration of distributed generation and net metering policies.
- Provide advice on FERC rulemakings and other policy initiatives involving transmission, generation and procedural issues.
- Provided FERC regulatory advice for corporate reorganizations and guidance on centralized service company requirements.

### **LITIGATION**

- Extensive experience in FERC hearing and settlement proceedings; managing large discovery processes, witness preparation, development of testimony, depositions, witness examination at hearing, pre- and post-hearing briefing.
- Recently managed two virtual hearings involving multiple witnesses over several weeks.

## Recognition

- *Chambers USA*, Energy: Electricity (Regulatory & Litigation)
  - USA-Nationwide, 2009-2015, 2018-2024
  - Global Guide, 2019-2022
- *Super Lawyers*, Washington, DC, Energy & Natural Resources Law, 2007-2010, 2013-2020
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
  - Energy Law, 2016-2025
  - Energy Regulatory Law, 2023 and 2024
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Energy: Energy regulation: electric power, Recommended attorney, 2023 and 2024
- Public Utilities Fortnightly, “Top Utility Lawyer,” 2011

## Education

- J.D., Syracuse University College of Law
  - *cum laude*
- M.A., University of Hartford
  - Economics
- B.A., University of Connecticut

## Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Connecticut
- New York



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