



## **Keynote by MA EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper & Two Panels on Large Scale Renewables**

**Friday, June 9, 2023**

### **Bios of Speakers & Moderator**



**MA EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper** oversees the Commonwealth's six environmental, natural resource and energy regulatory agencies. Previously, Rebecca served Chief of the Energy and Environment Bureau for the Office of Attorney General Maura Healey. During her time at the AG's office, she advised on energy policy and served as the state's ratepayer advocate before regulators and courts.

Prior to joining the AG's Office, Rebecca was General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), serving as the chief legal advisor and overseeing all DPU adjudicatory and rulemaking proceedings. She also served as Director of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board and represented the state on the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council.

Before working for the Commonwealth, she was a partner at Rubin and Rudman in Boston, representing developers throughout the Northeast in siting, permitting, financing and contracting of renewable, distributed generation and conventional energy facilities. Rebecca is a graduate of Boston University School of Law and the University of Wisconsin.



**Paul Gaynor** is the CEO and co-founder of Longroad Energy, where he is responsible for the company's overall management and strategic direction. Paul has over twenty-five years of experience in the energy field, encompassing leadership and finance roles in the power, pipeline, and renewable energy sectors. He founded and served as CEO of First Wind.

He has been engaged in several landmark energy and power transactions across the globe and has held various roles within Noble Power, Singapore Power, PSG International, GE Capital, and GE Power Systems.

Paul holds a BS in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an MBA from the University of Chicago.



**Don Jessome** is CEO of TDI New England, a Blackstone portfolio company currently developing the New England Clean Power Link (NECPL) in Vermont. NECPL is a 1,000MW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) buried cable transmission project that will connect Canadian hydro and wind resources with the New England marketplace. Don is also the co-founder and CEO of Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI). Since 2008, TDI has been developing the 1,000MW Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project that will also link hydro/wind resources from Canada to New York City.

Prior to founding TDI, Don spent twenty-two years with Emera Inc., a publicly traded company in Canada with \$5.3 billion in energy infrastructure assets centered on power and natural gas. Don earned his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia and his MBA from Saint Mary's.



**Eliza Donoghue** is the Director of Advocacy & Staff Attorney for Maine Audubon, an independent, Maine-based wildlife conservation non-profit organization. For the entirety of her career, Eliza has advocated for robust public and private land conservation, sustainable forestry, and comprehensive wildlife protection policy in Maine.

Prior to joining Maine Audubon, Eliza served as Forests & Wildlife Policy Advocate & Outreach Coordinator for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, working as lead lobbyist on land conservation, public land management, and forestry policy issues. She has also worked with the Conservation Law Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Office of the Maine Attorney General. Among other accomplishments, Eliza played a central role in the campaign to designate and defend the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, leading efforts to mobilize support for the Monument among local community members and others from around the state.

Eliza holds a JD from Vermont Law School, and BA degrees in English and Forestry from the University of Montana.



**Katie Dykes** is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She was first nominated in 2019 by Governor Ned Lamont and was re-confirmed in February 2023 to serve in Governor Lamont's second term.

Prior to this appointment, from 2015-2018, Katie chaired the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). From 2012-2015, she was Deputy Commissioner for Energy at Connecticut DEEP. Katie also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI).

Katie joined CT DEEP in March 2012 after prior service in the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Energy during the Obama Administration. She is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.



**José Antonio Miranda** was recently appointed as CEO and President of Avangrid Renewables, having previously served as Co-CEO and President of Onshore for Avangrid Renewables.

José has extensive experience in renewables leadership, including serving as CEO of Onshore in the Americas region for Siemens Gamesa and as Chairman of its Boards in the U.S., Mexico, and Brazil. Prior to working for Siemens Gamesa, he held a variety of roles during a decade at the multinational engineering firm, ABB.

José holds an MBA from ICADE (Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, Madrid) and a degree in Industrial Engineering from Oviedo University.



**Amanda Lefton** is a Senior Policy Director at Foley Hoag and a member of the firm's Energy & Climate group. She advises clients in the renewable energy, climate solutions and environmental industries at the federal and state levels. Amanda is the former Director of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), where she spearheaded development and implementation of the Biden Administration's offshore wind agenda.

Prior to serving as BOEM Director, Amanda was First Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment for the State of New York, where she managed a portfolio of twelve regulatory and delivery agencies and authorities. In this role, she oversaw the development and implementation of key energy and environmental programs, including the landmark 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Previously, Amanda served as Deputy Policy Director for the Nature Conservancy, led the Rochester Regional Joint Board of Workers United, and served as a Legislative Associate at the New York State Assembly and worked for the State Senate. She holds a BA from SUNY Albany.



**Sam Salustro** is Vice President of Strategic Communications for the Business Network for Offshore Wind. He helps lead the Network's policy development through collaboration with membership and external coalition partners. In 2022, he co-authored *Advancing Policy Measures to Drive Domestic Supply Chain*, produced for the Labor Energy Partnership (LEP) Offshore Wind Workforce. The report analyzes current policies and barriers to developing the offshore wind industry and details federal and state policies that could further the industry and domestic supply chain.

Prior to joining the Business Network, Sam spent more than a decade working on political campaigns and in state government, including serving as a senior advisor to Governor Martin O'Malley of Maryland during his governorship and on his presidential campaign.

Sam holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago with concentrations in economics, finance, and strategic relations, and a B.A. from Boston University, double majoring in History and International Relations.



**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. Most recently, as vice president, she led the Smart Electric Power Alliance's Regulatory and Business Innovation work.

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 currently chairs 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 to Foley Hoag, Carol was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Dynegy Inc., the largest generator in New England and one of the largest power producers in the country prior to its 2018 merger with Vistra Energy. Before that, she served as Director of Government Affairs for the New England Power Generators Association, 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, the non-partisan bill drafting and research office of the state's 424-member legislature.

Carol earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk Law School, and her BS from Georgetown.