



Role(s) of Natural Gas as we Decarbonize New England: Essential Bridge and/or Fundamental Barrier?

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Bios of Speakers/Moderator



David Ismay currently serves as Undersecretary for Climate Change in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Prior to joining the Baker Administration, David was a Senior Attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston, as well as an adjunct lecturer in energy law and policy at Northeastern University School of Law and a senior advisor to the U.S. Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project. Before joining CLF, David was a senior associate at Farella Braun + Martel LLP in San Francisco.

David holds a B.S. in History with Honors from the United States Naval Academy, an M.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford (Queen's College), and a J.D. from UC Berkeley Law School.



Dr. Susan Tierney is Senior Advisor at Analysis Group in Denver. An expert on energy policy and economics, she specializes in the electric and gas industries. She has consulted to companies, governments, nonprofits, and other organizations on energy markets, as well as economic and environmental regulation and strategy. Her expert witness and business consulting services have involved industry restructuring, market analyses, utility ratemaking and regulatory policy, clean energy regulatory policy, transmission issues, wholesale and retail market design, and resource planning and procurement.

Sue is a former Assistant Secretary for Policy at the US Department of Energy, a state cabinet officer for environmental affairs, and a state public utility commissioner. She chairs the Boards of Resources for the Future and ClimateWorks Foundation and is a Trustee of the Barr Foundation and a director of World Resources Institute and of the Energy Foundation. Sue holds a Ph.D. in regional planning from Cornell and a BA from Scripps.



Melanie Kenderdine is a principal of Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. She is also currently a Visiting Fellow at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. She served at the US DOE in the second Obama Administration as the Energy Counselor to the Secretary, and concurrently, as the Director of DOE's Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis.

Before joining the DOE, Melanie helped to establish the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) and served as its Executive Director. She also started the C3E Symposium series, a joint MIT-DOE program to support the careers of women in clean energy. Before her work with MITEI, Melanie served as the Vice President of Washington Operations for the Gas Technology Institute (GTI). In the 1990s, Melanie served in several key posts at DOE, including Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, Director of the Office of Policy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Melanie is a graduate of the University of New Mexico.



Ken Kimmell is president of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a leading science-based nonprofit that combines the knowledge and influence of the scientific community with the passion of concerned citizens to build a healthy planet and a safer world. He is a national advocate for clean energy and transportation policies and a driving force behind UCS's "Power Ahead" campaign to build a large and diverse group of clean energy leadership states. He serves on Governor Baker's Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth.

Prior to joining UCS in 2014, Ken was the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. During this time, he also served as chairman of the board of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, helping to prod the nine member states to reduce power plant carbon emissions by almost 50 percent through 2020. Ken has also served as general counsel at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in the Patrick administration, and spent 17 years as the director and senior attorney at a Boston-based law firm specializing in environmental, energy, and land-use issues.

Ken clerked for the U.S. District Court in San Francisco, where he assisted a judge in a case involving the health effects of Agent Orange. He earned his BA at Wesleyan University and his law degree at UCLA.



Dan Dolan is President of the New England Power Generators Association, the largest trade association representing competitive electric generating companies in New England (approximately 25,000 megawatts -- 80% of the installed generation capacity in the region). He is the organization's principal spokesperson and oversees all activities. Dan leads a staff that represents the membership on electricity market rules development and expansion of wholesale electric competition. He was appointed to the Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth by Governor Baker.

Prior to coming to NEPGA, Dan served as Vice President of Policy Research & Communications at the Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA), the national trade association representing competitive power suppliers, including generators and marketers. Dan also oversaw the development of energy trading policy, including spearheading EPSA's activities in the development and implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall St. Reform Act. Dan holds a BA in business management from Goucher College, with an emphasis on international business.



Patrick Woodcock was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources in February 2020, having been named Acting Commissioner in December 2019 and served in this role until his current appointment.

Patrick joined the Baker-Polito Administration in 2017 and served as the Undersecretary of Energy in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for over two years. In that position, he oversaw the Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Public Utilities.

Patrick serves on the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Board and its Investment Committee, represents Massachusetts on the Boards of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and National Association of State Energy Officials, and is a member of the Commonwealth's Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Previously, Patrick was Director of the Maine State Energy Office, a position he held from 2013 through 2016. He has also worked for United States Senator Olympia Snowe in her Washington, D.C. office. Patrick graduated from Bowdoin College and holds a BA in Government.



William J. Akley is President of Gas Operations for Eversource Energy. In this role, he is responsible for the overall operations of the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to approximately 522,000 customers in 122 towns and cities in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Bill has more than 30 years of leadership and management experience and is a seasoned veteran of the utility industry in all facets of natural gas transmission and distribution. Prior to joining Eversource, he was Senior Vice President of U.S. Gas Operations for National Grid and responsible for field operations including construction, maintenance and meter service throughout the company's service territory in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Prior to National Grid, Bill spent several years at KeySpan Energy in New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Bill began his career as a field engineer at Brooklyn Union Gas in New York.

Bill earned his master's degree from Adelphi and his bachelor's degree in mechanical and industrial engineering from Clarkson. Bill is a licensed professional engineer and has served as the Safety Committee Chairperson for the American Gas Association and serves as a board member on the American Gas Association and the Northeast Gas Association.



Sheri Givens is Vice President of US Regulatory and Customer Strategy at National Grid, a clean energy company serving the electric and heating needs of more than 20 million customers in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

Sheri's professional experience includes nearly twenty years in legal, regulatory, legislative, and external affairs. Prior to joining National Grid, she consulted on utility consumer education and regulatory policy issues in energy markets nationwide. Sheri is the former Governor-appointed Texas utility consumer advocate and served on the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates' Executive Committee and both the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and Texas Reliability Entity's Boards of Directors. She was also an attorney for the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Legislature.

Sheri earned a BA in government from the University of Texas at Austin and a JD from the University of Houston. She currently serves on the Association of Women in Energy, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, and Northeast Clean Energy Council Boards of Directors. Sheri is Vice Chair of Utilities United Against Scams, and she is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee.



Zeyneb Magavi is the director of Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET), a Cambridge-based environmental nonprofit. She is currently focused on transitioning the natural gas distribution system to a thermal energy distribution system, or HEET Grid, using the GeoMicroDistrict concept. The next step is to work with the state's largest gas utilities on a local pilot project. Zeyneb previously led HEET's Large Volume Leak Study, which established a method to rapidly achieve a 50% reduction in emissions from leaking gas pipes. She has worked at BBN Technologies, Harvard University, and in multiple startups. Zeyneb is committed to finding just and intelligent solutions to the urgent challenge of climate change through multi-disciplinary problem solving, co-creation, and innovation.

Zeyneb holds a BS in Physics from Brown and a Master's in Public Health and Sustainability from Harvard.



Dr. Jonathan Raab has served as the convener and moderator of the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since 1995, and of the Energy Policy Roundtable in the PJM Footprint since 2016.

A national leader in applying consensus building processes to energy, environmental, and regulatory issues, some of his major cases include the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); the New England Demand Response Initiative (NEDRI); the Greenhouse Gas planning processes for the City of Boston, Maine, and Rhode Island; RPS rules for Massachusetts and Rhode Island; the energy plan for Tennessee; energy efficiency stakeholder processes in California, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; market rules for Alberta; and Grid Modernization in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. He has also run stakeholder processes for U.S. DOE, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and U.S. EPA. Jonathan assisted both PJM and MISO in reforming their respective stakeholder processes.

Prior to establishing Raab Associates, Jonathan was the Assistant Director of the Electric Power Division at the Massachusetts DPU. He holds a Ph.D. from MIT, and an M.S. and A.B. from Stanford. He has taught courses at the University of Oregon, Stanford, UMass (Boston) and MIT, and is the author of *Using Consensus Building to Improve Utility Regulation*.



Carol Holahan is a counsel 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 as a result of 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. Carol 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.

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