



Federal Support for Clean Energy; Equitably Decarbonizing the Northeast & Equity Case Study: Hydro-Québec/Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke MOU

Friday, March 25, 2022
Bios of Speakers/Moderator



Patricia A. Hoffman serves as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity (OE) at the U.S. Department of Energy. In 2017, she served as Acting Under Secretary for Science and Energy as well as Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, until the respective appointees to those roles were confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Prior to assuming her current position, Pat served in a dual capacity as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development and as Chief Operating Officer within the Office of Electricity. During her tenure as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for R&D, she developed the long-term research strategy and improved the management portfolio of programs for modernizing and improving the resiliency of the electric grid. This included developing and implementing sensors and operational tools for wide-area monitoring, energy storage research and demonstration and the development of advanced conductors to increase the capacity and flexibility of the grid. She also initiated a new research effort focused on integrating and distributing renewable energy through the electric grid, such as promoting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and implementing smart grid technologies to maintain system reliability.

Prior to joining OE, Pat was the Program Manager for the Federal Energy Management Program within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at DOE. This program guides the Federal government to “lead by example,” promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy management. Complementing her building energy efficiency experience, she also was the Program Manager for the Distributed Energy Program, which conducted research on advanced natural gas power generation and combined heat and power systems. Her accomplishments included the successful completion of the Advanced Turbine System program resulting in a high-efficiency industrial gas turbine power generation product.

Pat holds both a BS and an MS in Ceramic Science and Engineering from Penn State.



Rev. Mariama White-Hammond is Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston, where she oversees policy and programs on energy, climate change, sustainability, historic preservation, and open space. Since her appointment in April 2021 by Mayor Kim Janey, Mariama has supported the amendment of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance to set carbon targets for existing large buildings and has convened a city-led youth green jobs program. Mariama has extensive background in embedding equity and environmental justice into Boston’s communities. She was a fellow with the Green Justice Coalition, chair of the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund and the co-chair of RENEW New England. Mariama is the founding pastor of New Roots AME Church in Dorchester. She previously served for 13 years as executive director of Project HIP-HOP (Highways into the Past - History, Organizing and Power), a youth organization that uses the arts to educate on social justice topics.

Mariama earned an undergraduate degree from Stanford in International Relations and a Master of Divinity from Boston University’s School of Theology.



Joseph A. Curtatone, former nine-term mayor of Somerville, MA, recently became president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council. Joe forged a reputation as one of the most innovative mayors in the United States, spearheading a comprehensive net-zero action plan for the city with a strong focus on equity. Joe's recruitment of Greentown Labs to the city and his pursuit of cutting-edge industries helped establish Somerville as a leader in climate technology. Somerville has attracted billions of dollars of new economic activity and increased its workforce by more than 40%. On the transportation front, the city also opened the first new station in Greater Boston's core light rail transit system in 27 years and will soon open six more new stations as part of the first major expansion of that system since the 1980s. In addition, during Joe's time in office, Somerville built a network of more than 40 miles of bicycle lanes inside a city of just 4.1 square miles.

Joe is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School, the New England School of Law, and Boston College. He has also been a longtime high school and youth sports coach.



Stephan Roundtree is Northeast Director of Vote Solar. Prior to joining the Vote Solar team, he worked as an advocate and community lawyer with WE ACT for Environmental Justice in Harlem, NYC. There, he fought for more inclusive solar and energy efficiency policies in Albany and at City Hall. Stephan also helped design a first-in-the-nation solarize campaign for a dense urban community in Northern Manhattan and negotiated construction and local hiring contracts for the project based on community values and input.

In his spare time Stephan co-directs the New York City Environmental Law Leadership Institute, a small but mighty nonprofit committed to educating and fostering community with the next generation of NYC's environmental lawyers. Stephan's passion for energy justice is equaled only by his love of birdwatching and Boston sports.

Originally from Dunstable, Massachusetts, Stephan holds a B.A. in History from Boston College, a J.D. from Northeastern, and a Master's in Environmental Policy from Vermont Law School.



Staci Rubin is Vice President for Environmental Justice at Conservation Law Foundation. As a CLF Senior Attorney for several years, Staci achieved several important victories, including a settlement agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that prioritizes bus riders and communities of color over wealthier commuters and the elimination of fare disparities for cash-paying riders at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. She is an active member of the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Table, which secured the first environmental justice statute in Massachusetts.

Prior to joining CLF, Staci served as Senior Counsel at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. Before joining DPU, Staci was Senior Attorney and Environmental Justice Legal Services Program Director at Alternatives for Community & Environment where she provided legal representation to successful community-led campaigns challenging the siting of fossil fuel power plants and a dangerous rail transport proposal. She also partnered with community leaders to negotiate the Massachusetts Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

Staci has a law degree from Northeastern, a Master of Public Health from Tufts, a Master of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and an undergraduate degree from NYU.



Elin Swanson Katz serves as the inaugural Director of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's newly formed Office of Public Participation (OPP), which was established in 2021 to assist the public with Commission proceedings. As Director, Elin leads a growing OPP team that provides direct outreach and education to the public to facilitate greater understanding of Commission processes and support broader participation in matters before the Commission. OPP serves as a liaison for environmental justice communities, Tribal members, landowners, consumer advocates, and other historically underrepresented stakeholders, and responds to inquiries and requests for administrative and technical assistance from members of the public.

Previously, Elin served as Consumer Counsel for the State of Connecticut, as well as President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. Prior to that, she was VP of Utilities for Tilson, a technology company that builds telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband and 5G technology.

Elin holds a BS in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell, a JD from Boston University, and a Master's in Writing, Rhetoric & Media from Trinity College-Hartford.



Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer has served on the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke as an elected chief since 2009. She was elected Grand Chief in 2021 and is the first woman ever to hold the position. Born in 1979, she is a member of the Wolf Clan. As a youth, she attended Kanien'kéha (Mohawk language) immersion elementary school and is a proud Kanien'kéha speaker. In the early 2000's she moved to Florida to play in the Women's Professional Football League as was a quarterback for the Daytona Barracudas.

A lifelong proponent of language and culture, Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer is passionate about the revitalization of the Mohawk language and has worked hard to make changes to her community's governance structures to better reflect the philosophy and history of her people. She is passionate about issues pertaining to the protection of inherent rights, as well as in creating partnerships and ventures that will help the community. Her current areas of focus as Grand Chief include external government relations (Kahnawà:ke/Canada relations), nation building, border crossing, and indigenous relations and governance.

Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer graduated from Vanier College, in Montréal and later earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Central Florida.



Sophie Brochu is President and CEO of Hydro-Québec in April 2020. She is the first woman in the company's history to hold that office on a permanent basis. An economist by training, Sophie began her career as a financial analyst with Société québécoise d'initiatives pétrolières (SOQUIP), a Québec government corporation responsible for developing the natural gas network in the province. She later joined Énergir (formerly Gaz Métro) as Vice President, Business Development, holding a variety of management roles before becoming the company's President and CEO. Under her guidance, the Québec gas distributor added renewable natural gas to its supply portfolio and became an important player in the wind and solar energy spaces, in both Canada and the U.S.

Sophie sits on the board of Banque de Montréal and has been active for many years in community organizations, including Centraide of Greater Montreal and Fondation Forces AVENIR, which supports activities designed to foster and celebrate community involvement by high school and university students. She is also a leader of L'effet A, an initiative whose aim is to promote the participation of women at all organizational levels. Sophie is a member of the Order of Canada and an officer of the Ordre national du Québec.

She has a BA in economics from Université Laval and has been awarded honorary doctorates by Université de Montréal and Bishop's University.



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 from 2016 to 2020.

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.

Jonathan is currently the liaison between the PJM Members and PJM Board regarding complaints related to the Independent Market Monitor and is moderating the new FERC/NARUC Joint Task Force on Transmission.

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 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.