

Uncommon Wisdom
Common Sense®

In our rapidly changing energy business environment, federal and state government regulation has become more important than ever before.

FERC and the various state public utility commissions are playing increasingly significant roles as the electric and natural gas markets are subject to increasing change at both the state and federal levels. The United States electric and gas markets are in a period of “re-regulating” and the market impacts of FERC’s actions, as well as those of state public utility commissions are presenting new risks that must be managed. Additionally, the influence and impact of quasi-governmental regulatory bodies—such as independent system operators, regional transmission organizations, and the various industry standard boards such as the North American Energy Standards Board—have grown considerably in recent years.

Now is a time of unprecedented opportunity for those who know how to properly manage the business and the regulatory risks inherent in this dramatic shift within the energy industry. The current combination of regulation and competitive forces that exists today also makes it extremely difficult to successfully conduct business. The interrelationship between the power and natural gas markets adds further complexity and regulatory challenges.

In short, it is vitally important to know and understand markets at both the federal and state levels and where they are headed. We are committed to meeting the needs of our clients for sound advice and representation as they seek to respond to the changing nature of FERC and state PUC regulation. Our attorneys represent clients on a wide range of matters before FERC, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency, state public service commissions, state and federal courts, and the U.S. Congress.

ELECTRIC RESTRUCTURING

The restructuring of the electric industry is a primary focus of Leonard, Street and Deinard’s energy attorneys. Our attorneys have represented traditional electric utilities, utility subsidiaries (gas and electric), merchant power producers, cogenerators, power marketers, industrial energy consumers, and energy service providers before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in more than 20 state public utility commissions, including: California, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and Texas.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

Leonard, Street and Deinard’s energy attorneys, in partnership with the firm’s government relations team, regularly provide legislative representation to energy clients, including:

- Researching and drafting legislation.
- Identifying, analyzing, monitoring and reporting on legislation of particular interest to clients.
- Preparing position papers, giving Congressional testimony, drafting legislative history, and otherwise helping educate legislators.
- Advising clients on the strategy and procedures required for the successful processing of legislation

RULEMAKINGS

Clients are fully represented by Leonard, Street and Deinard at rulemaking proceedings at the FERC and other administrative agencies. Through the assistance of technical experts, firm input at these proceedings furthers the development of regulatory rules and policies that complement or enhance the client's business.

A Professional Association

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