

## Matthew McDonnell

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### Education

Juris Doctor

James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (2011)

Bachelor of Arts, Finance

Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI (2006)

### Work Experience

Managing Partner, Current Energy Group, (May 2024 – Present)

- Works with consumer advocates and public interest organizations on gas and electric regulatory issues before state public utility commissions.

Executive Vice President, Strategen, (January 2019 – April 2024)

- Led Strategen's consulting practice, which included regulatory and policy expertise spanning practice areas of grid planning, gas transition, DER integration, regulatory innovation, stakeholder engagement, and decarbonization strategies.
- Worked with state regulatory commissions, consumer advocates, non-profits, and other clients to advance the public interest in regulatory decision-making.
- Developed testimony, comments, reports, and analysis on several different topics, regulatory innovation, performance-based regulation, electric and gas resource planning, fuel costs, energy efficiency, and low-income ratepayer issues.

Associate Director, Navigant (n/k/a Guidehouse) (2018 – 2019)

- Supported electric utilities, energy companies, and regulators across numerous domains, including energy storage, power system planning, rate design, grid modernization, distributed energy resources, and development of new regulatory frameworks and business models.

Commission Counsel, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (2014 – 2018)

- Led or supported numerous efforts involving power system planning, grid modernization, renewables integration, distributed energy resources, demand response, transportation electrification, and performance-based regulation (PBR).
- Served prominent role in Hawaii's groundbreaking PBR docket.
- Led team through process design, workshop facilitation, and execution of PBR docket.
- Supported various innovative programs that earned Hawaiian Electric Companies SEPA's 2018 Utility of the Year.

Senior Regulatory and Policy Analyst, Economic and Human Dimension Research Associates (2011 – 2015)

- Provided clients financial and policy analysis pertaining to the energy industry.

## Representative Projects

Green Mountain Power 2021 Multi-Year Rate Plan on Behalf of Green Mountain Power  
*Direct and Rebuttal Testimony*

Filed testimony providing an independent evaluation of the Company's proposed Regulation Plan and proposed recommendations for improvements to the current Plan.

[Direct Testimony](#)

Selection of Relevant Experience

Connecticut Performance-Based Regulation Proceeding supporting Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

*Technical and Policy Support*

Provide technical and policy assistance to PURA Staff throughout the proceeding.

Innovative Energy Solutions (IES) Program (Regulatory Sandbox for Connecticut) supporting Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

*Technical and Policy Support*

Led a team to design and support the implementation of a regulatory framework and process that can create space for innovation and facilitate the deployment of a wide array of innovative technology applications and customer programs.

Community solar program design and analysis supporting Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (2020-2022).

*Technical and Policy Support*

As former lead architect of the Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) Program for the State of Hawaii, advised and supported the Hawaii PUC in its efforts to design and implement a robust community solar program to meet the unique needs of Hawaii's island grids.

Virtual Net Metering Tariff Design and Analysis supporting Sacramento Municipal Utility District (2020-2021)

*Technical and Policy Support*

Supported SMUD in outlining a VNEM tariff framework and constructed a financial model to evaluate the customer value proposition for the proposed tariff as well as a comparative look at other California IOUs VNEM program offerings.

Planning considerations for energy storage in resilience applications supporting Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) (2020)  
*Technical and Policy Support*

Served as a co-author on a report with PNNL that, among other elements, identified key resilience themes impacting high-renewables grids and outlined four common principles shared by successfully deployed resilience projects: (1) resilience benefits are hyperlocal; (2) project feasibility is achieved by providing grid services; (3) local value drives each project; and (4) energy storage is a key enabling technology in resilience applications.

An open networks project for the United States to facilitate reliable, efficient integration of DERs into the Electric Power System (2021-2022)  
*Report Series*

Led a consortium of subject matter experts to assess the DER integration issues across a variety of jurisdictions in the US, evaluate lessons learned from the UK and Australia Open Networks approaches to determine what may be applicable to the US, convene sustained discussions among relevant stakeholders on DER integration approaches, and develop consensus recommendations on how to maximize the potential of DERs in US power systems and wholesale markets.

U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Modernization Lab Consortium, IEEE 2030.5 Ecosystem Steering Committee (2018-2019).  
*Member*

Invited to develop roadmaps that advance ease of IEEE 2030.5 integration, pursuant to GMLC multi-year research plan to accelerate modernization efforts pertaining to information and communications interoperability.

Smart Electric Power Association (SEPA), Transactive Energy Working Group (2018-2019).  
*Member*

The Transactive Energy Working Group developed tools and techniques that advance the understanding and application of transactive energy concepts to enable high penetrations of DER that are supported by intelligent economic market structures, standards, and regulations within the electric sector. Key objectives include integration of DER with an emphasis on distribution-level operations and integration of behind-the-meter customer DER (including demand flexibility); coordination of resources to improve system efficiency; providing grid ancillary services, including ramping and balancing, and congestion management.

## Publications

Electricity Regulation for a Customer-Centric Future. Report prepared by Guidehouse for Edison Electric Institute. 2020.

JB Twitchell, SF Newman, RS O'Neil, MT McDonnell. 2020. Planning Considerations for Energy Storage in Resilience Applications – Outcomes from the NELHA Energy Storage Conference's Policy and Regulatory Workshop. PNNL-29738, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

John A. "Skip" Laitner, Benoit Lebot, Matthew McDonnell, and Meagan Weiland. 2018. Smart Policies and Programs as Critical Drivers for Greater Energy Efficiency Investments. Analytical Manuscript prepared for International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).

John A. "Skip" Laitner, Matthew McDonnell, and Ryan Keller. 2015. ICT-Enabled Intelligent Efficiency. Report prepared for Digital Energy and Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESC).

## Presentations

Matthew McDonnell (2019). AEE 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Utility Commissioners Forum. Invited as an expert to speak on distribution system planning and performance-based regulation.

Matthew McDonnell (2019). NARU Annual Meeting, San Antonio. Invited to present on a panel moderated by NRRRI, Susie Mora of Exelon, and Commissioner Abigail Anthony of Rhode Island, entitled "Performance-Based Regulation: Helping to Enable a Customer-Centric Future."

Matthew McDonnell (2019). GridFWD. Invited to moderate a panel with representatives from Avista, Uplight, and Hawaiian Electric, entitled "Innovation and Regulation."

Matthew McDonnell (2019). Hawaii Energy Conference. Invited to moderate a panel with Hawaii Governor David Ige, California PUC President Michael Picker, Hawaii Commissioner Jennifer Potter, and Rhode Island Commissioner Abigail Anthony, entitled "Moving Away from Convention: Innovations in Regulatory Policy."

Matthew McDonnell (2018). Maui Energy Conference. Invited to moderate panel entitled "Regulating Carbon: The Best Solutions."

## Expert Testimony

### **Enbridge Gas Inc. 2024 to 2028 Rates Application (DKT: EB-2024-0111) on behalf of Environmental Defence, Ontario Canada**

#### *Evidentiary Report*

Co-authored technical report in pre-filed direct testimony on incentive ratemaking for capital cost containment and energy transition risk reduction. The report discussed differentiated return on equity, revenue decoupling, efficiency carryover mechanisms, CIACs, gas supply risk sharing, and non-pipeline alternative incentives.

[Case Details](#) | [Report](#)

### **Green Mountain Power (DKT: 2021-3707-PET) on behalf of Green Mountain Power**

#### *Multi-Year Rate Plan*

Co-authored pre-filed direct testimony on behalf of Green Mountain Power (“GMP”) that provided a policy design and structural review of GMP’s proposed Regulation Plan. The testimony developed an independent framework to conduct a comparative analysis between GMP’s proposed multi-year rate plan and peer jurisdictions across key categories of alternative regulatory mechanisms and approaches.

[Prefiled Direct Testimony](#)