

Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

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Navigating the Surge: Meeting Growing Demand in Data Centers

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm ET



Welcome: Christine Scanlar
President and CEO, Keystone Policy Center



Opening Remarks: Clint Vince,
Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Transportation & Infrastructure sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



Moderator: Andrew Mina,
Partner, Energy practice, Dentons



Kelly Speakes-Backman
Executive Vice President,
Public Affairs, Invenergy
LLC and former Acting
Assistant Secretary of The
DOE Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy office

Panelist

Kelly Speakes-Backman is the executive vice president of public affairs at Invenergy, the largest privately held developer, owner, and operator of sustainable energy solutions. A nationally recognized thought leader in the clean energy industry, Speakes-Backman leads Invenergy’s policy and corporate affairs activities. Most recently, she served as the acting assistant secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy. A “Day 1” appointee of the Biden administration, she led the Office’s US\$3.2 billion portfolio of renewable power, energy efficiency and sustainable transportation. She served as the first CEO of the Energy Storage Association and as a former Commissioner of the Maryland Public Service Commission, and she currently serves on the board of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy. She has spent 25 years working on energy and environmental issues in the public, NGO and private sectors.



Jason Stanek
Executive Director of
Governmental Services,
PJM

Panelist

Jason Stanek is Executive Director – Governmental Services at PJM. He is the former chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). Jason led the Maryland PSC for more than five years, an organization that is responsible for regulating all public utilities in the state. Before that he served as senior energy counsel for the US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce where he advised on matters involving national energy policy, with specific focus on electricity issues and the operations of the regional power markets. He also served as branch chief for electric power markets for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission advising both a FERC Chairman and Commissioner during his 16-year tenure. Prior to arriving in Washington DC, he held legal positions with the National Fuel Gas Company in Buffalo, New York, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in New York City.

Jason was named co-chair of the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission—an initiative of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ([FERC](#)) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ([NARUC](#)), co-vice chair of NARUC’s Commission Chairs’ Council, vice chair of the Electric Vehicle Working Group, and is a member of NARUC’S Committee on Electricity and the Committee on International Relations. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ([RGGI](#)), is a member of the Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council and the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF) Advisory Committee.

Jason earned his law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a bachelor’s degree from Tulane University. He also completed studies at American University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Rudy Beese
Partner, Real Estate,
Dentons

Panelist

Rudolf (Rudy) Beese is a partner in Dentons' global Real Estate group, practicing in the areas of corporate, energy, real estate and construction law. With more than 30 years of extensive experience, Rudy advises clients on a broad spectrum of complex domestic and international projects, financings and related corporate initiatives.

Rudy’s practice involves all aspects of real estate transactions, drawing on extensive experience with the siting, development, construction and financing of a broad portfolio of industrial, commercial, office, retail, hospitality, entertainment, and mixed-use developments; the formation and negotiation of complex joint ventures for purposes of project development; and related M&A transactions. Specific to Data Center development, Rudy has represented owners as well as utilities in the development, construction and operation of such projects; utility scale transmission, substation and infrastructure projects serving Data Center developments; related systems enhancements; entitlements, incentives, contributions in aid of construction and where appropriate, negotiation of rates and rate design for large load customers; the allocation of renewable energy attributes; and challenges associated with current gaps in the capacity of the Grid to accommodate interconnection, as well as anticipated increases in load demand over time. In addition he has worked directly with his clients seeking a wide array of project incentives and entitlements in negotiations with various local governments in the course of site selection and the development of new or expanded facilities.