



Sustainable Energy Initiative Update

Breaking News: e21 Issues Phase 1 Report

Minnesota's "Utility of the Future" e21 Phase I Report was issued yesterday, December 18. This initiative, in which Donna Attanasio from GW Law's Sustainable Energy Initiative participated, has spent nearly a year developing recommendations for revised utility and regulatory models for Minnesota. The report sets out a blueprint for a new "opt in" regulatory approach and framework for utility regulation in Minnesota, focused on performance-based ratemaking, customer options and rate design, planning, and regulatory processes.

"The e21 Initiative proposes shifting to a more customer-centric and sustainable framework for utility regulation in Minnesota," said Great Plains Institute President and CEO Rolf Nordstrom who manages the project. "e21 envisions a utility framework that better enables innovation, while ensuring that utilities have the financial health necessary to continue to provide safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy."

"Taken as a package, these recommendations suggest a new utility business model that places less emphasis on selling an increasing amount of electricity and more on providing the energy services and options that customers are demanding," Nordstrom said.

The recommendations include an optional multi-year, performance-based utility regulatory framework that would require participating utilities to file a comprehensive business plan with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In addition, the group recommends changes to Minnesota laws governing utility oversight to allow for this proposed "opt in" approach and to also modify how utilities conduct their long-term resource analysis and planning.

In addition to GW Law, the e21 convening project team includes representatives from Great Plains Institute (the lead coordinator), Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE), Energy Systems Consulting Services (ESCS), Xcel Energy and Minnesota Power. The stakeholder group brings together key interests including utility, consumer advocate, energy technology, business, environmental, academic, and government.

The group formed in early 2014 and met monthly to develop the recommendations. The e21 Initiative developed its recommendations on a consensus basis, which means that the participants support the recommendations, taken as a package, as a framework for moving Minnesota on a path toward achieving the e21 principles and proposed outcomes. e21's work will continue in 2015, to further develop and implement the recommendations in the report.

Click [here](#) to download the full report.

Energy Law Education

Are you interested in how we educate the next generation of energy lawyers? The Energy Bar Association's Committee on Energy Law Education would welcome your participation in its upcoming workshop on January 26 at the National Energy Education Summit. Please see below, under "Upcoming Events" for details and to register.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following:

January 26 -29, 2015:

The Energy Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Law Education will present its findings to-date in their year-long study of energy law education at the 1st annual **National Energy Education Summit** and solicit further input in the afternoon workshop. The Summit, which is sponsored by the **Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders (CEREL)**, will be held on January 26, 2015. The presenters will include Donna Attanasio, who chairs the committee, committee member Nancy J. Skancke, J.D. '75 and others.

The one-day education summit will precede the 15th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment, sponsored by the **National Council for Science and Environment** on January 27-29. This year, NCSE will take up the issue of Energy and Climate Change. Amory Lovins will give the John H. Chafee Memorial Lecture at the NCSE event. Sessions include "Reinventing Utilities," which will include discussion of the **e21** work (discussed above).

Both events will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Virginia (near Reagan National Airport). Register for one or both conferences [here](#).

February 17-20, 2015: On February 19, Donna Attanasio will speak at the IEEE Power & Energy Society conference on **Innovative Smart Grid Technologies**, on the plenary panel addressing "State and Local Government Policies Driving Smart Grid Adoption." For more information about this conference, click [here](#).

March 3, 2015: The Energy Bar Association will hold its annual **Enforcers and Defenders Conference** at GW Law. For more information, click [here](#), or continue to watch this space.

March 26-27, 2015: GW Law along with the EPA, Environment Law Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement will co-sponsor the 2015 J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium on **"The Role of Advanced Monitoring, Remote Sensing, and New Forms of Information Gathering, Analysis, and Disclosure in Environmental Compliance and Enforcement."** A follow-up conference will take place at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands in April 2015. More information will be forthcoming.

May 18, 2015: GW Law will host the **Cybersecurity Summit for Critical Infrastructure Industries**, sponsored by ABA's Section on Energy & the Environment. This Summit will focus on threats and protections pertinent to the electricity and water-services industries. Stay tuned for more information.

Recommended Reading

This month we recommend the e21 Report, of course! Click [here](#) to download it.

Best Wishes to You for 2015!

Thank you to all of you for your support in 2014. If you wish to consider the Sustainable Energy Initiative in your year-end gifts (we are donation-funded!), please contact [Margie Shepard](#).

In 2015, watch for your Sustainable Energy Initiative newsletter in a new format.

Wishing you and your loved ones peace, health and happiness this holiday season and for the New Year!