



NC SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Clean Energy in the Southeast

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association's 2025
Continuing Legal Education Program

February 20, 2025 | 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. | Virtual

Course Goal:

This course will explore energy matters currently at issue in North Carolina and adjacent topics in the Southeast. This all-day virtual continuing legal education program (CLE) will provide its attendees with legal and regulatory education on the ongoing transition to a cleaner energy mix and the related legal elements.

Attendees will receive the following credits:

North Carolina: **6.00 General CLE Hours**

Course Objectives:

- Provide attendees with an update on regulatory and legislative developments impacting clean energy in North Carolina and nationally
- Provide attendees current information that will be useful in the year ahead for clean energy issues

PowerPoint slides will be made available through the NCSEA website with a special password we will provide to all attendees.

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9:00 – 9:15 A.M. **Welcome & Course Introduction**

- Goals of the course
- Agenda Overview

9:15 – 10:15 A.M. **How FERC Order 1920 is Driving Changes**

A look at how states in the Southeast are adapting to and complying with FERC Order 1920. 1920 states that transmission providers must properly account for known causes of long-term transmission needs to ensure just and reasonable rates. To do so, transmission providers must use long-term scenarios to identify long-term transmission needs and long-term regional transmission facilities to meet those needs.

Blan Holman, VP Regulatory Affairs, Pine Gate Renewables

Katie Rogers, Attorney, SELC DC

Tyler Norris, James B. Duke Fellow, Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment

Justin Somelofske, Senior Regulatory Counsel, NCSEA

Molly Suda, Associate General Counsel, Duke Energy

Michael Youth, Senior General Counsel, NCEMC

10:15 – 10:30 A.M. **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 A.M. **View from the Bench**

The View from the Bench panel consists of current and/or former commissioners providing their perspectives about the changing energy landscape in the Southeast and what emerging topics they are learning about in the energy sector that most interest them. Commissioners will provide advice to attorneys on how to be most effective when practicing before a commission.

Bill Brawley, Commissioner, NC Utilities Commission

Kim Duffley, Commissioner, NC Utilities Commission

Cassie Gavin, Director of Policy, NCSEA

Karen Kemerait, Commissioner, NC Utilities Commission

Gray Styers, Partner, Fox Rothschild LLP



11:30 – 12:30 P.M. **Legal Strategies for Reducing Ratepayer Risk**

Panelists will discuss legal strategies for protecting ratepayers from the risks of high costs from things like speculative technologies; overinvestment in energy assets that later become uneconomic, natural disasters; and other high-risk scenarios.

Anne Harvey, Chief Counsel, Southern Center for Social Justice

Jeremy Kalin, Attorney at Law, Avisen

Nadia Luhr, Manager, Electric Section of the Legal Division at Public Staff, NC Utilities Commission

Ben Smith, Attorney, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Justin Somelofske, Senior Regulatory Counsel, NCSEA

Claire Williamson, Energy Policy Advocate, NC Justice Center

12:30 – 1:30 P.M. **Lunch/Break**

1:30 – 2:30 P.M. **Legal Approaches for Preparing for a New Period of Load Growth**

Recent integrated resource plans in multiple Southeast states are planning for significant load growth, which is driving energy planning choices. Load growth drivers include manufacturing, data centers, and population growth. This panel will look at legal approaches for dealing with load growth in an equitable manner.

Chris Ayers, Director & Attorney, Public Staff

Ethan Blumenthal, Regulatory Counsel, NCSEA

Scott Dunbar, Partner, Keyes & Fox

Jason Higginbotham, Associate General Counsel, Duke Energy

Katie Ottenweller, Attorney, Google

Ben Snowden, Attorney, Fox Rothschild LLP

2:35 – 3:35 P.M. **Examining Southeastern Integrated Resource Planning Approaches Including the NC Carbon Plan/IRP**

This panel will contrast and compare different approaches to integrated resource planning across the Southeast, including the NC Carbon Plan/IRP process to understand how the approaches affect clean energy.

John Burns, Counsel, CCEBA

Robert Josey, Attorney, Nelson Mullins

Miriam Makhyoun, CEO, EQ Research

Kevin Martin, CEO, CUCA

Cordon Smart, Attorney, Fox Rothschild LLP

Justin Somelofske, Senior Regulatory Counsel, NCSEA



3:35 – 3:50 P.M. **Break**

3:50 – 4:50 P.M. **Legal Strategies for Leveraging and Expanding Behind the Meter Resources**

This panel will examine legal approaches and policies to grow behind the meter resources such as solar plus storage that can be part of the solution to reduce energy demand. The panel will explore virtual power plants and residential and commercial regulatory options.

Thad Culley, Attorney, Sunrun

Tim Duff, General Manager, Retail Customer and Regulatory Strategy, Duke Energy

Hannah Elliot, Senior Director of Operations, Renu Energy Solutions

David Neal, Senior Attorney, SELC

Vincent Potter, Senior Policy Analyst, NC Clean Energy Technology Center

Taylor Speer, Attorney, Fox Rothschild LLP

4:50 – 5:00 P.M. **Wrap Up and Conclusion**