

Bios



Karen Palmer

Senior Fellow; Director, Electric Power Program Resources for the Future

Karen Palmer is a senior fellow at RFF and an expert on the economics of environmental, climate and public utility regulation of the electric power sector. Her work seeks to improve the design of environmental and technology regulations in the sector and the development of new institutions to help guide the ongoing transition of the electricity sector. To these ends, she explores climate policy design, analyzes efficient ways to promote use of renewable and other clean sources of electricity, and investigates new market designs, new approaches to electricity pricing and regulatory reforms to pave the way for long-term decarbonization of electricity supply and electrification of the energy economy.

In the 1990s, Palmer spent six months as a visiting economist in the Office of Economic Policy at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission where she worked on wholesale market design in the nascent ISO markets. She has served on three National Academies study panels, including one on the future of electricity from renewables and one on the future of electric power in the US. She is immediate past President of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) and serves on the Environmental Advisory Council to the New York ISO and on the Future Power Market Forum Advisory Group. She is the recipient of the Public Utility Research Center's 2015 Distinguished Service Award and was elected as an AERE Fellow in 2018. Her published papers have appeared in many academic journals including the American Economic Review, the RAND Journal of Economics, The Journal of Political Economy and The Journal of Environmental Economics and Management.

Ms. Palmer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Brandeis University and a PhD in economics from Boston University.



Joe Eto

California ISO Board of Governors & Senior Advisor, Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets & Policy

Joseph H. Eto was appointed to the ISO Board of Governors on March 30, 2023. His term will expire on December 31, 2025. Mr. Eto's confirmation by the California Senate is pending.

Following a nearly 40-year career, Mr. Eto retired from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) in 2021. He remains engaged with the Berkeley Lab through his collaboration with the Electricity Markets and Policy Department in the Energy Analysis and Environmental Impacts Division, and the Grid Integration Group in the Energy Storage and Demand Resources Division.

He has authored publications on electricity reliability, transmission planning and operations, demand response and distributed generation, utility integrated resource planning and demand-side management; and building energy-efficiency technologies.

Between 1999 and 2018, Mr. Eto led a consortium of national laboratories, universities, and private-sector partners to conduct public-interest research and analysis on electricity reliability and transmission technologies.

He also supported the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on a variety of electricity reliability-related assignments, including the National Transmission Grid Study, the U.S.-Canada investigation of the August 14, 2003 blackout, and DOE's National Electric Transmission Congestion Studies.



Mr. Eto received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and a M.S. in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a registered professional Mechanical Engineer in the State of California.



Philip D Moeller

Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, Edison Electric Institute

The Honorable Philip D. Moeller is Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). EEI is the association that represents all of the nation's investor owned electric companies.

Mr. Moeller has significant responsibility over a broad range of issues that affect the future structure of the electric power industry and new rules in evolving competitive markets. He has responsibility over the strategic areas of energy supply and finance, energy delivery, energy services, federal and state regulatory issues, and international affairs.

Prior to joining EEI in February 2016, Mr. Moeller served as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), ending his tenure as the second-longest serving member of the Commission. In office from 2006 through 2015, Mr. Moeller ended his service as the only Senate-confirmed member of the federal government appointed by both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. At FERC, Mr. Moeller championed policies promoting improved wholesale electricity markets, increasing investment in electric transmission and natural gas pipeline infrastructure, and enhancing the coordination of the electric power and natural gas industries.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Moeller headed the Washington, D.C., office of Alliant Energy Corporation. He also served as a Senior Legislative Assistant for Energy Policy to U.S. Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), and as the Staff Coordinator of the Washington State Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee in Olympia, Washington.

Mr. Moeller was born in Chicago and raised on a ranch near Spokane, Washington. He received a BA in Political Science from Stanford University.



Rich Sedano

President & CEO, The Regulatory Assistance Project

RAP President Richard Sedano brings decades of industry and regulatory experience in developing creative, context-specific energy policies, and he continues to advise governments on the “power sector of the future” and energy efficiency policy. Mr. Sedano works collaboratively with our regional leadership to advance power sector reform and environmental policy, cost-effective paths to a low-carbon energy sector, and practical solutions to the challenges of integrating renewable energy sources into the grid and scaling up energy efficiency resources.

Most recently, Mr. Sedano was director of RAP’s U.S. program, where he advised state utility commissions and other decision-makers, often working with them in workshop settings, on energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, pricing, grid modernization, transmission and wholesale electric market issues.

Prior to joining RAP in 2001, Mr. Sedano served as commissioner for nine years and held various engineering staff positions with the Vermont Department of Public Service. The department represents utility consumers in all regulatory matters and acts as the state’s energy office and consumer advocate. He also worked as an engineer in power generation for Philadelphia Electric Co.

In November 2009, Mr. Sedano was awarded the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ Mary Kilmarx Award. In September 2011, the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) presented him with an award for his service. Mr. Sedano served as chair of NASEO from 1998-2000. He is an advisor to the Rocky Mountain Institute’s e-Lab — an assembly of thought leaders and decision-makers focused on collaborative innovation to address critical barriers to the economic deployment of distributed resources in the U.S. electricity sector.



Mr. Sedano attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City and received his bachelor's in engineering from Brown University and his master's degree in engineering management from Drexel University.



Alex Wernberg

Managing Director, MUFG, North America Power Project Finance

Alex Wernberg joined MUFG in 1998 and currently heads North America Power Project Finance, which consists of an industry leading team of 30 bankers including 6 managing directors that originate and manage over a \$10 billion portfolio. Alex's experience includes arranging financings across a wide variety of transactions in a number of different asset classes (natural gas, wind, solar, battery, geothermal, biomass, hydroelectric, and gas and electric transmission), as well as across markets (bank, 144A, private placement, and Term Loan B) and the capital spectrum (opco, holdco, mezzanine).

Alex graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Business Management and Marketing, with an emphasis in Accounting and Finance, and is a CFA Charterholder.