

## **BRIAN J. ABBANAT**

*Senior Consultant*

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Brian Abbanat has twenty years experience in the energy field, with over ten years experience in public utility regulation. He has expertise and has assisted many clients in resource planning and procurement activities, including rulemaking, resource need analysis, resource procurement, demand-side management (“DSM”), and distributed and renewable resources. Mr. Abbanat previously was director of the Electric Power Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“MA DTE”), where he led the integrated resource planning effort in rulemakings and competitive bidding processes. He also oversaw QF contracting and the MA DTE’s DSM activities, including proceedings related to program monitoring and evaluation. He also participated on the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners staff energy policy committee and on New England Governor's Conference Task Force on NEPOOL Restructuring. Mr. Abbanat has considerable experience in electric industry restructuring, including issues related to wholesale and retail market design, legislation, merger and financial analysis, rate unbundling and ratemaking. Prior to entering the energy field, he served as chief financial officer for a small California corporation.

### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Current project manager to the Hawaii Consumer Advocate in dockets addressing new competitive bidding rules for Hawaii, issues in demand-side management (“DSM”), and Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) proceedings for the state’s three largest electric utilities. Appeared as an expert witness in hearings on competitive bidding issues and in a DSM generic inquiry. Prepared initial and final statements describing the Hawaii Consumer Advocate’s position on competitive bidding and DSM issues. Prepared a set of draft guidelines detailing the informational requirements necessary to enable meaningful collaborative stakeholder processes in IRP designs. Managed La Capra Associates’ efforts in a series of contract reviews, and on issues related to competitive procurement and Hawaii’s renewable portfolio standard (“RPS”).
- Assisted in preparing a report on behalf of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board addressing Connecticut’s need for incremental generating capacity, as determined relative to established reliability standards for supply adequacy, operable capacity and quick start reserve requirements.
- Assisted in preparing expert testimony addressing regulatory review considerations by the Connecticut Siting Council for presentation to that agency in proceedings addressing an application by Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating to construct a 345 kV transmission line to resolve reliability problems in Southwest Connecticut. Recommended consideration of all resource options before committing

to a proposed “transmission-only” solution.

- Co-authored a draft whitepaper addressing PJM’s proposed revised capacity markets, which was submitted to the Maryland Office of Peoples’ Council to assist in policy formulation.
- Provided advice and analysis in the development of a whitepaper addressing the development of renewable resources for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.
- Provided analyses of New England’s need for new generating capacity and need for new renewable resources in support of Cape Wind Associates’ application to the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board. Presented expert testimony on behalf of PDC-El Paso, another power plant developer, to the Connecticut Siting Council addressing the need for additional generation supplies in Connecticut and New England.
- Prepared a comprehensive assessment of the early experience of competition in select wholesale and retail electric markets, for presentation to the Arkansas Public Service Commission in its investigation to determine whether to proceed with implementation of retail access. Assisted Commission Staff in developing Standard Service Package Guidelines to be implemented in the (now abandoned) transition to retail open access.
- Prepared a summary of the recent experience in retail power markets across the U.S. as part of a presentation to an ad hoc committee of the Belmont Municipal Light Department evaluating the merits of implementing retail access within that community.
- Prepared expert testimony addressing the merits of including in ratebase the generating assets of a merchant power affiliate, within the context of an Arizona Public Service rate proceeding before the Arizona Corporation Commission.
- Provided expert testimony on behalf of the Staff of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission regarding supply portfolio design issues and the results of a related power supply procurement by Unitil Energy Systems. Also served as a lead negotiator on behalf of Staff in settlement negotiations addressing portfolio design and RFP design issues, which led to an agreement that was accepted by the Commission.
- Provided advice and analysis to the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources in its ongoing activities before the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“DTE”). Directed a project exploring opportunities to introduce basic portfolio design, procurement and management principles to standard offer and default generation service. Prepared comments to the DTE in its proceeding exploring opportunities to improve the landscape for distributed generation.
- Provided extensive analysis and advice to the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate regarding GPU’s provider of last resort service procurement strategy and costs.
- Assisted with analysis, drafting and review of proposed legislation to create a

regulatory commission to oversee wholesale and retail power markets in Zimbabwe. Also prepared a comprehensive outline of the regulations that would be implemented by the future regulatory commission in fulfillment of its statutory mandate.

- Prepared a model terms and conditions delivery services tariff to support Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission in proceedings to implement rates pursuant to that state's electric industry restructuring law.
- As director of the Electric Power Division, led Staff of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy in the development of integrated resource planning rules governing electric utility planning and procurement of new supply and demand-side resources. This work included new and subsequent "streamlined" IRP rules that were adopted by the Commission.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

<b>La Capra Associates</b> <i>Senior Consultant</i> <i>Consultant</i>	Boston, MA 1998 – present 1997 - 1998
<b>Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities</b> <i>Director, Electric Power Division</i> <i>Other staff positions</i>	Boston, MA 1995 - 1997 1986 - 1995
<b>Jonsson Communications Corporation</b> <i>Controller</i>	Sacramento, CA 1984 - 1986
<b>Pacific Gas Lighting Supply Company</b> <i>Intern</i>	Los Angeles, CA Summer, 1983

## EDUCATION

<b>University of California</b> <i>M.B.A. (Finance, Management Strategy and Policy)</i>	Los Angeles, CA 1984
<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> <i>B.S., Mechanical Engineering</i>	Cambridge, MA 1980