

Matthew McDonnell

Managing Director of US Consulting

Email: mmcdonnell@strategen.com Phone Number: +1 (313) 657-8982

Education

JD, James E. Rogers College of Law
University of Arizona, 2011

BA, Finance
Michigan State University, 2006

Work Experience

Managing Director of US Consulting

Strategen / Tucson, AZ / 2020 - Present

- + Regulatory attorney and policy innovation subject matter expert leading Strategen US Consulting practice.
- + Supports private- and public-sector clients across emergent areas of electric grid transformation including energy storage, power system planning, rate design, grid modernization, DERs, and the development of new utility business models (PBR). Leverages prior experience as a state regulator to deliver valuable insights to clients.

Associate Director

Navigant Consulting, Energy Practice / Honolulu, HI / 2019 - 2020

- + Supported electric utilities, energy companies, and regulators across numerous domains, including energy storage, power system planning, rate design, grid modernization, distributed energy resources, and development of new regulatory and business models.

Commission Counsel

Hawaii Public Utility Commission / Honolulu, HI / 2015 - 2019

- + Led or supported numerous efforts involving power system planning, grid modernization, renewables integration, distributed energy resources, demand response, electrification of transportation, and performance-based regulation (PBR).
- + Served prominent role in Hawaii's groundbreaking PBR docket.
- + Led team through process design, workshop facilitation, and execution of docket.
- + Supported various innovative programs that earned Hawaiian Electric Companies SEPA's 2018 Utility of the Year.

Senior Regulatory and Policy Analyst

Economic and Human Dimension Research Associates / Tucson, AZ / 2011– 2015

- + Provided clients financial and policy analysis pertaining to the energy industry.

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Selection of Relevant Experience

District of Columbia Office of the People's Council

Consumer-centric deep decarbonization strategy / 2021 – Present

- + Matt is leading Strategen's engagement with the DC OPC to co-develop several decarbonization scenarios informed by the local context and stakeholder input. Strategen is also providing a multi-sectoral analysis to highlight the cost effectiveness of different deep decarbonization pathways for the District.

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Community solar program design and analysis / 2020 – Present

- + As a leading architect of the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program for the State of Hawaii, Matt advises and supports the HPUC in its efforts to design and implement a robust community solar program to meet the unique needs of Hawaii's island grids.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Virtual net metering tariff design and analysis / 2020 – Present

- + Matt supported SMUD in outlining a VNEM tariff framework and constructed a financial model to evaluate the customer value proposition for the proposed tariff as well as a comparative look at other California IOUs' VNEM program offerings.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Planning considerations for energy storage in resilience applications / 2020

- + Matt served as a co-author on a report with PNNL that, among other elements, identified key resilience themes impacting high-renewables grids and outlined four common principles shared by successfully deployed resilience projects: (1) resilience benefits are hyperlocal; (2) project feasibility is achieved by providing grid services; (3) local value drives each project; and (4) energy storage is a key enabling technology in resilience applications.

Energy Systems Integration Group

An open networks project for the United States to facilitate reliable, efficient integration of DERs into the Electric Power System / 2021 – Present

- + Matt is leading a consortium of subject matter experts to assess the DER integration issues across a variety of jurisdictions in the US, evaluate lessons learned from the UK and Australia Open Networks approaches to determine what may be applicable to the US, convene sustained discussions among relevant stakeholders on DER integration approaches, and develop consensus recommendations on how to maximize the potential of DERs in US power systems and wholesale markets.

Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Innovation pilots framework (regulatory sandbox) / 2020 – Present

- + Matt is leading a team to design and implement a regulatory framework and process that can create space for innovation and facilitate deployment of a wide array of innovative technology applications and customer programs.

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Publications

Electricity Regulation for a Customer Centric Future. Report prepared by Guidehouse for Edison Electric Institute. 2020.

JB Twitchell, SF Newman, RS O'Neil, MT McDonnell. 2020. Planning Considerations for Energy Storage in Resilience Applications - Outcomes from the NELHA Energy Storage Conference's Policy and Regulatory Workshop. PNNL-29738, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

John A. "Skip" Laitner, Benoit Lebot, Matthew McDonnell, and Meagan Weiland. 2018. Smart Policies and Programs as Critical Drivers for Greater Energy Efficiency Investments. Analytical Manuscript prepared for International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).

John A. "Skip" Laitner, Matthew McDonnell, and Ryan Keller. 2015. ICT-Enabled Intelligent Efficiency. Report prepared for Digital Energy and Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESC).

Presentations

Matthew McDonnell (2019). AEE 2nd Annual Public Utility Commissioners Forum. Invited as an expert to speak on distribution system planning and performance-based regulation.

Matthew McDonnell (2019). NARUC Annual Meeting, San Antonio. Invited to present on a panel moderated by NRRI, Susie Mora of Exelon, and Commissioner Abigail Anthony of Rhode Island, entitled "Performance-Based Regulation: Helping to Enable a Customer-centric Future."

Matthew McDonnell (2019). GridFWD. Invited to moderate a panel with representatives from Avista, Uplight, and Hawaiian Electric, entitled "Innovation and Regulation."

Matthew McDonnell (2019). Hawaii Energy Conference. Invited to moderate panel with Hawaii Governor David Ige, California PUC President Michael Picker, Hawaii Commissioner Jennifer Potter, and Rhode Island Commissioner Abigail Anthony, entitled "Moving Away from Convention: Innovations in Regulatory Policy."

Matthew McDonnell (2018). Maui Energy Conference. Invited to moderate panel entitled "Regulating Carbon: The Best Solutions."

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Leadership and Committee Experience

U.S. Dept. of Energy, Grid Modernization Lab Consortium

IEEE 2030.5 Ecosystem Steering Committee Member / 2018 – 2019

- + Pursuant to GMLC multi-year research plan to accelerate modernization efforts pertaining to information and communications interoperability, invited to develop roadmaps that advance ease of integration of IEEE 2030.5.

Smart Electric Power Association (SEPA)

Transactive Energy Working Group Member / 2018-2019

- + The Transactive Energy Working Group develops tools and techniques that advance the understanding and application of transactive energy concepts to enable high penetrations of DER that are supported by intelligent economic market structures, standards, and regulations within the electric sector. Key objectives include integration of DER with an emphasis on distribution-level operations and integration of behind-the-meter customer DER (including demand flexibility); coordination of resources to improve system efficiency; providing grid ancillary services including ramping and balancing; and management of congestion.

U.S. Dept. of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN)

NARUC Advisory Committee Member / 2018 – 2019

- + Participated as Advisory Committee member on NARUC's SEIN project with PJM Interconnection and Converge Strategies LLC to examine potential for new opportunities for solar energy to make our energy supply both more environmentally friendly and more resilient to natural disasters, cyber and physical attacks, and other emerging threats. In particular, the project looked at the resilience benefits of solar plus storage from a regulatory and markets perspective.

NARUC – Jamaica Office of Utilities Regulation

NARUC Coordinator, Distributed Generation Working Group / 2018 – 2019

- + Participated as NARUC member expert to lead Distributed Generation working group, which discuss and peer review documents via email, hold webinars and conference calls on pertinent topics and other activities as relevant.