



## Stephen C. Pearson

Partner

Steve Pearson is committed to protecting the consumer's interest and seeks to assure utility rates they incur are as low as reasonably achievable. In pursuit of this goal, he has litigated extensively in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in both natural gas and electric matters, primarily representing publicly-owned utility clients.

Steve's most recent FERC litigation experience has focused on representing municipal electric utilities and state government agencies in proceedings under Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act addressing transmission rates, terms, and conditions as well as transmission rate design. He has represented municipal natural gas consumers, municipally-owned local distribution companies, and state government agencies in numerous proceedings under Section 4 and Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act concerning both rates and the terms and conditions of service under pipelines' tariffs. In addition, he has represented such clients on numerous certificate proceedings, both abandonment and new construction, at FERC and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Steve has also represented clients on an extensive number of transmission formula and stated rate cases. While most of his work related to transmission rates has been on behalf of transmission customers, he has represented municipal transmission owners that have filed with FERC seeking to include their transmission revenue requirements in an RTO's transmission rate.

As part of his practice he helped a public power client comply with its reciprocity obligation to provide transmission service and advised the client as it drafted an Open Access Transmission Tariff. He also spent considerable time at FERC litigating other cases including the PJM and Midwest ISO seams elimination proceedings, the PJM rate redesign proceeding, and cases related to the restructuring of the California markets. In addition, Steve has experience litigating Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act matters before FERC, U.S. courts of appeal and state courts.

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### EDUCATION

Northwestern School of Law of  
Lewis and Clark College, JD, *cum  
laude*, 1998

Portland, OR

*Environmental Law*, Associate  
Editor

University of Michigan, MSE, 1993

Ann Arbor, MI

Nuclear Engineering

University of Michigan, BSE, *cum  
laude*, 1991

Ann Arbor, MI

Nuclear Engineering

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### ADMISSIONS

Oregon

District of Columbia

United States Courts of Appeals  
for the District of Columbia and  
Ninth Circuits

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#### MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association

Energy Bar Association

Steve's transactional experience includes negotiating power purchase transactions using both EEI standard form agreements as well as situationally-tailored power purchase agreements. He has also represented public power clients in hydro licensing proceedings, including re-license, transfer, exemption, and surrender, as well as hydro compliance proceedings.

Prior to joining Spiegel & McDiarmid, Steve practiced energy law for two years as an associate at a firm and practiced general corporate law for two years in-house, both in Portland, Oregon.

### Representative Matters

- He helped a group of Missouri gas-pipeline customers fight a proposed rate increase that would have nearly doubled their rates. The negotiated settlement radically changed the pipeline's rate structure and resulted in a minimal rate increase for Mr. Pearson's clients.
- Since 2007 Mr. Pearson's has represented Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi municipal clients in Entergy rate and transmission cases and in the integration of the Entergy region into MISO.
- He has represented clients in the ongoing FERC proceeding examining how the costs of new transmission facilities in PJM should be allocated.

### Practice Focus

Litigates before FERC, represents public power clients nationwide in transmission rates cases, argues RTO and non-RTO formula transmission rate filings. Represents municipal gas distribution and municipal electric utility gas consumers in pipeline rate cases and related matters.