SPIEGEL & MCDIARMID LLP

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William S. Huang

Partner

Mr. Huang represents municipalities, municipal joint action agencies, local communities, hydropower developers and associations of transmission dependent systems in electricity and hydroelectric matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the courts. He has extensive experience in hydropower regulation, including licensing and relicensing, license compliance, environmental and water supply issues, shoreline management, license transfer and annual and headwater benefit charges to licensees.

In addition to his hydropower practice, Mr. Huang represents clients in FERC electric policy initiatives, as well as in transactions and litigation involving specific electric rates, transmission service and interconnection, primarily in restructured electricity markets in the Midwest and California. His clients include the Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS), on whose behalf he has actively advocated the interests of transmission-dependent systems in FERC rulemakings.

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, JD, 1986
New Haven, CT

University of California, PhD, 1998
Berkeley, CA
City and Regional Planning

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MCP, 1983
Cambridge, MA
City Planning

Harvard College, AB, *magna cum laude*, 1981
Cambridge, MA
History and Science

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

New York

California

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Second, Fourth, Seventh and Ninth Circuits

MEMBERSHIPS

Energy Bar Association

Electric Cooperative Bar Association

Representative Matters

- When, in a relicensing proceeding, FERC refused to examine evidence presented by his client that a far superior hydropower project was possible for the same part of the river, Mr. Huang helped win an appeal vacating FERC's decision to issue a new license to the incumbent licensee. *Green Island Power Authority v. FERC*, 577 F.3d 148 (2d Cir. 2009).

- On behalf of TAPS, Mr. Huang helped persuade FERC to include crucial provisions in its Rule on Long-Term Firm Transmission Rights in Organized Electricity Markets, to make such long-term rights available to transmission dependent utilities on reasonable terms. FERC Order No. 681.

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- Mr. Huang successfully persuaded a federal appeals court to reverse FERC's ruling that the Federal Power Act allowed a state law to assess fees for headwater benefits associated with a federally-licensed hydroelectric project, ultimately resulting in large savings for his client and other licensed projects on the affected waterway. *Albany Engineering Corp. v. FERC*, 548 F.3d 1071 (D.C. Cir. 2008).

Practice Focus

Electric, environment and energy, hydro and water, contracts and rate negotiations, litigation and appeals and public policy and lobbying.

Resources

- *Client Alert: Elimination of FERC Form 80 and Revisions to Public Notice and Signage Requirements*, by William S. Huang, Jeffrey M. Bayne – info@spiegelmcd (January 2019).
- *Client Alert: FERC Seeks Comments on Hydropower Recreation Rule and Draft Water Conveyance Engineering Guidelines*, by Jeffrey M. Bayne, William S. Huang – info@spiegelmcd (May 2018).
- *Property Rights as a Way to Protect Local Interests in Hydropower Projects*, by Jeffrey M. Bayne, William S. Huang – American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources, Hydro Power Committee Newsletter (August 2016).
- *FERC Gearing Up for Relicensings: Existing Licensees Asked to Choose a Relicensing Process by June 1, 2015*, by William S. Huang – info@spiegelmcd (May 2015).
- *Swimming Against the Current: Making the FERC Hydroelectric Process Work For You*, by William S. Huang – American Public Power Association Legal Seminar (October 2014).
- *Client Alert: FERC Order on Municipal Preference in Hydropower Licensing*, by William S. Huang – info@spiegelmcd (January 2014).
- *Client Alert: New Hydropower Legislation*, by William S. Huang –

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info@spiegelmcd (September 2013).

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Licensing, by William S. Huang – info@spiegelmcd (January 2014).

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