

Summary

Cristin Lyons is a partner with ScottMadden and leads the firm's Grid Transformation practice, which helps clients adapt to the operational, planning, customer, and regulatory changes driven by the increasing penetration of distributed energy resources. Since joining the firm in 1999, Cristin has consulted with myriad transmission and distribution clients on issues ranging from process and organizational redesign to merger integration to project and program management. She is also a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences across the country. Cristin earned a B.A. in political science and Spanish from Gettysburg College and an M.B.A. from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Areas of Specialization

- Grid transformation and distributed energy resources
- Operations improvement and process redesign
- Smart Grid
- Organizational design and restructuring
- Merger and acquisition integration
- Transmission operations

Recent Articles and Speeches

- "Impacts of Distributed Energy Resources on T&D Organizations." August 2015
- "Survey: Distributed Generation – What's on the Horizon?" April 2014
- "Distributed Resources and Utility Business Models – The Chronicle of a Death Foretold?" September 2013
- "Gas-Power Interdependence: Knock-on Effects of the Dash to Gas." January 2013
- "Transmission Control Centers – Critical Success Factors." July 2012
- "NERC Compliance and Organization Structure." May 2010
- "NERC Compliance: The Bar Has Been Raised." SPARK (Public Utilities Fortnightly online). December 2009
- "Strategic Issues in Transmission." EEI Strategic Issues Roundtable. February 2009

Recent Assignments

- Developed a governance model and project management structure by which to manage a utility's response to the regulator's ambitious proceedings related to clean energy, distributed energy resources, and alternative ratemaking
- Assisted a utility in developing filings to define its plans to incorporate distributed energy resources and demonstrate alternative business models
- Led the development of strategic initiatives in T&D to drive operational improvements, respond to significant regulatory initiatives, and reduce cost. Developed the work plans associated with each initiative and the managed process to ensure their completion
- Developed a functional model for T&D through which existing accountabilities were assessed. Created a future state accountability model that clarified roles and responsibilities across the organization
- Led a project to develop a series of strategic initiatives for a T&D organization to improve its capital project-planning process; work included benchmarking of capital project planning and project management activities across multiple T&D organizations
- Developed the strategic initiatives and plan to establish a new asset management function at a T&D utility; work included analysis of the existing functions within the engineering organization and external benchmarking of asset management practices in T&D; helped the client stand-up the new organization
- Performed an assessment of the system operations function of a cooperative to identify opportunities to restructure and align the organization to meet evolving requirements
- Led the effort to establish program management offices to manage both a Smart Grid investment grant and a Smart Grid demonstration grant for a large T&D utility. The effort included creating the necessary project management infrastructure to manage the projects and meet regulatory reporting requirements
- Provided program management for a start-up transmission organization to manage regulatory filings, business development, the establishment of corporate functions, and communications to the private equity investor
- Managed the effort to build a new capital project-planning process for a T&D utility, which included a project prioritization process and stage-gating approvals