

Summary

Jim Stephens has 30 years of experience in the energy industry and has held senior management positions at economic consulting firms, local distribution companies, and a retail energy marketer. Jim has assisted numerous clients in the United States and Canada with regulatory strategy development and implementation, energy portfolio assessment and optimization, integrated resource planning and hedging/risk management, and energy infrastructure evaluation. He has also provided expert testimony in numerous proceedings at various U.S. jurisdictions, including federal and state regulatory agencies and Canadian provincial regulatory bodies. In addition, Jim has commercial experience through his leadership positions at a retail energy marketing company, where he was responsible for all aspects of business unit management, including front-, mid- and back-office functions. He was also responsible for gas supply procurement and portfolio optimization for a local distribution company. Jim holds a bachelor of science degree in management and an M.B.A., with a concentration in operations management, from Bentley College.

Areas of Specialization

- Energy market assessment
- Regulatory analysis and support
- Integrated resource planning and energy procurement
- Business strategy and operations
- Financial and economic advisory services

Recent Assignments

- Retained by numerous companies to develop regional energy market assessments which included assessment of the commercial and regulatory implications associated with energy infrastructure, regulatory situational analysis, and assessment of competitive position. Market assessment engagements typically have been used as required elements of business unit or asset-specific strategic plans or valuation analyses. In addition, certain market assessments have been submitted to various federal, state, and provincial regulatory agencies
- On behalf of energy market participants, supported the development of regulatory and ratemaking strategies, energy supply obligations, stranded cost assessment and recovery, rate design, and management procedures and decisions. Specific projects include design and implementation of pipeline capacity open season processes; review utility contracting approaches with respect to gas supplies; assess compliance requirements with the FERC standard of conduct regarding affiliate transactions; analysis of provider of last resort obligations in both electric and natural gas markets; review the process to procure and hedge default service supplies; and develop new service offerings
- Directed and participated in the review of various energy procurement projects, including demand modeling, portfolio review/optimization, hedging/risk management, energy procurement strategies, and associated cost structures
- Retained by numerous North American energy companies to support the development of strategic plans and planning processes for both regulated and non-regulated entities. Specific services provided include development of market entry strategies for the retail and wholesale energy sectors; review of management practices and procedures; and business process redesign initiatives
- Involved in the sale or evaluation of several regulated and non-regulated energy companies, including wholesale and retail energy marketing companies, online energy brokers, and energy services companies. Assisted clients with market strategy and the identification of partnership opportunities. Specific services provided include business unit evaluation, development of marketing and sale materials, marketing of transaction, bid evaluation, and negotiation support

Recent Expert Testimony Submission/Appearances

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Market Power
- Ontario Energy Board – Gas Supply Planning
- Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities – Energy Infrastructure
- The Régie de l'énergie – Gouvernement du Québec – Natural Gas Storage
- Maine Department of Public Utilities – Retail Choice Program
- New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board – Energy Risk Management
- Alberta Utilities Commission – Energy Procurement/Risk Assessment
- Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board – Gas Supply Strategy/Capacity Assignment
- Regulatory Commission of Alaska – Forecasting Demand
- New Hampshire Utilities Commission – Integrated Resource Plan
- New Hampshire Utilities Commission – Energy Infrastructure