

2023 LANDSCAPE DISCUSSION ON



ENERGY LAW & POLICY IN THE ROCKIES

10th Anniversary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

LARAMIE, WYOMING

Hosted by:

University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, the Haub School
for Environment and Natural Resources and
UW College of Law's Center for Law and Energy Resources in the
Rockies

in Collaboration with the Energy and Natural Resources Section of
the Wyoming State Bar

Energy Law Conference Agenda

Friday, October 13, 2023

UWYO Gateway Center

222 S. 22nd St.

Laramie, Wyoming

- 8:00-9:00** **Breakfast and Registration Open**
Breakfast sponsored by Crowley Fleck
- 9:00-9:30** **Welcome**
Kara Fornstrom, *Director, Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis, School of Energy Resources*
Ed Seidel, *President, University of Wyoming*
Holly Krutka, *Executive Director, School of Energy Resources*
Klint Alexander, *Dean, College of Law*
John Koprowski, *Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources*
- 9:30-10:00** **Keynote: State Primacy in Environmental Regulation**
Todd Parfitt, *Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality*
- 10:00-10:30** **Networking Break** *sponsored by Davis Graham & Stubbs*
- 10:30-11:00** **Keynote: Federal Investments in Carbon Management**
John Litynski, *School of Energy Resources Senior Advisor, former DOE Director of Carbon Transport and Storage*
- 11:00-11:30** **Legal and Technology Dynamics of Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage**
Tara Righetti, *Occidental Professor of Energy and Environmental Law and Policy; School of Energy Resources Professor of Law, University of Wyoming*
- 11:30-12:00** **NEPA FRA Amendments and Regulatory Changes**
Dessa Reimer, *Holland & Hart*
- 12:00-12:30** **Oil and Gas Permitting Reform**
Alex Obrecht, *Baker Hostetler*
- 12:30-1:30** **Lunch** *sponsored by Holland & Hart*
Wyoming State Bar ENR Section Presentation
Salt Creek Energy Scholarship Presentation
- 1:00-1:30** **Gina Guy Keynote on Government Service**
Kathleen Marion Carr, *retired, Field Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior*
- 1:30-2:00** **Networking Break** *sponsored by Browstein*
- 2:00-4:00** **Advanced Energy Technology Funding and Permitting Panel Discussion**
Moderator: Brian Annes, *Davis Graham & Stubbs*
Erik Holt, *Frontier Carbon Solutions, The Realities of Obtaining Federal Funding*
Madeline Lewis, *School of Energy Resources, The Four Pillars of the DOE's Community Benefit Plans*
Jennifer Thomson, *Office of Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Actioning Federally Funded Advanced Energy Projects*
- 4:00** **Wrap Up & Conclusion**

Keynote Speakers



John Litynski, Senior Advisor, School of Energy Resources

John Litynski is a Senior Advisor to the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. He most recently served as the Director of Carbon Transport and Storage in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management. Litynski has amassed over 25 years of experience working on environmental compliance, carbon sequestration and technology development for the energy sector, and has led DOE efforts to promote the development of carbon-management technologies at commercial scales while also managing a portfolio of applied research and development projects on geologic storage, CO₂ utilization and pre-combustion capture.



Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Todd Parfitt was appointed Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) by Governor Matt Mead in October 2012 and subsequently reappointed in January 2019 by Governor Mark Gordon. He has 27 years of experience with the department, including seven years in the dual role of Deputy Director and Administrator of the Industrial Siting Division. After earning his Master's degree in Public Administration, Environmental Policy from The Ohio State University, he worked for the Ohio Fire Marshal as an Environmental Supervisor. Parfitt also spent time in the private sector as Director of Operations for the environmental consulting firm BHE Environmental. Parfitt served as President of the Environmental Council of States in 2017-2018.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Temple Stoellinger for her leadership in planning this conference as well as members of this year's steering committee: Rob Mathes, Rebecca Watson, Joe Evers, Casey Terrell, Dessa Reimer, Alex Obrecht, Sam Kalen, Kipp Coddington, Kara Fornstrom, Brian Annes and Sharon Buccino. We sincerely appreciate your efforts in making this conference a success.

Thank you



Klint Alexander, Dean, UW College of Law

Dr. Klint Alexander is Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming College of Law. He joined the College of Law in 2015 and was previously a partner in a major Southeastern law firm where he practiced in the areas of energy and natural resource law, utilities regulation and foreign trade and investment law. For the past two decades, Alexander has served in teaching and leadership roles at several major institutions, including Yale University, Vanderbilt University and the University of London.

Brian Annes, Of Counsel, Davis, Graham & Stubbs, LLP

Brian Annes is Of Counsel in the Energy & Mining Group at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. Mr. Annes focuses his practice on upstream and midstream transactional matters for the oil and gas industry. His practice also includes acquiring, developing, and protecting water supplies and facilities. Mr. Annes represents clients in the drafting and negotiation of various midstream agreements, and other agreements pertaining to the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas and related infrastructure. He has experience advising clients regarding easements and rights-of-way issues and with Indian oil and gas leasing issues, including representing companies in administrative appeals before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals. Mr. Annes also has experience with oil and gas and water rights due diligence, including the preparation of all forms of title opinions covering fee, state, and federal lands. He has experience negotiating agreements with municipalities and has assisted an international government agency in the development of environmental and technical requirements for unconventional oil and gas exploration. Mr. Annes received his J.D. from the University of Wyoming, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Wyoming Law Review* and concurrently received his M.A. in Environment and Natural Resources.

Kathleen Marion Carr, retired, Field Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior

Kathleen Carr is a retired Field Solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). She has over 37 years of federal experience in the energy and environmental legal field having served with the DOI for over 17 years as an attorney before her 13 year post as a field solicitor. Prior to DOI, she worked in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation where she served as a liaison between the Commissioner and the Regional Offices. Carr earned her BS in Business from the University of Wyoming followed by her Juris Doctor at the UW College of Law.

Kara Fornstrom, Director, UW School of Energy Resources Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis

Kara Fornstrom serves as the Director of the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources' Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis where she leads a team of research scientists and attorneys to monitor and evaluate existing legislative and regulatory issues relating to energy development issues in the state, and to serve as a resource for decision-makers at the local, state, regional and national levels. Fornstrom has more than 20 years of experience in the utility regulatory and administrative law sectors. Her legal career began at the Wyoming Attorney General's Office in the Water Division. She was a founding partner of Hageman & Brighton PC, where she focused exclusively on water and natural resource issues, including representation of several irrigation districts, agricultural interests and municipalities. Appointed by former Gov. Matt Mead in 2013, she served on the Wyoming Public Service Commission for nearly eight years, the last two years as chairman. Prior to UW, Fornstrom was the director of state regulatory policy for Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a regional transmission organization in the Eastern Interconnection, where she focused her efforts on SPP's strategic initiative to expand its services in the Western Interconnection. She earned her bachelor's degree in small business management from UW and her law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law.



Erik Holt, General Counsel and Vice President of Land, Frontier Carbon Solutions, LLC

Erik Holt, a licensed attorney, brings more than 15 years of experience as a land and legal professional in his role as Frontier’s General Counsel and Vice President of Land. Before joining Frontier, Erik was an officer and member of the investment committee of an oil and gas investment fund with \$1 billion in assets under management where he led all land, legal and business development efforts for the platform. Previously, Erik was a partner and Chief Commercial Officer of Teal Natural Resources, LLC, a private equity-backed E&P operator focused in the South Texas. Over the course of four years, Erik was instrumental in Teal’s growth through a series of acquisitions that led to more than 30,000 acres in the oil-rich window of the Eagle Ford basin while also managing all corporate legal affairs, including Teal’s successful monetization in 2021. Prior to Teal, Erik held management roles for multiple, privately-funded startups focused on consolidating and operating both conventional and unconventional oil and gas properties throughout the lower 48. Erik earned his Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University School of Law and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

John Koprowski, Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

John L. Koprowski has been dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources since September 2020. He came to the University of Wyoming from the University of Arizona, where he was Director of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment since 2018 and a professor of wildlife conservation and management since 2000. At UA, he directed the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit and the Mt. Graham Biology Programs and held affiliations with the Institute of the Environment and the Genetics Interdisciplinary Degree Program. Dean Koprowski has taught undergraduate courses in wildlife conservation and management and graduate courses that deal with the complexity of environmental and conservation challenges in human-dominated landscapes. His efforts in wildlife conservation have led to his election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Wildlife Society, and the Linnean Society of London.

Holly Krutka, Executive Director, UW School of Energy Resources

Dr. Holly Krutka is the Executive Director of the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. She came to the university after serving as the Vice President for Coal Generation and Emissions Technologies at Peabody, the world’s largest private-sector coal producer. Dr. Krutka has spent much of her career focusing on technology and policy pathways to advance carbon capture as well as identifying nontraditional coal-consumption opportunities. Before joining Peabody, she worked as a senior research and development analyst for Tri-State Generation and Transmission, an electric generation and transmission cooperative based in Westminster, Colo.; as executive editor of *Cornerstone*, The Official Journal of the World Coal Industry, employed by the Chinese state-owned energy company Shenhua Group; and as a research scientist and senior research engineer with ADA Environmental Solutions in Highlands Ranch, Colo., where she was tasked with launching a carbon capture research program.



Madeleine Lewis, Research Scientist, UW School of Energy Resources Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis

Madeleine (Maddie) Lewis is a research scientist in the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources' Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis. In her role, she conducts legal policy research and public outreach on a number of federally funded research grants to support energy development in Wyoming. She also provides analytical support on energy-related social science topics as they related to ongoing research projects. She earned her M.A. in Environment and Natural Resources from the UW Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources concurrently while earning her law degree from the UW College of Law. Following graduation, Lewis clerked for the Honorable Nancy Freudenthal in the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming before joining the regionally based law firm, Crowley Fleck PLLP. While in private practice, Lewis primarily focused on oil and gas litigation, title work, as well as commercial litigation, estate administration and estate planning.

Alex Obrecht, Partner, BakerHostetler

Alex Obrecht is a partner in the Denver office of BakerHostetler. He co-leads the firm's national Energy Industry team and concentrates his practice on energy regulation and litigation, focusing on oil and gas development on federal lands, hazardous materials transportation and compliance and oil and gas royalties. Having grown up and attended law school in Wyoming, one of the leading energy-producing states in the country, Alex adds a practical understanding to the complex legal environment in which these clients operate. Prior to law school, Alex worked with Credit Suisse, a Switzerland-based investment bank. During his tenure, he was involved in securities trading that occurred after the Macondo well blowout, which gave Alex insight into the corporate and financial aspects of issues affecting energy clients.

Hadassah (Dessa) Reimer, Of Counsel, Holland and Hart, LLP

Dessa Reimer is an attorney in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, office of Holland & Hart LLP. Her practice focuses on federal environmental regulation and litigation before the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the federal courts, including environmental impact assessment, endangered species, and public land permitting requirements. Dessa also has an active Indian law practice. Dessa represents a variety of clients including conventional and renewable energy developers, mining companies, and water resource providers, as well as Indian tribes.





Tara Righetti, UW School of Energy Resources Professor of Law and Occidental Chair of Energy and Environmental Policies

Professor Righetti is the Occidental Chair of Energy and Environmental Policies and co-director of the Nuclear Energy Research Center at the University of Wyoming. She is a tenured, full professor in the faculties of the College of Law, the School of Energy Resources, and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. Professor Righetti's research focuses on property, administrative law, and justice issues associated with energy development and decarbonization. In 2021-2022 she served as a Fulbright Research Scholar at the Université de Lille, in Lille. She is licensed to practice law in Texas and California and is a certified professional landman. She was recently appointed to serve on the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) task force for Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration (CCUS) Federal Lands and Outer Continental Shelf Permitting Task Force.

Ed Seidel, President, University of Wyoming

Edward Seidel is the 28th President of the University of Wyoming. He took office in July of 2020. A distinguished scholar, he has led academic, research and innovation programs at multiple universities. Prior to joining the University of Wyoming, Seidel served as the vice president for economic development and innovation for the University of Illinois System, and the senior vice president for research and innovation for the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology in Moscow, Russia, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before that, he directed the Office of Cyberinfrastructure and led the Directorate of Mathematical and Physical Sciences as National Science Foundation assistant director. Seidel earned his Ph.D. from Yale University in relativistic astrophysics and is recognized worldwide for his work on numerical relativity and black holes, as well as in high-performance and grid computing. He has been a leader of several very large international projects in both astrophysics and Grid computing, involving more than a dozen European and American institutions. He serves as an ex-officio member on the Energy Resources Council for the School of Energy Resources.

Jennifer Thomson, Major Project Development Manager, Office of Governor Mark Gordon

Thomson joined Governor Mark Gordon's staff after returning home to Wyoming to continue her work in public service. Her responsibilities include coordinating significant energy and natural resources projects, including development of nuclear, hydrogen, and critical mineral and rare earth elements industries, as well as ensuring community readiness for projects with the development of local capacity and infrastructure. Thomson has more than two decades of federal government and private sector experience in energy and natural resource development, environmental conservation, interagency coordination, Arctic collaboration, and Tribal consultation. She grew up in Cheyenne, worked in Washington D.C. and Houston, and returned to Laramie to acquire her JD at the University of Wyoming College of Law.



2023-2024 Salt Creek Scholar *Colton Edwards*

Salt Creek Scholarship recipients:
Iva Reckling, James Harkin, Scarlett Forrest, and Griffin Boehm



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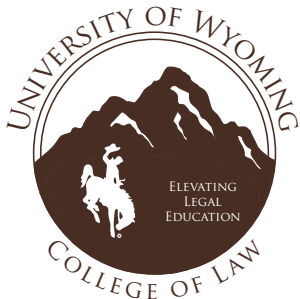


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