Harvard Electricity Policy Group

Based at the Center for Business and Government at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard Electricity Policy Group (HEPG) provides a forum for the analysis and discussion of important policy issues facing the U.S. electricity industry. Founded in 1993, its objectives are to address key problems related to the transition to a more competitive electricity market, to foster informed and open debate, and to contribute to the wider public policy agenda affecting the electric sector.

Precipitated by the Energy Policy Act and other changes in the electricity industry, HEPG’s agenda includes the economics of electricity production and use, the evolution of the industry and its regulatory institutions, transition paths and strategies, and related public policy goals. Through research, information dissemination, and regular seminars on such topics, HEPG facilitates discussion, which leads to the development of new ideas or to an expansion of the debate. HEPG takes no position on any issue and discussions focus on informing and analyzing, rather than forming consensus. HEPG participants can and do speak on their own behalf in the broader public policy debate.

HEPG’s participation spans the breadth of interests in the U.S. electric sector. Participants include electricity industry executives from public power and investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, consumer advocates, regulators, energy officials from both state and federal governments, representatives of the environmental and financial communities, and academics.
Seminars

HEPG organizes regular plenary conferences and a number of special seminars on the most current and pressing issues facing the electricity industry. Participants engage in debate about the likely success of alternative systems, augmented by substantive research and analysis. Priority issues include:

• Federal legislation: what should it include?
• Federal/state jurisdictional issues
• Standard designs for wholesale and retail markets
• Market power and antitrust issues
• ISOs/transcos: the evolution of new institutions
• The role of regulatory agencies
• Information regulation in a competitive industry
• Environmental policies for a restructured electricity industry
• Reliability, transmission pricing, and auctions and other allocation approaches for transmission capacity

Research and Resources

One thousand working papers and other documents relating to competition in electricity have been prepared, assembled and circulated to HEPG participants and others. The bibliography, rapporteur’s summaries of HEPG conferences and sessions, and many other materials, are accessible at http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/hepg or by calling (617) 496-6760 for a hard-copy bibliography.
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Other participating organizations include:

California Public Utilities Commission
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Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
George Washington School of Law
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Illinois Commerce Commission
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications & Energy
Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
National Council on Competition and the Electric Industry
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Office of Consumer Counsel, State of Pennsylvania
Oregon Public Utilities Commission
Pennsylvania Public Service Commission
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Regulatory Assistance Project
Resources for the Future
Texas Public Utility Commission
Vermont Public Service Board
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Staff

William W. Hogan is Lucius N. Littauer Professor of Public Policy and Administration at the Kennedy School of Government and research director of HEPG.

Since well before the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Hogan has been actively engaged in the design and improvement of competitive electricity markets in many regions of the U.S. and around the world. He has worked to design the market structures and market rules by which regional transmission organizations coordinate bid-based markets for energy, ancillary services, and transmission rights.

Ashley C. Brown is executive director of HEPG and also of counsel to the law firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene and MacRae.

Before his current activities, Brown served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, appointed from 1983 to 1993. He has served as an advisor to numerous governments around the world on infrastructure regulatory issues and, in addition, Brown has extensive teaching experience in public schools and universities.

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Jo-Ann Mahoney is conference planner.

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Center for Business and Government

The Center for Business and Government at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government is a catalyst, convener, and innovator in promoting economic growth and strengthening democratic institutions by better understanding the intersection and interaction between the public and private sectors. CBG’s 100 faculty, fellows and staff facilitate a wide range of teaching, research and engagement at the cutting edge of society’s most complex, intractable and important issues. The Center’s world-class resources are organized through a variety of programs, from regulation to the environment; from international trade to business, government and education; from economic policy to transformation in Asia; from corporate citizenship to information technology and governance.

For more information on the Harvard Electricity Policy Group at the Center for Business and Government:

> > visit HEPG’s web site at:
http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/hepg
> > or the CBG web site at:
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