

# Hans C. Eysenbach

Associate

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Hans excels at resolving business and regulatory challenges by providing clear and actionable recommendations that translate into economic value and stability for clients. He works on a variety of energy, telecommunications, and water utility matters before utility commissions in Maine and across the U.S., as well as before the FCC.

As part of his work, Hans drafts filings and appears on behalf of private sector clients, industry associations, and government entities before various state and federal regulators across the U.S. He has worked on matters before utility commissions in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, California, and Oklahoma. He has experience in a variety of regulatory proceedings, including rulemakings, investigations, and other proceedings seeking utility commission approvals.

Hans also appears before state legislatures on behalf of energy and telecommunications clients. Through both written testimony and relationship building, he has engaged in targeted and general strategic government relations campaigns for clients in both Maine and Vermont.

In his past career, Hans advised international development projects regarding their environmental regulatory compliance obligations to U.S. government donors. After entering Vermont Law School, Hans was an articles editor for the *Vermont Law Review* and a teaching assistant. Before joining Verrill, Hans served as a law clerk to the Honorable Justice Andrew Mead of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Hans spends much of his free time with his family, biking, skating, paddling, and sailing around Maine. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Maine.

## Education

- Vermont Law School (J.D., *summa cum laude*)
  - Editor, Vermont Law Review
- Connecticut College (B.A., *magna cum laude*)
  - International Relations

## Services/Industries

- Energy
- Telecommunications
- Electric Transmission & Distribution

## Public Service

- Board Member, World Affairs Council of Maine

## Bar Admissions

- Maine

## Memberships

- American Bar Association

## Honors

- Vermont Law and Environmental Mission Scholar at Vermont Law School

## Languages

- Spanish, Fluent
- French, Basic
- Quechua, Conversational

# Experience

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### **Energy: Legislative Campaign to Oppose State Takeover of Electric Utilities**

During the 2019 session of the Maine Legislature, Verrill took a leading role on behalf of our client Emera Maine in opposing significant legislation authorizing the State of Maine to take over and operate the assets of Emera Maine and Central Maine Power, Maine's two investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. If this bill were to pass, CMP and Emera Maine would cease to operate as investor-owned utilities. Our efforts to oppose the bill included developing and coordinating a coalition of stakeholders in opposition to the legislation; detailed research of similar efforts around the country; the preparation and distribution of fact sheets outlining our research and other data showing the challenges of a state takeover; the preparation and delivery of public testimony on the legislation; preparation of amendments to the bill; overseeing public polling and grassroots outreach efforts to oppose the bill; and the direct lobbying of legislators and state agencies. After nearly six months of work, the Legislature postponed action on the bill, and instead directed the Maine PUC to conduct a detailed study of the proposal and report back in 2020. Future efforts will focus on this study, and the potential for additional legislation on the proposal.

### **Water and Wastewater: Kittery Water District dismissal of Customer Complaint**

Verrill successfully helped the Kittery Water District secure the dismissal of a ten-person customer complaint filed in August before the Maine Public Utilities

Commission (PUC). Verrill attorneys James Cohen and Hans Eysenbach guided the water district through the process through a combination of regulatory filings, strategic advice, and external communications guidance. On October 21, 2019, the Maine PUC decided to dismiss the Complaint, in part due to a subsequent filing by the complainants acknowledging that the water district had been positively working with them and the public. The dismissal was reported by the [Portsmouth Herald](#) shortly after.

## Publications & Podcasts

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June 19, 2019

**Federal Communications Bar Association–Verrill Dana: Solving the Digital Divide**

April 1, 2019

**South Portland Pipeline Company Appeal**

February 6, 2019

**An Interview with ME PUC Chair, Commissioners, and Former Chair**

January 2, 2019

**Net-Metering News from Maine and California**

December 4, 2018

**Pipeline Appeals Grant of Summary Judgment to South Portland Regarding Its Ban on Marine Loading of Crude Oil**

## Blog Posts: Environmental and Energy Law Update

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The Environmental and Energy Law Update blog provides an analysis and discussion of the most critical and timely legal issues and announcements environmental, natural resource, and energy sectors.

April 14, 2022

**Maine Public Utilities Commission to Receive Bids for Northern Maine Transmission and Renewable Generation Projects**

On or before May 2, 2022, the Maine Public Utilities Commission has requested bids for proposed transmission and generation resources that would boost energy exports from northern Maine. The northern Maine region has long been viewed as having significant...

December 20, 2021

**Maine PUC Releases Report on Evolution of Electrical Grid to Meet Climate Goals**

On December 1, 2021, the Maine PUC released a Report on the first phase of its investigation into necessary design and operational changes to the electrical distribution grid to facilitate the State's clean energy goals. In February of 2020...

May 26, 2021

### **Federal and State Funds to Support Maine Climate Action Plan's Transportation and Broadband Goals**

Last week, the Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and Office of Policy Innovation and the Future jointly presented to the Legislature's Energy, Utilities, and Technology (EUT) Committee a report outlining a four-year funding plan for Maine's climate action plan...

August 14, 2020

### **Maine Law Court Holds Citizen's Initiative Cannot Block CMP's NECEC Transmission Line**

Yesterday, the Maine Law Court deemed unconstitutional a ballot initiative to overturn the Maine PUC's approval of the transmission line known as the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC). The Court's holding in *Avangrid Networks, Inc. v. Sec'y of...*

March 24, 2020

### **COVID-19 Alert: Massachusetts Closes "Non-essential" Businesses; Utility Services to Continue**

The response to COVID-19 by states across the U.S. has continued to evolve rapidly. In Massachusetts, due to growing concerns over the spread of coronavirus, Governor Charlie Baker issued a "shelter in place" order that went into effect...

March 20, 2020

### **Maine's COVID-19 Response Impacts Utility Services and Other Business Activities**

Like many states, Maine is quickly imposing a wide range of measures designed to protect the public in response to the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. Almost daily, Maine Governor Janet Mills and other state agencies have announced new...

March 12, 2020

### **Recent Maine Legislation Triggers Amendment to PUC Consumer Protection Rules**

Last year, the Maine Legislature enacted three bills requiring amendments to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Rules in Ch. 815: Consumer Protection Standards for Electric and Gas Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Utilities. Last month, on February 5, 2020...

February 27, 2020

### **Maine PUC Issues Report Analyzing the Costs and Benefits of "Public Power" in Maine**

Last week, the Maine PUC submitted to the Maine Legislature its Report, authored by London Economics International (LEI), on the costs and benefits of requiring the State of Maine to take over Central Maine Power and Emera Maine...

January 14, 2020

### **First Circuit Acts on Appeal by South Portland Pipeline Company**

On January 10, 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit acted on the Portland Pipe Line Corporation's (PPLC) appeal of the district court order upholding a South Portland zoning ordinance that prohibits the bulk loading of...

January 7, 2020

### **Jim Cohen Addresses Maine Chamber Symposium About Risks of Public Power**

On January 6, 2020, longtime Verrill partner and energy lawyer Jim Cohen appeared at a legislative symposium hosted by the Maine Chamber of Commerce and spoke on the topic, "Creation of a State-Run Power Authority: Promises vs. Realities..."

December 12, 2019

### **Maine Adopts Amended Net Energy Billing Rules, New Commercial NEB Tariff Rate**

Recent legislation amending the net energy billing (NEB) rules to include a tariff rate program specifically for commercial customers and directing the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to procure distributed generation, has prompted a flurry of PUC rule changes...

October 22, 2019

### **Beneficial Electrification and Natural Gas Bans in New Buildings, Affordable Sustainability**

Transmission and distribution (T&D) utility customers have often been understood to care most about two things: reliability and cost—usually, but not necessarily in that order. Climate change and the public's interest in mitigating it, have begun to change that...

October 8, 2019

### **The 7th Annual Maine Natural Gas Conference**

This past Thursday, October 3, 2019, representatives of regional natural gas distribution companies, energy regulators and attorneys, and renewable energy advocates gathered to discuss the current and future roles of natural gas in our energy industry. Topics ranged from...

August 26, 2019

### **Recent Maine Legislation Bolsters Solar, Distributed Generation**

This past legislative session in Maine saw a flurry of renewable energy legislation, including two laws reforming and expanding the net energy billing (NEB) program. This blog briefly charts these two developments in the NEB program. P.L. 2019, ch...

June 3, 2019

### **Dynamic Pricing Triggers EV Owners' Load Shift to Early Morning Hours**

Supplying electricity during peak demand, the period of highest customer demand for electricity (typically around 4 – 7 p.m.), increases the costs of supply – both for transmission and distribution utilities and customers. Dynamic pricing is one potential remedy...

May 1, 2019

### **Beneficial Electrification, A Potential Win-Win for T&D Utilities, Regulators, and Environmentalists**

According to a Boston Consulting Group report released last week, transmission and distribution (T&D) utilities stand to gain significant value from aggressive investment in grid capacity that facilitates the transition to an electrified transportation sector. The report's estimated \$3...

April 10, 2019

### **Maine to Participate in Discussions on Amending Federal Regulations to Boost Offshore Wind**

April 9, 2019 – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced the Trump Administration's plans to propose "a series of regulatory changes later this year to boost offshore wind develop off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts." These changes could...

March 1, 2019

### **The Latest: Governor Reported to Hire Burgess as Maine's Energy Director**

Reports are circulating that Governor Mills may have selected Dan Burgess as the Director of the Governor's Energy Office. Burgess is a native of Newport and University of Maine alum. Burgess has been at the forefront of several renewable...

February 6, 2019

### **An Interview with ME PUC Chair, Commissioners, and Former Chair**

Sourced from Steve Mitnick, Public Utilities Fortnightly , "A Day (Two Actually) at the Maine PUC" (January 2019). In this posting, I summarize a recent series of interviews with the current Maine PUC Chair, Commissioners, and Chair Emeritus, Tom...

January 2, 2019

### **Net-metering News from Maine and California**

On December 17, 2018, the Maine PUC exempted medium and large non-residential customer classes of CMP and Emera from compliance with the Commission's net energy billing provisions in Chapter 313, section 3(f), which require measurement of a customer's production...

December 4, 2018

### **Pipeline Appeals Grant of Summary Judgment to South Portland Regarding Its Ban on Marine Loading of Crude Oil**

Judge Woodcock of the U.S. District Court in Portland, finding that the South Portland's Clear Skies Ordinance (the Ordinance) was neither a "preempted pipeline facility safety standard or a discriminatory ordinance enacted for an economically protectionist purpose," granted summary...