

President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

Congressional Desk

March 22, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Barack Obama announced that Jon Wellinghoff, currently serving as Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), will be designated as Chairman. President Obama also announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key administration posts: Suede Kelly to be re-appointed as a Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Elizabeth King, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense; T. Michael Kerr, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor; Gabriella Gomez, Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education; Dr. Joe Leonard, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, United States Department of Agriculture; Cameron F. Kerry, General Counsel, Department of Commerce; Robert S. Rivkin, General Counsel, Department of Transportation; and M. Patricia Smith, Solicitor, Department of Labor.

President Obama said, "I'm confident that these distinguished individuals will use their unique talents to help us take on the important work that lies ahead. Each of the people announced today brings a commitment to public service and a dedication to meeting the goals of my administration and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead."

President Obama made the following announcement:

Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Wellinghoff was named Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that oversees wholesale electric transactions and interstate electric transmission and gas transportation in the United States, by President Obama in January 2009. A member of the Commission since 2006, the U.S. Senate reconfirmed him to a full, five-year FERC term in December 2007. Wellinghoff is an energy law specialist with more than 30 years experience in the field. Before joining FERC, he was in private practice and focused exclusively on client matters related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and distributed generation. While in the private sector, Wellinghoff represented an array of clients from federal agencies, renewable developers, and large consumers of power to energy efficient product manufacturers and clean energy advocacy organizations. While in private practice, Wellinghoff was the primary author of the Nevada Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Act. The Nevada RPS is one of the two states to receive an "A" rating by the Union of Concerned Scientists. In addition, he worked with clients to develop renewable portfolio standards in six other states. Wellinghoff is considered an expert on the state renewable portfolio process and has lectured extensively on the subject in numerous forums including the Vermont Law School. His experience also includes two terms as the State of Nevada's first Consumer Advocate for Customers of Public Utilities. Wellinghoff is co-chair of the Demand Response Collaborative launched jointly by FERC and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and is a member of NARUC's Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Electric Efficiency and served as an advisor to the Defense Science Board's Energy Policy Task Force. Wellinghoff also advises the Energy Foundation and the NRDC on China-U.S. energy policy matters. He recently returned from China where he headed a delegation of U.S. energy regulators. He received his J.D. from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., his M.A.T in Mathematics from Howard University, and his B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Nevada, Reno.