



EBC Rhode Island Program Update from the Office of Energy Resources & Public Utilities Commission

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Collaborating Organizations



AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome**
- Rick Mandile, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter
Principal, Sage Environmental
- Program Description & Overview – What You Will Learn**
- Christian Capizzo, Program Chair and Moderator
Counsel, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- 10:20 a.m. **Advancing RI's Clean Energy Leadership in Challenging Times**
- Nicholas Ucci, Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
- 10:40 a.m. **Update from the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission**
- Ron Gerwatowski, Chairman, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
- 11:00 a.m. **Moderated Discussion with the Speakers**
- Moderator: Christian Capizzo, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- 11:30 a.m. **Closing Remarks – Rick Mandile**

PROGRAM CHAIR

Christian Capizzo, Counsel

Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
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Recognized for his ability to unify disparate groups and facilitate change, Christian concentrates his practice in the areas of environmental and energy law, land use, and public sector/governmental services. With over 15 years of experience, Christian is uniquely positioned to navigate clients throughout New England through the complex ever-changing world where environmental/ energy regulation and business intersect. His experience includes a diverse range of complex environmental and energy matters including enforcement, regulatory and compliance issues, large scale renewable energy projects (solar and offshore wind), real estate development, environmental remediation including brownfields, construction, coastal permitting and waterfront property rights. He has represented clients before the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, the Energy Facility Siting Board.

He has represented landowners and project developers in real estate transactions, renewable energy development deals, and financing transactions associated with these projects. He plays an integral role evaluating and mitigating environmental risks relating to development projects and business transactions, as well as providing key strategy on renewable energy projects.

Christian served in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office for over 10 years where he had a proven track record of successfully litigating high profile criminal and civil cases. He led the Environmental Crimes Task Force, handling litigation on complex environmental issues impacting Rhode Island. Christian worked as outside legal counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management handling enforcement matters, drafting legislation, and negotiating diverse environmental matters. Christian also worked closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture and various state agencies and attorney generals throughout the United States.

Christian is nationally recognized for developing and implementing environmental training programs and is a sought-after presenter on a myriad of topics with a focus on emerging and complex environmental/energy issues and trends.

SPEAKERS

Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
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Ron Gerwatowski, a resident of Cranston, was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission as Chairman in June 2020 by Governor Gina Raimondo. His term runs through February 2026. Chairman Gerwatowski has worked in the utility and energy industry for over thirty years. Prior to his appointment, he served as a Senior Regulatory Advisor to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. For the past four years, he has been a guest lecturer and instructor in the Energy Fellows Program at the University of Rhode Island.

He previously served as Assistant Secretary of Energy in Massachusetts in 2015, before moving to Rhode Island. Prior to that time, he served in several different legal and utility executive capacities in various jurisdictions, including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.

Chairman Gerwatowski graduated magna cum laude from Boston College Law School in 1985, where he served as Managing Editor of the Boston College Law Review. He has been a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association since 1991.

Nicholas S. Ucci, Commissioner
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Assistant – Sara Canabarro, (401) 574-9119, sara.canabarro@energy.ri.gov

Nicholas S. Ucci was nominated by Governor Gina M. Raimondo in January 2020 to serve as Commissioner of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), the state's lead agency on energy policy and programs. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to foster clean, affordable, and reliable energy solutions for all consumers, while spurring economic and job growth opportunities across Rhode Island's burgeoning clean energy economy.

During his time at OER, Commissioner Ucci has helped expand the state's clean energy portfolio nearly ten-fold, while supporting Rhode Island's standing as a national leader in energy efficiency innovation. He has played a significant role in major renewable energy procurements, including selection of the 400 MW Revolution Wind (offshore) project, and is now leading efforts to ensure that 100% of the state's electricity demand is met with renewables by 2030 – a nation-leading effort. Nick has also been instrumental in guiding the state's Heating Sector Transformation (HST) initiative and doubling EV charging infrastructure across Rhode Island roadways.

Nick serves on the Board of Managers for the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE); as Executive Director of the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council (EERMC) and Distributed Generation (DG) Board; and is Vice Chairman of the state's Executive Climate Change Council (EC4). He is also a recipient of the Environmental Merit Award (Government) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A lifelong resident of the Ocean State, Nick is a proud graduate of the University of Rhode Island (URI), where he earned a Master of Arts degree in Political Science, with a concentration in Public Policy and a Graduate Certificate in Labor Relations. He also holds Bachelor of Arts degrees, with Highest Distinction, in Political Science and Economics from URI. A devoted father of two young children, Nick was elected by his peers to the Bishop's Committee of St. Francis Episcopal Church (Coventry, RI) and coaches little league baseball.