



The role of the Energy Manager is more critical than ever. What began as the person responsible for interacting with the local utility for quality of service and delivery has evolved into a key leadership role with direct contact into the C-suite.



Factors driving this expanded role parallel a dynamically-changing energy industry, including regulatory changes across multiple regions and markets, supply and demand-side planning, sustainability programs, and new technology adoption to name just a few. The Evolving Role of the Energy Manager'. Edison Energy Blog. June 22, 2017

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Many companies use or are looking to use third party providers of systems designed specifically for energy data management. Companies need to perform a detailed legal and commercial review of the agreements for this service including a detailed scope of work and key performance indicators. Clark Hill can assist clients with the selection of the appropriate system/provider to meet the client's needs and ensure the best contract/agreement is put in place to protect the client and their information.



Clark Hill provides professional and legal support in all areas of energy procurement including but not limited to:

- Reviews of supplier backgrounds and creditworthiness
- Retail choice market supply contract review and negotiation support
- Analysis of existing utility tariffs to explain details of current rates, rules and obligations (for instance industrial customers get into problems with sharing / providing electricity to fence line facilities such as third party industrial gas facilities because they do not understand the utility tariff rules)
- Utility negotiation and development of special / new tariff rates
- Evaluation of commercial and legal ability for utility natural gas bypass
- Utility tax evaluation and optimization. Provide expertise in state tax laws, available exemptions and negotiation of new tax exemptions or credits.
- Distributed generation / self-generation facilities environmental permits, interconnection agreements, net metering agreements, etc..



State industrial groups which provide a real cost benefit through cost sharing among the member companies. However, Clark Hill also supports clients that still pursue individual intervention in utility rate cases and seek specific state or federal legislative policy.



- In order to address liability risk and maintenance / equipment failure risk, it is very important to evaluate the physical supply and delivery points and understand where ownership transitions between utility / supplier and your facilities. Companies then need to make sure they have facilities agreements with the utility / supplier. These agreements can be complicated and need careful legal review. [Examples 1. A municipal gas utility claimed they owned the natural gas lines under the ground all the way into the company's manufacturing facility up to meters on the side of the production facilities. However, there were no contracts/agreements in place dealing with equipment ownership, maintenance or most importantly liability. 2. A large transportation fuel tank used at a manufacturing facility where the third-party fuel supplier claimed they owned the tank but there was no agreement in place.]
- The contractual / cost risk items are a critical part of the energy supply contract legal work. In addition, for companies using financial hedging instruments there are significant risk that need to be addressed through a legal review of the trading agreements.



This is another area where industrial companies use third parties to perform these services and even allow the third party to install new equipment. Clark Hill to provides legal expertise related to these Energy Service Provider Company (ESCO) agreements including terms and conditions, liability, measurement and verification, etc.



Clark Hill provides extensive environmental and sustainability expertise including procurement of renewable energy through direct access to suppliers or improved utility renewable supply tariff rates.