



**Contact the DRS:**

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DRS online: [www.ferc.gov/legal/adr.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/legal/adr.asp)

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**What is Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)?**

- ADR encompasses a variety of dispute resolution methods, including:
  - mediation
  - facilitation, and
  - early neutral evaluation.
- In ADR, a third party neutral guides the parties in identifying their interests and developing mutually acceptable solutions to their disputes.
- In ADR, the parties make the decisions about the outcome of their dispute.
- ADR processes are confidential and, typically, voluntary.
- ADR can save the parties time and money and result in more durable solutions and outcomes.
- ADR provides an alternative to adversarial and adjudicative processes. Parties who elect an ADR process do not relinquish the right to pursue their matter through a more formal and traditional approach such as litigation.



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Dispute Resolution Service  
888 First Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20426



*Guiding* parties  
to achieve  
mutually satisfactory  
solutions  
to their disputes.





## Savings Cost Avoidance

### Who are we?

- Established in 1999, the DRS is a neutral unit within FERC that provides ADR services for parties engaged in FERC-related disputes.
- The DRS is staffed full time by dispute resolution professionals who work with the decision makers.
- The ADR services offered by DRS are available to all parties and can be initiated at any time.



### What does the DRS do?

The DRS provides case-related and outreach services for parties engaged in or impacted by FERC-related disputes. The DRS works across all energy sectors:

- **natural gas**
- **electricity**
- **hydropower**
- **oil**

*testimonial*

*It was a difficult decision for both sides, but the DRS staff was able to make us see that we had some common goals, which allowed us to work through to a mutually agreeable solution to our issues.*



### Outreach

The DRS furthers ADR understanding and acceptance through:

- conducting training and education on ADR processes and techniques such as negotiation, facilitation, mediation, and early neutral evaluation;
- developing dispute resolution procedures and programs for external entities; and
- guiding internal and external entities on how to integrate ADR into decision-making processes at the earliest practicable time.



### How does a party initiate ADR?

Accessing our service is easy. Simply:

- Contact the DRS about a potential ADR process. No formal filing is required.
- DRS will explain alternatives and contact other parties to propose an ADR process if appropriate.
- If the parties agree, DRS will convene parties in a mutually agreeable location to discuss ADR options.
- If selected as the third party in the ADR process, DRS will work with the parties to identify interests and achieve a mutually satisfactory agreement.
- If an agreement is reached, the parties will file a copy of the agreement with FERC, if required.

### Case Related

The DRS has a proven track record in successfully mediating and facilitating complex two-party and multi-party disputes in a range of areas such as:

- hydropower licensing;
- gas certificates;
- electric, gas, and oil tariffs; and
- electric, gas, and oil rates.

Within these disputes, the DRS has guided parties to mutual understanding and agreement regarding:

- the environment;
- cultural resources;
- interagency cooperation;
- contractual matters;
- business transactions, and
- service issues

to name just a few.