



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17, 2009

Chairman Wellinghoff Names Thomas R. Sheets as FERC General Counsel

FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff has named Thomas R. Sheets to become FERC General Counsel. The Office of the General Counsel serves the public interest by representing the Commission before the courts and Congress, and is responsible for the legal phases of the Commission's activities.

Mr. Sheets, a partner in the Las Vegas office of the McDonald Carano Wilson law firm, comes to FERC with more than 32 years of energy industry, administrative practice and regulatory hearing experience. A member of the firm's statewide Energy and Administrative Law practice groups, Mr. Sheets has served as Chairman of the Nevada Tax Commission for the past four years. The Commission is a panel appointed by the Governor to oversee the fair administration of taxes on all individual and corporate taxpayers in Nevada.



Formerly the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation, Mr. Sheets has engaged primarily in administrative and regulatory practice, energy litigation support and contract and corporate law. He has represented electric, gas and water utilities operating in Nevada, Arizona and California in administrative and regulatory proceedings, in federal and state court litigation, and before various legislative bodies. He also has represented a natural gas transmission company in U.S. and Canadian regulatory proceedings and in federal and state court litigation; and an Ohio electric, gas and steam utility in litigation of rate cases and regulatory matters.

Mr. Sheets has appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and D.C. Circuit Courts of Appeals, Federal District Courts in Ohio, California, Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Michigan, and is admitted to practice law in Texas, Ohio and Nevada.

Mr. Sheets also is the former chairman and member of the Nevada Commission on Ethics; a member of the State Bars of Nevada (Former Chair Administrative Law Section), Ohio and Texas; a member of the Energy Bar Association, the Clark County Bar Association (Former President), the American Gas Association and the AAA National Roster of Neutrals.

Mr. Sheets earned his juris doctor from the University of Toledo, College of Law, and his bachelor's degree from Ashland University.