



The California Energy Crisis and its Aftermath: A Regulator's Perspective

Aaron Johnson, California Public Utilities Commission, CA, USA
Thursday 18 November 2004

Room G3, Electrical Engineering Building, UNSW
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Synopsis:

The seminar will provide an insider's perspective on the causes of the California energy crisis in 2000 and 2001 and its impacts on California's energy policies. The seminar will discuss the causes of the crisis, the response of California regulators and current efforts to reshape the electricity sector in California, including renewed interest in integrated resource planning and a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

Speaker:

Aaron Johnson joined the California Public Utilities Commission in 1999 and is currently a regulatory analyst in the Division of Strategic Planning. In the wake of the California energy crisis, he was energy advisor to the President of the Commission for two years. At the CPUC, he has lead efforts on transmission planning and electricity market design, represented the agency on federal regulatory issues, and overseen revenue bond sales. Currently, he is working on water policy issues and transmission planning to meet California's renewable energy mandates. Mr. Johnson holds a Master of Engineering Science in electrical engineering from the University of New South Wales, where his research focused on life cycle analysis of solar photovoltaic systems. He also completed a Bachelor of Science in optical engineering at the University of Rochester in New York. His prior experience includes consulting work with the UNSW; aerospace, optical design, and machine shop internships; and teaching math in an inner-city high school.

This seminar program is hosted by the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets at UNSW. Information about the Centre is available at www.ceem.unsw.edu.au

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