

# Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

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## Hydrogen Is Getting Serious Traction

March 23, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT



**Joseph Kessler**  
Executive Vice  
President and Chief  
Operating Officer, New  
York Power Authority

**Joseph F. Kessler**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, oversees NYPA's power generation and transmission assets, commercial operations and the New York State Canal Corporation's operations.

Before assuming this role in 2016, Joe was Senior Vice President of Power Generation, responsible for oversight of NYPA's generating facilities across New York State. After starting his career at an electrical construction firm designing and building systems, Joe joined NYPA in 2001 as an engineer in the Electrical Maintenance department.

Joe is Chairman of NYPA's Asset Management Board and is a member of NYPA's Enterprise Risk Management Committee. He also serves as Executive Sponsor of NYPA's Multicultural Employee Resource Group.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, master's degree in Electrical Engineering (Energy Systems), and an MBA from SUNY at Buffalo, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York and Maryland.

Joe is a board member of the Hydropower Research Institute and the Northland Workforce Development Center, has served on the Electric Power Research Institute's Generation Sector and Research Advisory Councils, and is on the Low-Carbon Resources Initiative Board Working Group and the Large Public Power Council's Operational Executive Working Group. He is a member of SUNY at Buffalo's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean's Advisory Council.

Joe is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a member of the Erie-Niagara Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

A lifelong Western New Yorker, Joe and his wife Lisa live in West Seneca and have three children.

*Source: UB School of Engineering and Applied Science website*



**Melanie Kenderdine**  
Former Director of the  
Office of Energy, Policy  
and Systems Analysis;  
Principal and Executive  
Vice President, Energy  
Futures Initiative

Melanie Kenderdine joined former Secretary of Energy Ernest J. Moniz and fellow Principal Joseph S. Hezir in founding Energy Futures Initiative (EFI), a non-profit organization dedicated to driving innovation in energy technology, policy, and business models. Kenderdine worked in the Administration of President Barack Obama at the Department of Energy (DOE) from May 2013–January 2017. She served concurrently as Energy Counselor to the Secretary and as the Director of DOE's Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis. Her 100-person office was responsible for analysis and policy development in areas that included: DOE's role in the annual review of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program requirements, energy innovation, and climate change. Her office produced two installments of the Quadrennial Energy Review and helped conceive and develop the Energy Security Principles adopted by G-7 leaders in 2014. In her capacity as Energy Counselor to the Secretary, Kenderdine helped create Mission Innovation, now a 24-country/European Union initiative that supports transformational clean energy RD&D; North American grid integration and security; and the modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Prior to her service at DOE, Kenderdine helped establish the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) and served there as Executive Director. During her six-year tenure at MITEI, she managed a large research and administrative staff, was a key contributor of MIT's Future of Natural Gas Study, the MITEI Symposium Report on Alternative Fuels and Vehicles and edited the MIT Future of the Electric Grid study. Kenderdine also started the C3E Symposium series, a joint MIT-DOE program to support the careers of women in clean energy with cash prizes; she still serves as a DOE C3E Ambassador. Before joining MITEI, she was Vice President of Washington Operations for the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) from 2001 to 2007. While at GTI, Kenderdine established a separate not-for-profit company, the Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA). As RPSEA's first CEO, she transformed it from an MOU between GTI and one university, to an industry/academic unconventional natural gas research consortium of 26 universities and 30 industry partners. Concurrently, she was a key architect of the Royalty Trust Fund, the only federal trust fund dedicated to energy R&D. From 1993 to 2001, Kenderdine was an appointee in President Bill Clinton's administration, where she served in several key posts at DOE, including Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, Bill Richardson, Director of the Office of Policy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

She was a primary architect of the SPR oil exchange of 2000, the creation of the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, and the return of the Naval Oil Shale Reserve No. 2 to the Ute tribe in Utah, the largest land transfer back to Native Americans in the lower 48 in over 100 years. Prior to joining DOE, Kenderdine was Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for then-New Mexico Congressman Richardson.

She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, has homes in New Mexico and Hawaii, and is an avid global traveler and enthusiast of fly fishing.

*Source: Energy Futures Initiative website*



**James Diemer,**  
Regional Vice  
President at Sempra  
LNG

Jim Diemer is Director of Market Analysis and Forecasting for Sempra Infrastructure. In this capacity Mr. Diemer’s team leads all the fundamentals market research and analysis used in Sempra Infrastructure’s project development, due diligence, marketing, and business strategy activities across its three business lines of LNG & Net-Zero Solutions, Networks and Clean Power. Sempra Infrastructure’s mission is to be North America’s premier provider of safe and reliably energy delivery infrastructure delivering energy for a better world. Prior to the October 2021 formation of Sempra Infrastructure, Mr. Diemer was Regional Vice President of Midstream Commercial Development for Sempra LNG.

Mr. Diemer joined Sempra LNG in 2015 bringing his broad energy infrastructure development and energy management background from his prior 30 years of experience largely with Siemens and Pace Global Energy Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and Science Applications International Corporation (now Leidos). He has an M.S in Environmental Engineering in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a BS in Civil Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Certificate from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business Integral Executive Leadership Program. Mr. Diemer and his wife Maureen reside in Houston, TX and have two adult children and one grandchild.

*Source: Jim Diemer*



**Lisa Frantzis,**  
Energy, Sustainability,  
& Infrastructure  
Partner at  
Guidehouse

Lisa Frantzis is a partner in Guidehouse’s Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure segment, responsible for decarbonization go to market initiatives such as clean hydrogen, e-mobility, and renewable energy solutions. Throughout her 40 years of consulting experience, she has determined clean energy integration options for utility companies; identified energy program options for international government agencies; developed business strategies for clean energy manufacturers; and conducted due diligence for financial firms considering clean energy investments. Most recently, she is leading Guidehouse’s Hydrogen Consortium, *Building the Clean Hydrogen Economy* with over 20 companies working together to create and launch innovative pilot projects/hubs that use clean hydrogen to decarbonize heavy transport, increase renewables integration, and decrease emissions in the US energy sector.

Lisa was also a senior managing director at Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) from 2013 - 2022, a national business association whose mission is to transform state and Federal policy to ensure a more secure, clean, and affordable U.S. energy system. At AEE, she led the Utility Advisory Committee and CEO/Executive Forums that addressed business model reforms and regulatory changes needed to accelerate the transition to a 21st century energy and transportation system. These initiatives convened utility executives, public utility commissioners, and advanced energy companies to develop a vision for reform that is responsive to the needs of each state and drives concrete action.

Lisa was appointed to the Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee in 2021 and is an Ambassador for the U.S. Clean Energy, Education & Empowerment (C3E). She was given the New England Women in Energy and the Environment Leadership Award in 2019 and serves on the Boards for the Northeast Clean Energy Council and LineVision. She is a former Board member for the American Council on Renewable Energy; Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA); and Solar Business Association of New England.

*Source: Guidehouse*



**Richard Shandross,**  
Energy, Sustainability,  
& Infrastructure  
Associate Director at  
Guidehouse

Rich Shandross is an Associate Director in the Energy, Sustainability, and Infrastructure segment, working in the Decarbonization Solutions group. He brings more than 30 years of engineering, project management, and research and development experience in industry, consulting, and government.

Rich focuses on assisting clients with the technical, economic, and policy aspects of decarbonization technologies, energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, microgrids, and digital technologies supporting decentralize energy. He has many years of experience in evaluating and analyzing emerging technologies, including feasibility studies, technical due diligence, setting of RD&D priorities, commercialization strategy development, and systems modeling. Most recently, he is the project manager of Guidehouse's Hydrogen Consortium, Building the Clean Hydrogen Economy, a group consisting of more than 20 companies working together to create and launch innovative projects that use clean hydrogen to decarbonize a variety of sectors.

Prior to joining Guidehouse, Rich worked in and then led the Advanced Power Sources program at General Dynamics C4 Systems, managing projects sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory and Army CERDEC, as well as internal development projects. Rich worked in the Technology and Innovation practice at Arthur D. Little and TIAX LLC consulting firms, first as a consultant and then as a manager. There he worked on and led projects in manufacturing technology; commercial food equipment and processes; HVAC technologies; alternative fuel technologies and manufacturing processes; well-to-wheels analyses of energy and emissions; and fuel cell technology development and analysis.

Rich also worked at the US Environmental Protection Agency, in the Chicago (Region V) office, in their Hazardous Waste Management Program. He was the EPA's state implementation officer for Indiana.

*Source: Guidehouse*



**Gabriele Haas**  
Partner (Energy Law,  
Compliance and  
Regulation), a leader  
of Dentons' global  
hydrogen initiative,  
Dentons - Frankfurt

Dr. Gabriele Haas is a partner in Dentons' Frankfurt office and a member of the Corporate / M&A practice group. Gabriele leverages her extensive in-house experience as an executive in the energy sector, advising on energy law, regulatory law and compliance.

Within her energy and regulatory practice, her main area of focus is energy transition issues, such as decarbonization, sector coupling, energy storage and advising on the regulation of hydrogen, green gas, clean and low emission fuels, e-mobility, emissions reduction and emissions trading as well as the wholesale energy market and its regulation.

In addition to her energy and regulatory practice, she advises clients on current compliance and ESG issues, such as the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the Supply Chain Duty of Care Act and the implementation of preventive measures for sustainable corporate governance, among others. She also advises on the development of customized compliance management systems, organizational structures and procedures, as well as on the risks of fines and civil liability. She further advises on the prevention of market manipulation and insider trading, bribery and corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing as well as violations of human rights.

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers* 2022: Recommended in the area energy law in Germany
- *JUVE Handbook* 2021/2022: "Often recommended" in the area of regulated industries for Energy Law: Transactions / Financing.
- *JUVE Handbook* 2020/2021: "Often recommended" in the area of regulated industries for Energy Law: Transactions / Financing