



Julia Souder Prochnik

Ms. Prochnik is a trusted advisor to the energy and environmental sector as well as a local community leader. She enjoys working to solve the impossible. She brings over 19 years of experience in large-scale strategic thinking and raising the profile of critical public policies while building diverse stakeholder support, advancing community goals into actions, navigating regulatory affairs, and thriving in strategic coalitions.

Currently, she returned as the Founding Principal of JASenergies, an expanded consultancy focusing on strategic energy and environment policy creation and implementation. We create supportive, inclusive, diverse, equitable transition policies into fruition to help change the world.

Previously, as Director of Western Renewable Grid Planning at the Natural Resources Defense Council Julia developed, managed and implemented renewable energy integration into regional electric grid planning. She mobilized advocates and executives in the west to support policies. As an experienced leader, she has executed policy change throughout her career as well as strengthening management of staff and consultants. She has helped advanced the clean energy economy by creating broad relationships with non-traditional allies inspiring them to organize and join with environment and equity causes.

As the Project Developer Manager at Clean Line Energy Partners, she managed the Centennial West Clean Line high-voltage direct current transmission line. She supervised the local, state and federal permitting process, developed relationships with generators and load serving entities, facilitated engagement across sectors, coordinated public outreach efforts and negotiated agreements with contractors and project vendors.

As the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Julia promoted effective coordination and positive relations between NERC and FERC, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and many other federal and state entities. She worked with Congress and trade associations on cyber security and reliability standard legislation, regularly handling sensitive data and confidential information.

Mrs. Prochnik was the Western Regional Coordinator for the Office of Electricity and Energy Delivery. Principally, she was the DOE project manager for Section 368 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act and worked closely with state and federal agencies on transmission siting and permitting. She was a Presidential Management Fellow.

Experience

Natural Resources Defense Council, Director of Western Renewable Energy Planning: 2012-2020

Influenced and shaped western policy creating both private and public support for clean energy and climate policies in the West. And collaboratively worked with executives to identify gaps and opportunities as well as provide strategic advocacy.

- Developed and coordinated management of a west-wide energy market strategy and influenced utility industry.
- Directed advocacy among environmental advocates to participate in planning venues to influence policy changes.
- Identified and organized change makers in clean energy to implement regulatory transformation in the west and advocate for clean policies at the CAISO.
- Managed NRDC advocacy work concerning real-time grid operations and transmission planning data sharing, and influenced FERC 1000 implementation as WestConnect Vice-Chair.

Clean Line Energy Partners, Project Developer: 2010-2012

Effective in building successful relationships with government officials, tribes, community and non-profit leaders. Managed overall project development for a 900-mile renewable energy transmission line including budget, goals and deliverables.

- Worked with Western Commissioners, government officials and utilities negotiating status for direct current (DC) line.

- Proactively managed changes in project scope, identified potential crises, and devised contingency plans. As well as identified and managed project dependencies and critical paths to track project milestones and deliverables.
- Built, developed and grew any business relationships vital to the success of the project, and delegated tasks and responsibilities to appropriate personnel. Wrote and submitted budget proposals and recommended subsequent budget changes where necessary to leadership.

JASenergies, Founder: 2009-2010

Founded energy and environment consulting company to assist with integration of renewables into the electric grid via transmission and smart grid technologies.

- Advocated and built consensus to achieve new governance at WestConnect (WC) worked with all utilities in Western Interconnection promoting renewable integration and non-wires solutions. My advocacy made many WC members accept the value of stakeholder involvement and we have changed the WC culture to incorporate our “Smart from the Start” siting policies and tools.
- Built relationships across lines with Congress, Federal Agencies, State Regulators and Energy Offices, Industry and Community leaders to address energy and environmental policies and plans by persuading them of their important role to address changes in their communities. Inspired them to see their connection to the larger picture and reinforced their role in improving current standards.
- During 2009, managed three client portfolios regarding regulatory assistance, facilitation, gave technical presentations on reliability standards and compliance as well as energy sector changes and adaptation.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Director, Inter-governmental Relations: 2006-2009

Led the re-establishment of NERC to the government and industry sectors as a credible organization regarding electricity reliability. Built sustainable relationships with Congress, Federal Agencies, State Energy Offices and Industry leaders reaching consensus on energy and environmental policies and plans.

- Led by effective, diplomatic guidance and facilitated meetings with the state and federal governments, trade associations, and NERC committees by articulating energy related issues; secured regional support on reliability standards, compliance, and stakeholder input benefiting the entire region.
- Assisted with drafting technical reliability standards, produced compliance reviews and long-term reliability assessments communicating technical concepts to the public.
- Led regional entity reform and regulation discussions and wrote policy changes to help the industry adapt and implement.

U.S. Department of Energy, Western Regional Liaison: 2001-2005

Wrote and administered policy implementation regarding the U.S.- Canada Blackout 2003 reports, and recommendations. Managed and coordinated with international energy entities and organizations on various bulk power system projects. Designed and implemented a coordinated strategy for federal and western states.

- Negotiated and completed two congressionally required multi-agency memoranda of understanding.
- Spoke on behalf of the Department at international and national conferences.

United State Trade Representative, Trade Analyst Central America: 2003

- Coordinated with embassies and federal agencies on formulating the U.S.-Panama agreement and CAFTA

Fleishman-Hillard/GPC, Trade Analyst & Junior Lobbyist: 2001

- Created international trade proposals for prospective clients and assisted with selling our ideas

General Accounting Office, Labor Analyst for NAFTA review: 2000

- Presented and drafted a GAO report to the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means subcommittee

Education

- Master of Public Administration, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and International Relations, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

She lives in San Francisco with her two kids and husband and loves to explore the city’s pocket parks and hidden murals.