

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid: Legal Essentials SYLLABUS

Vermont Law School Summer Session, Term 1

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid: Legal Essentials (ENV5512)

Please read the assigned materials in advance of that class – bonus materials are provided for your interest but are not required reading.

Class 1: Monday, June 12

The Basics of Electricity Policy and Electric Utility Regulation: This class will introduce the basics of electricity law and the traditional framework for electric utility regulation in the U.S., and how it has evolved in the last century. We'll discuss the role of the federal government, states and cities in shaping climate and clean energy policy, the basics of utility regulatory legal practice, and challenges with the traditional utility cost-recovery model. Class will wrap with a small group exercise that illustrates stakeholder perspectives and common issues that arise in state utility regulatory cases.

Assigned Materials:

- *Electricity Regulation in the US* – Intro, and Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-24) (Purpose of Utility Regulation; A Brief History of Regulation; Industry Structure)
- *Energy Law in a Nutshell* – Chapter 3, excerpts of Sections F and G (Federal Energy Regulation; Energy Regulation by States): pp. 137-153
- RMI, Navigating Utility Business Model Reform – Chapter 1 only (pp. 10-16), <https://rmi.org/insight/navigating-utility-business-model-reform/> (also posted to Teams)