

Paid Legal Fellowship Position

Position Number: 15
Position Title: Legal Fellowship – MA Department of Public Utilities
Location: Boston – Hybrid/Remote
Duration: One year

The **Department of Public Utilities (DPU)** is responsible for oversight of investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water utilities in the Commonwealth; developing alternatives to traditional regulation; monitoring service quality; regulating safety in the transportation and gas pipeline areas; and for certain aspects associated with the siting of energy facilities. The mission of the Department is to ensure that utility consumers are provided with the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost; to protect the public from transportation and gas pipeline related accidents; and to ensure that residential ratepayers' rights are protected. The DPU seeks to promote safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is seeking to hire a Legal Fellow with a focus on distributed generation issues. This position is for one year with the possibility of an additional one-year extension. It is being funded by the NYU Law School State Energy & Environmental Impact Center.

The work of the DPU involves cutting-edge distributed generation issues involving solar energy, energy storage, and grid interconnection of renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Position Overview:

The work of the DPU takes place in a rapidly evolving energy landscape, with an emphasis on mitigating and adapting to climate change, while maintaining the reliable, safe, and affordable energy supplies vital to the Massachusetts economy. The Legal Fellow will be part of a collaborative 10-person team that investigates distributed generation-related projects and proceedings before the DPU to help protect consumers, provide reliable energy service at the lowest possible cost and ensure compliance with state law. The Legal Fellow may be asked to work on other energy policy issues that involve oversight of the electric power, natural gas, and water industries.

Ideal candidates possess a team-focused passion for public service and are enthusiastic about learning the unique nuances of DPU-specific investigations while working alongside their colleagues on innovative energy law and policy issues in Massachusetts.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with and coordinating the work of technical staff to ensure the development of a thorough record;
- Preparing and presenting policy memoranda and draft orders to Commission; and
- Preparing legal research and/or memoranda on agency jurisdiction, procedures and standards, as well as on applicable law and precedent.

Minimum Entrance Requirements:

- Have a Juris Doctor (JD) degree;
- Have a minimum of three years of practice as an attorney; and
- Preferred candidates will be admitted to the Massachusetts Bar.

Further, we are seeking applicants that have the following attributes:

- Strong legal research and writing skills;
- Previous experience working on topics related to distributed generation or clean energy;
- Understanding of the electric distribution system;
- Knowledge of energy law, public utility ratemaking, administrative law, and environmental law (e.g., solar, wind, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, clean energy, renewable energy, social cost of carbon, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction) as it applies to Massachusetts;
- Ability to assume a diverse workload with moderate supervision and have good judgment as to when to consult teammates and supervisors;
- Well-developed ability to work collaboratively with diverse teams;
- Self-starter who is eager to learn and develop professionally;
- Ability to evaluate and choose appropriate legal techniques, procedures and criteria using judgment in solving legal and policy issues;
- Passion for producing excellent work product and keen attention to detail; and
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and public service.

Details:

- Hours: 37.5/week
- Salary: \$120,000
- Location: DPU offers a hybrid work environment.

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer. Females, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Commonwealth is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other basis covered by appropriate law. Research suggests that qualified women, Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) may self-select out of opportunities if they don't meet 100% of the job requirements. We encourage individuals who believe they have the skills necessary to thrive to apply for this role.