

JULIA PROCHNIK: DYNAMIC BRIDGE BUILDER

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 is the Director of Western Renewable Grid Planning at the Natural Resources Defense Council. She develops, manages and implements renewable energy integration into regional electric grid planning. She mobilizes advocates and executives in the west to support NRDC policies. As an experienced leader, she has organized and 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 oversaw 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 handing sensitive data and confidential information.

Previously, 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 and began working at the DOE in 2002 in energy and then assisted with the 2003 blackout investigation, demonstrating strong analysis and synthesis skills.



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

Community

- President, Board Member LoHaMa
 - Elected CA State Delegate
 - ArtTrailSF Executive Director
 - Volunteer Art Teacher
 - Past Board Director, Women in CleanTech & Sustainability
 - Past Board Director and Membership Chair, Women's Council on Energy and Environment
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Experience

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

Develop and coordinate management of a west wide energy market strategy and influence a change in culture in the utility industry.

--- Direct advocacy among western environmental advocates to participate in planning venues to influence policy changes.

--- Identify and organize change makers in clean energy to implement regulatory transformation in the west and advocate for clean policies at the CAISO.

--- Manage NRDC advocacy work concerning real time grid operations and transmission planning data sharing, and influence 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 recommend 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 and project management.

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 standards, producing compliance reviews, long-term reliability assessments and communicating technical concepts to the public.

--- Jumped in to fill a need and created communications material and performed media relations, designed new logo and reenergized the membership to mobilize.

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

Wrote and administrated 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 US-Panama agreement and Central American Free Trade Agreement

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

Interests

Julia loves to constantly learn, play with her kids, find creative ways to inspire and strengthen our community, travel, rock climb, kite surf, dance and paint. She has lived abroad in Spain, India and Costa Rica, and currently lives in San Francisco with her family.