Elizabeth J. McCormick

Partner

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Elizabeth advises major utilities and other clients on complex federal energy infrastructure matters and provides guidance on navigating hydropower and natural gas pipeline proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

OVERVIEW

Elizabeth helps clients navigate complex energy infrastructure proceedings before FERC. Her practice focuses on hydropower and natural gas proceedings, where she advises clients on a wide range of federal energy and environmental statutes, including the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Elizabeth draws on her nearly six years of experience in FERC's Office of the General Counsel, where she worked on a number of hydropower license and natural gas certificate proceedings. While at the commission, she gained experience working with a variety of federal and state environmental and natural resources agencies, Native American tribes, community and landowner groups, and NGOs. This experience enables Elizabeth to help her clients smoothly navigate the complex federal permitting landscape.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch: Energy Law (2021-2025), Environmental Law (2022-2025), Natural Resources Law (2022-2025)
- Honors, Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, D.C. Access to Justice Commission and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center (2024-2025)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- FERC
- Hydropower
- Oil + Gas

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

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EDUCATION

- Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, J.D., 2010
- Union College, B.S., 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York
- District of Columbia

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Special Announcements from National Hydropower Association (NHA)," NHA Midwest Regional Meeting, April 29, 2026.
- Speaker, "Multi-Agency Coordination: Navigating Interior, Commerce, and the Broader Federal Ecosystem," NHA Water Power Week, March 12, 2026.
- Speaker, 2026 NWHA Annual Conference, February 24-26, 2026.
- Speaker, "D.C. Update – Uncertainty Abounds!" NHA Northeast Regional Meeting, July 23-24, 2025.
- Speaker, "D.C. Update – Uncertainty Abounds!," NHA California Regional Meeting, June 25, 2025.
- Presenter, NHA Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting, NHA's 2025 Water Power Week, March 31 – April 2, 2025.
- Speaker, "Demystifying Decommissioning: Navigating License Surrender, Project Decommissioning, and Dam Removal," NHA's 2024 Clean Currents, October 7-10, 2024.
- Moderator, "Regulatory and Legal Hot Topics," Water Power Week 2024, March 13, 2024.
- Speaker, "Considerations for Voluntary Dam Removal," Water Power Week, May 10, 2023.
- Speaker, "Adding Hydropower to Existing Water Infrastructure," Montana Water Seminar, October 6, 2022.
- Speaker, "Finding Certainty in Uncertain Times," Troutman Pepper Webinar, February 24, 2021.
- Speaker, Energy Infrastructure: State and Federal Issues, Troutman Energy Conference 2018 (Chicago), June 20, 2018.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "FERC Issues Draft Revised Cybersecurity Guidance for Hydropower Projects (Section 9.0)," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 5, 2026.
- Featured, "Elizabeth McCormick of Troutman Pepper Locke: Helping Hydropower Clients Navigate Shifting Regulatory Currents," *Hydro Leader*, March 2026.
- Co-author, "To Waive or Not to Waive, Redux," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 16, 2025.
- Co-author, "FERC Revises Regulations Implementing NEPA; Adopts Two Hydropower-Related Categorical Exclusions," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 9, 2025.
- Co-author, "To Waive or Not to Waive? That Is the 401 Question," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 22, 2025.
- Co-author, "FERC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Conform to EPA's Recent CWA 401 Rule," *Troutman Pepper*, June 4, 2024.
- Co-author, "High-Level Summary of FERC Order No. 1920 on Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation," *Troutman Pepper*, May 21, 2024.
- Co-author, "Final ESA Regulations Issued by the Services," *Troutman Pepper*, April 3, 2024.
- Co-author, "Regulatory Round-Up: How Recent Changes to Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy

Act Regulations May Affect Permitting and Licensing Actions," *Hydro Leader Magazine*, November/December 2023.

- Co-author, "Troutman Pepper Summary of FERC Order No. 2023 on Generator Interconnection Reform," *Troutman Pepper*, August 2, 2023.
- Co-author, "FERC Overhauls Existing Pipeline Project Analysis, Creates Separate Interim GHG Policy for Gas Infrastructure Projects," *Troutman Pepper*, February 18, 2022.
- Co-author, "Emerging Developments in Water Quality Certification for Federally Licensed or Permitted Facilities ," American Bar Association's *Natural Resources & Environment*, July 27, 2020.
- Co-author, "Federal Deregulation Initiatives: Endangered Special Act & Water Quality Certification Rulemakings Efforts to Streamline Federal Permitting," *The Water Report*, September 15, 2019.
- Co-author, "EPA Proposes Sweeping Changes to Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Regulations," *Synergy Environmental Inc Environmental Consultants Newsletter*, August 2019.
- Co-author, "Power Development at Non-Powered Dams," *The Water Report*, May 15, 2019.