

**Communications and Energy Solutions (CES)** is ready to assist you with your long or short-term communication and energy needs. CES services include:

- Assisting parties to resolve energy matters under the jurisdiction of FERC.
- Providing dispute resolution training pertaining to difficult conversations, facilitating meetings, and understanding how to use alternative dispute resolution in the workplace and at home.
- Drafting letters, reports, congressional testimony, press releases, and other types of communication.
- Writing and editing newsletters and annual reports.
- Tracking and reporting on legislation.

**Paula J. Felt** is the President of CES. She has acquired strong communication, research and writing skills through three decades of congressional and public affairs work. She served as legislative and press assistant to several Members of Congress and as a congressional and public information specialist at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Working for four Chairmen in her thirteen years at FERC, she developed expertise in energy matters pertaining to electric power, interstate gas pipelines, and hydroelectricity. While on Capitol Hill, she worked with a team of senior staffers to secure passage of two major energy bills.

In her years in FERC's Office of External Affairs, she analyzed legislation, covered committee markups, hearings and floor debates on matters relating to energy. Every Monday, her report, *This Week in Congress*, provided the Chairman, Commissioners, and agency staff detailed summaries of the latest congressional developments of interest to the Commission. Additionally, Paula reviewed and edited reports and letters sent to Congress for the four FERC Chairmen.

As a dispute resolution specialist during her last four years at FERC, she mediated disputes relating to FERC jurisdictional projects, involving hydro, pipeline and solar issues. She trained for this work at Pepperdine University School of Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Mediation Services. A skilled and entertaining presenter, she developed and delivered numerous conflict resolution training courses for FERC and its regulatees and other federal agencies on topics such as "Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution," "Facilitating Meetings and Technical Conferences," and "Difficult Conversations."

While at FERC, Paula successfully resolved hundreds of disputes between landowners and energy companies relating to natural gas pipelines. She also

worked with stakeholders on issues pertaining to connecting renewables to the electric grid. In collaboration with FERC's Offices of the General Counsel and Energy Projects, she assisted in resolving a complex, multi-party dispute over the shoreline management plan for the Smith Mountain Hydroelectric Pumped Storage Project.

In her jobs at DOJ and FEMA, Paula drafted agency comments on proposed legislation affecting department programs and policies. She wrote speeches and congressional testimony and talking points in support of the agencies' programs for the Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General, the FEMA Director, and other agency executives.

On Capitol Hill, she wrote legislative briefings, committee testimony, floor statements, speeches, newsletters, press releases, position papers, reports and responses to constituent inquiries in an effort to promote certain legislative action. For years she directed and produced a cable TV program for the late Rep. Larry Coughlin.

She knows the committee system and legislative process well from her many years as a legislative assistant on the Hill. She was responsible for the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee work for Congressman Coughlin and attending hearings and mark-ups of appropriations bills. As part of this work, she assisted Coughlin in obtaining bipartisan support to terminate funding for the obsolete and costly Clinch River Breeder Reactor. In another example, Paula served as the primary advisor on the Alaska Lands legislation for Rep. John B. Anderson. In that role, she coordinated successful efforts to obtain support in the House Rules Committee to bring the Udall Anderson Bill directly to the floor for a favorable vote as a "substitute bill." This tactic effectively defeated the two less favorable Alaska Lands bills voted out of House committees.

Paula also used her legislative skills in the private sector where she was the Executive Director of the historic Sewall-Belmont House on Capitol Hill that was designated in 2016 as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument. She spearheaded a successful campaign to obtain a \$500,000 Congressional appropriation for the House and assisted in securing a \$500,000 matching grant from the "Save America's Treasures' Millennium Program." Paula used her public relations skills in arranging a CNN and local CBS filming of the House. Both CNN and CBS reporters interviewed her for their television programs.

Paula received her undergraduate degree in political science from Wheeling Jesuit University where she was a member of the Jesuit Honor Society, Gamma Pi Epsilon, and an elected student government representative. She did her graduate work in political science at Duquesne University where she was a graduate teaching assistant.