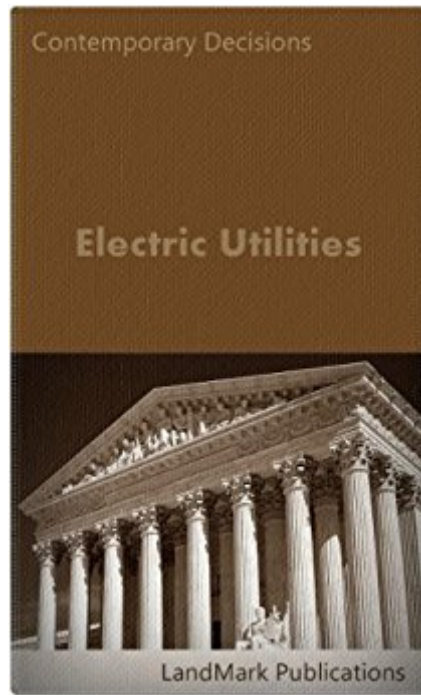


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# Electric Utilities (Litigator Series)



## Synopsis

THIS CASEBOOK contains a selection of 148 U. S. Court of Appeals decisions that analyze and discuss issues surrounding the regulation of electric utilities by the federal government. The selection of decisions spans from 2005 to the date of publication. In order to attract capital investment for construction of transmission facilities, a utility must offer a risk-adjusted expected ROE [return on equity] sufficient to attract investors. See *Canadian Ass'n of Petroleum Producers v. FERC*, 254 F.3d 289, 293 (D.C.Cir.2001). To calculate the ROE, the Commission "measures the return enjoyed by the company's equity investors by the discounted cash flow ('DCF') model, which assumes that a stock's price is equal to the present value of the infinite stream of expected dividends discounted at a market rate commensurate with the stock's risk." *Id.* When a utility is not publicly traded, key values needed to calculate the ROE are missing, and the Commission must resort to more roundabout estimations, including relying on the ROEs of comparable publicly-traded companies, termed a proxy group. See *Pub. Serv. Comm'n of Ky. v. FERC*, 397 F.3d 1004, 1006-07 (D.C.Cir. 2005) ("Midwest ISO"); *Canadian Ass'n*, 254 F.3d at 293-94. Adjusting that range by applying screens to exclude unrepresentative high or low rates of return, see *Canadian Ass'n*, 254 F.3d at 294, the Commission assembles a zone of reasonable ROEs on which to base a utility's ROE. Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Commission has also established incentive-based rate treatments to further encourage the construction of transmission facilities and replacement of aging transmission infrastructure. See 16 U.S.C. Â§ 824s; *Promoting Transmission Investment Through Pricing Reform*, Order No. 679, 71 Fed. Reg. 43,294 (July 20, 2006), order on reh'g, Order No. 679-A, 72 Fed. Reg. 1152 (Dec. 22, 2006), order on reh'g, 119 FERC Â¶ 61,062 (2007). *Southern California Edison Co. v. FERC*, 717 F. 3d 177 (DC Cir. 2013)

## Book Information

File Size: 6492 KB

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: LandMark Publications (October 24, 2013)

Publication Date: October 24, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00G5YX2DW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #128,466 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Administrative Law > Public Utilities #2 in Kindle eBooks > Law > Administrative Law > Public Utilities #31888 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction

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