

SEC INTERROGATORY #85

INTERROGATORY

[B/6/2, p. 14] Please confirm that, all other things being equal, collaborative processes tend to embed a pro-utility bias because the utilities usually have superior resources to apply to those processes relative to customer and environmental groups.

RESPONSE

It is not Navigant's experience that there is a pro-utility bias in collaborative processes due to their having superior resources. Stakeholders often bring in experienced professionals from other jurisdiction that have expertise in NTG policies, uses, and estimation. In some jurisdictions, there may be a designated state-wide evaluation consultant that most often reports to the regulators. These state-wide evaluation consultants often have considerable influence on the process. It has been Navigant's experience that the influence of entities and people in these processes is generally based upon how those contributors are viewed by the collaborative participants in terms of relevant experience and whether they have perspectives that fit with objectives, goals, and situations of that jurisdiction.

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