

Paul Bessette

Paul M. Bessette is a partner in Morgan Lewis's Energy Practice. Mr. Bessette represents nuclear utility clients in a variety of licensing, regulatory, adjudicatory, and litigation matters. Since joining the firm in 2000, Mr. Bessette has actively participated in a number of matters involving litigation against the U.S. Government. He has had a lead role in more than 10 past and pending lawsuits filed against the government before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in connection with federal obligations to accept and remove spent nuclear fuel. Mr. Bessette also represented clients in the two largest settlements of spent fuel-related claims against the government to date. He also has provided advice to several government contractor clients on contract clause interpretation, negotiations, and financing, as well as facility security clearance issues.

Mr. Bessette has been actively involved in licensing a new generation of nuclear power plants. He represented two of the three site permit applicants who successfully obtained early site permits from the NRC for the siting of potential advanced reactors. Mr. Bessette served as regulatory and adjudicatory/litigation counsel for an applicant who has submitted an application to the NRC for a combined operating license for an advanced reactor. Mr. Bessette additionally represents nuclear utilities in all aspects of their applications to renew the operating licenses of existing nuclear power plants. He currently represents a two-unit nuclear site in the Northeast on its license renewal application, and advises the client on highly contested regulatory, adjudicatory, and general litigation matters.

Prior to joining Morgan Lewis, Mr. Bessette had more than 15 years of experience in the energy field as both an engineer and a manager. He worked for IES Utilities as a regulatory and engineering manager, with responsibility for implementing numerous complex regulatory programs and major plant modifications and for responding to regulatory enforcement actions. Mr. Bessette's experience also includes work as an engineer for General Electric and as a senior reactor operator certification. Previously, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy's submarine program. Mr. Bessette is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and Maryland.