

Environmental Strategies

Often recognized among the best in the country by industry publications and legal ranking groups, Bracewell's Environmental Strategies Group (ESG) provides advice, strategy and advocacy related to the day's most significant environmental legal issues. Clients turn to our team for counsel on a full range of environmental matters, including regulatory enforcement and compliance, strategic permitting, infrastructure development, corporate transactions, incident preparedness and response, investigations, litigation, and policy and public advocacy.

Anchored in Texas and Washington, D.C., our lawyers offer perspective gained from decades spent at the forefront of issues facing companies in key sectors of the economy, such as oil and gas, refining, power generation and transmission, chemicals, manufacturing, technology, mining, and construction. We have advised clients on issues including air quality, climate change, water quality, waste and remediation, wetlands, and transactional and financial due diligence. We draw on experience serving within Fortune 100 companies; in the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Attorney's Office; and at regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).



"Full-service group with a quality practice in the transactional and regulatory spheres. Clients include a range of prominent energy and chemical companies."

- Chambers USA (2016)

Our recent notable matters include advising on the following:

New York Stock Exchangelisted company

all environmental permitting and compliance matters in connection with the construction and operation of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities in Sabine Pass, Louisiana and Corpus Christi, Texas

The Electric Reliability Coordinating Council

wide range of regulatory and legislative matters that arise under various environmental statutes

Several prominent oil and gas companies

a wide range of legal, business and enforcement issues arising from federal pipeline safety regulation, including jurisdictional issues; PHMSA inspections of mixed regulated/ unregulated facilities; impact radius assessment; special permits (waivers); and major policy and regulatory changes governing oil pipelines and gas pipelines

Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

various investigations that arose from the Deepwater Horizon incident, including President Obama's Special Task Force, the U.S. Congress, and the CSB. Bracewell's team brought the matter to a very successful resolution for Halliburton – one that included no criminal charges related to the explosion, the oil spill, or the environmental impacts.

A merchant refining company

policy, strategic communications and litigation arising from EPA's implementation and enforcement of the Renewable Fuels Standards programs

Multiple industrial companies

including new owners of upstream oil and gas, midstream, refineries, chemical manufacturing and distribution, and industrial construction facilities following tens of billions of dollars in acquisitions, in negotiating new owner environmental compliance audit agreements with EPA, overseeing and administering those compliance audits, preparing extensive audit disclosures to EPA with respect to environmental violations originating pre-acquisition, and resolving those disclosures with EPA without penalty

A midstream joint venture

pipeline siting, alternative routing, environmental impacts, safety, stakeholder engagement, and the requirements and concerns of federal environmental and resource agencies in the construction of a roughly \$2 billion, cross-border natural gas pipeline system

Independent producer of oil and gas

national coordinating counsel on CWA compliance, auditing, disclosure and enforcement matters

Energy, chemical and other industrial companies

a range of environmental matters dealing with the Clean Water Act and both EPA and TCEQ regulations, including Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan requirements and applicability issues and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits

The offshore services sector

enforcement matters before the Interior Board of Land Appeals related to the government's legal authority to take direct enforcement action against an offshore contractor, as opposed to the operator or lessee of the well

New chemical manufacturing facility

led the owner's federal and state air permitting effort on a \$2 billion greenfield chemical plant in South Texas including the successful defense and resolution of multiple contested case hearing challenges

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

challenge to the Clean Power Plan, acting as one of the leading firms in the litigation in both the D.C. Circuit and the Supreme Court

