Holland & Hart

PRACTICES

Environmental
Climate Change
Environmental Transactions
Environmental Health and Safety
Government Affairs
Federal Lands Permitting
Energy Consumers, Developers, and Public Utilities

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Oil and Gas
Renewable Energy and Storage

EDUCATION

University of Denver, J.D.

Johns Hopkins University, M.A., Government

University of Colorado, B.A.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Doug Benevento

Partner

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An environmental regulatory attorney with deep government and policy expertise, Doug guides clients on complex compliance matters.

Doug brings a sophisticated understanding of environmental policy and compliance from his high-level leadership roles at federal and state agencies, including serving as the EPA Acting Deputy Administrator and the EPA Region 8 Administrator. Doug also worked in the United States Congress where he worked on major environmental and infrastructure legislation. He draws on this expertise and strong working relationships with regulators across the Mountain West and in Washington, DC to advocate for client solutions through policy, regulatory, legal and legislative avenues.

Doug guides companies to understand and respond to the cutting edge regulatory impacts energy and environmental issues like climate change, emerging contaminants like PFAS, environmental justice, and other enforcement and regulatory challenges. As the former Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, clients turn to Doug for his public health background and ability to proactively identify and develop solutions. He is also currently serving as President of Douglas County, Colorado Board of Health.

His role as a senior executive at Xcel Energy, gives him valuable insight into the challenges corporations face navigating with complex regulatory regimes, myriad regulations. He counsels companies from diverse sectors in the development of permitting and compliance strategies, and represents clients in enforcement actions and rulemaking proceedings before state and federal agencies.

EXPERIENCE

Doug counsels clients on:

- PFAS regulatory requirements
- Hazardous waste enforcement and site remediation
- Environmental Justice and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
- The Clean Air Act
- ESG and Corporate Sustainability Reporting
- Climate issues and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) standards and accounting rules

- Developing strategies in rulemaking comments
- Development of effective government affairs strategies

Doug has sophisticated experience advising clients on key state and federal environmental issues and policies including:

- PFAS
- Ethylene Oxide
- The Civil Rights Act and Title VI
- The Clean Air Act (CAA)
- The Clean Water Act (CWA)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
- The federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Environmental regulation in multiple states

PUBLICATIONS

"CERCLA Liability Heats Up: EPA Designates PFAS Chemicals Hazardous Substances," *PFAS Update*, April 23, 2024

"Colorado GHG Roadmap 2.0 ," *Air Quality Update*, March 18, 2024

"Colorado Legislative 2024 Preview: Energy and Environmental Issues," *Government Affairs Update*, January 5, 2024

"GHG Standards for the Power Sector: Is Third Time the Charm or Is It Déjà Vu?," *Holland & Hart Legal Update*, May 15, 2023

"Back to the Future: The Biden Administration Releases Final WOTUS Rule," *Holland & Hart Client Alert*, 01/05/2023

RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA*, Environmental Law, Up and Coming, 2007-2009

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Douglas County Board of Health, President, 2021 – Present
- Colorado Chamber of Commerce, Energy & Environment Council, Chair
- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, Chair designee
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Electric Utility Regulation Advisory Group, Past Member
- Edison Electric Institute, External Affairs Committee, Past Vice-

Chairman

- Douglas County Board of Education, Past elected Director and Vice-President, 2009-2016
- National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council, Past Member
- Colorado Governor's Emergency Expert Epidemiology Response Committee, Past Chair
- Environmental Council of States, Past Member and Executive Committee Member