

INTERVIEW WITH ANNA A. EFIMOVA, MOSENERGO'S DEPUTY MANAGER – DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL ISSUES, AND GRADUATES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LAW OF THE KUTAFIN MOSCOW STATE LAW UNIVERSITY (MSAL), YOUNG SPECIALISTS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AT MOSENERGO'S LEGAL DIVISION



1. Ms Efimova, you are a practicing lawyer in charge of the Legal Division at MOSENERGO, one of major territorial power-generating companies in Russia, and, at the same time, you are a professor at the Department of Energy Law of MSAL. Why and when did you decide to start lecturing?

Anna A. Efimova: Frankly speaking, before 2013 the thought of becoming a professor never crossed my mind.

And back then in 2013, I learned that they had established the Department of Energy Law at MSAL to be run by Viktoriya V. Romanova.

It was surprising and good news, since as an employer's representative I'm very interested in hiring qualified people with knowledge of energy law.

You have no idea how hard it was to find a lawyer who would be engaged at least a little in the energy sector back then (2010–2013)! In fact, we had to choose among lawyers who had worked for energy companies, and the field of their expertise was rather narrow.

I'll explain: a lawyer working for a power grid company knowing the fundamentals of legislation in the power energy sector (legal regulation in the wholesale and retail market of electric power and capacity) knew nothing about the fundamentals in the heat supply sector; same as a lawyer previously employed at a heat supply company, for example, recovering accounts receivable under heat supply contracts had no idea of the wholesale and retail market of electric power and capacity. And that was the situation in just one branch of energy law, not speaking about how hard it was to find a lawyer who would also be an expert in oil and gas legislation. Headhunting for a multi-skilled energy lawyer was almost an impossible mission.

And all major energy companies understood that the issue had to be addressed at the level of science and education. That is why setting up the Department of Energy Law of MSAL in 2013 was welcomed by all major energy companies.

I was aware of the fact that it was a pilot project unprecedented in Russia and I was interested in participating. And when Viktoriya V.

Romanova invited me, I accepted her invitation at once.

Over the six-year history of the Department, I've never regretted my choice. Several generations of young energy lawyers have graduated, are successfully working now for major energy companies, including MOSENERGO. And it's pleasant to feel that you are one of those who made it happen. Operations of any energy company are always associated with legal support in various areas of legal regulation. Developing and publishing first Russian textbooks in energy law became a big event for energy lawyers. In fact, for the first time ever, sources of energy law were systematized, both for the fuel and energy sector (FES) in general and for specific branches of the energy sector.

For me, as head of the Legal Division of the major territorial power-generating company in Russia, teaching at the Department of Energy Law of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University allowed solving our HR issues.

Now we hire not only from the labor market, but also during young talent training: we build the branch-specific theoretical base and teach them methods and skills of applying it in actual operations of the Company.

The Company offers internship for students of the Department of Energy Law of MSAL. Successful interns will be offered available jobs at the Company's Legal Division.

As part of the Russian Energy Week, the Department of Energy Law organizes two contests, "Soon-to-be energy lawyer" and "Young energy lawyer", which are very beneficial for energy law students and young lawyers in the sphere of energy. This year, the Energy Law Centre of

the Saint-Petersburg State Economic University (SPbSEU) joined the contest organizer team.

Graduates of our Department, now young specialists of MOSENERGO's Legal Division, are also taking part in the interview. Please, meet Nadezhda Koropets, Mariam Kortkhondzhia, Yuriy Lipin, and Anna Sedova.

Thank you very much, Ms Efimova! So, let the youth speak!

2. Mariam, why did you choose majoring in energy law and how the choice helped you to find a job at MOSENERGO?

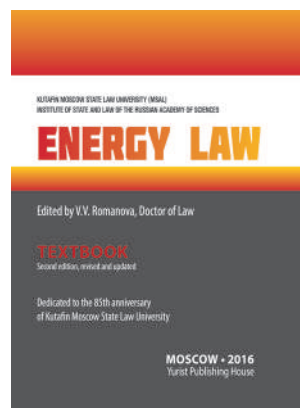
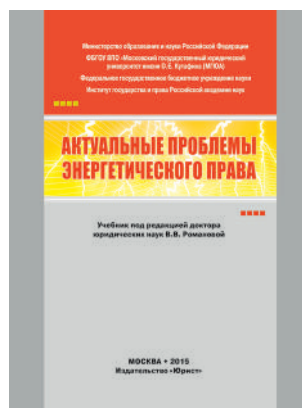
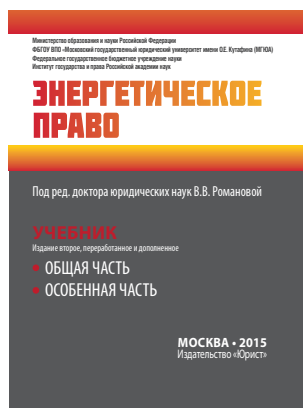
Mariam: I wanted to work in the legal profession since high school. But the question was what college to choose?

During visiting open door events at various Moscow universities, a practically unique field, energy law, offered only by the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL), caught my eye. The Department of Energy Law engages representatives of legal divisions of major energy companies as professors, so I decided to study energy law.

I knew that energy sector development in Russia is strategically and economically important for the country, due to which fact the quality legal regulation of energy-related operations will also be crucial for the sector, accordingly, energy lawyers will be in great demand.

Sure, as many graduates, I had worries about employment, but I believed that I had made the right choice.

During the studies, our group was introduced to the professor of the Department of Energy Law and MOSENERGO's Deputy Manager — Director for Legal Issues, Anna A. Efimova.





Besides strong theoretical training, Ms Efimova offered seminars focused on practical aspects. During seminars, we solved various interesting cases that had occurred in the course of MOSENERGO's production operations. It was during those seminars that it became clear for me where I wanted to work.

During my 4th year, I was lucky to undergo an internship at MOSENERGO, resulting in a job offer from the company. Now it's been 18 months that I've been working for MOSENERGO as chief contract management specialist. My area of work includes contract due diligence, preparing legal opinions, and legal support for execution and issue of powers of attorney.

That is why we all want to express great thanks and respect to the Department of Energy Law represented by V.V. Romanova and A.A. Efimova for the knowledge we received during the studies and which underlies my development and further training as the company's employee.

Mariam, thank you!

3. Nadezhda, what's the value of combining studies and research activity with employment at MOSENERGO?

Nadezhda: I've been working at MOSENERGO's Legal Affairs for five years, always in close interaction with the Department of Energy Law of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University

(MSAL). I was invited to MOSENERGO for the first time during my 4th year. Many students start their professional careers at companies of their internship, and I was no exception. My internship at MOSENERGO helped me choose among a rather broad range of areas of the FES.

Building a career in the major power-generating company is, undoubtedly, a great luck for a lawyer, especially for an energy lawyer. Work tasks often require knowledge of the production process, you have to know what gas turbine blades look like, where is the exact location of the electric grid facilities' technological connection, and many more. MOSENERGO employs highly-trained experts in various fields willing to assist the lawyer in solving practical tasks, and it is of enormous value.

At our company, the opinions and wishes of an employee are always heard. I started my career here at the contract management department, where I spent four years gaining experience, while I was professionally attracted to dispute resolution and court advocacy, so now I'm the chief specialist of the legal issues department for claim administration.

In my opinion, for a lawyer, combining career with studies is extremely beneficial. Unusual practical tasks give material for research, while theoretical knowledge gained at seminars allows finding original solutions to practical tasks. Representation of one's interests in public authorities and courts and drafting non-typical agreements is something like working in a laboratory: it is how we form judicial practice and new approaches to understanding of law and aspire to refine legal regulation. Today, I'm proud to say that I'm a postgraduate student at the Department of Energy Law, and I know for sure that the experience gained at MOSENERGO will help me implement a decent research project, and the deep dive into the problematic aspects of the power energy sector will contribute to an efficient solving of practical tasks.

It was great to attend the opening event of the Energy Law Centre under the Saint-Petersburg State Economic University. It is very good that energy law will develop in Saint Petersburg too.

Nadezhda, thank you! And, of course, we congratulate you with having entered the postgraduate program at the Department of Energy Law of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL)! We wish you success both in research and practical activities!



4. Yuriy, you are the chief specialist for general legal support at MOSENERGO. Could you tell us please about your work?

Yuriy: My division provides legal support of current operations of the company.

As a rule, this includes support of monitoring (supervisory) authority inspections, appealing against inspections' findings, both in an administrative procedure and in court, procurement legal support, preparing legal opinions on various issues, legal review of by-laws, and so on. As for me personally, I'm in charge of two areas. The first one is legal support for the company operations as related to compliance with the antimonopoly and procurement legislation. This primarily includes representation of the company's interests in the process of complaints' consideration by an antimonopoly authority. Such complaints may be filed against the company's behavior in a bidding process, or the possible infringement of third party rights in the course of our heat supplying operations. The second area is connected with the legal support for the company's operations in the field of ensuring security and anti-terrorist safety of MOSENERGO's FES facilities. Working in that area, I inspect and categorize such facilities (central heating plants, district thermal power plants, quarter thermal power plants) and attend their annual inspections held by officers of the Federal National Guard Service.

But my job is not limited to those two areas. I have to go thoroughly through the issues of the company operations in the wholesale market of electric power and capacity, its services of

technological connection, and may others. Energy law governs both private law and public law relations in the FES. Accordingly, one has to have good knowledge of various sources of energy law, and those include the Russian Civil Code, Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, the Tax Code, and numerous branch-specific regulations. So, we have a rather broad range of tasks to solve, which makes my work in that area attractive to me. Over my four-year career at the company, I still feel interested in my job, and, of course, in energy law, and discover something new every day.

Yuriy, thank you very much!

We also congratulate Nadezhda and Yuriy with another successful participation in this year's "Young energy lawyer" contest held as part of the Russian Energy Week.

Ms Efimova, thank you very much! I express my sincere gratitude for your help, support and active involvement in all activities of the Department of Energy Law and Energy Law Center!

And I thank you, Ms Romanova! I think that this year's topic of the Russian Energy Week's contest for the youth was a success, "Energy legislation model: the youth's vision". As a member of the jury, I can say that it was great to review their projects. Probably, we should continue holding such events in the future. ■

*Interviewer:
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