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## PRESS RELEASE

### The Ferguson Group Hires Energy and Public Power Expert, Lori J. Pickford

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Ferguson Group (TFG), a leading lobbying firm representing local governments and other public agencies in Washington, D.C., is pleased to announce that energy expert Lori J. Pickford has joined TFG as a Principal.

Ms. Pickford, a top advocate on energy and public power issues for local governments and public agencies, joined TFG on January 3<sup>rd</sup> as a Principal. Ms. Pickford joins other TFG advocates in offering advocacy and government relations consulting work on energy policy issues that impact local communities. Ms. Pickford brings 25+ years of experience in the public power arena, spending most of her career representing not-for-profit electric utilities before the Congress and the Administration.

"We are delighted that Lori moved her practice to The Ferguson Group," said Roger Gwinn, CEO of TFG. "Lori brings great expertise in the energy sector, particularly on public power issues, and continues to deepen our bench on tax policy. She has the trust and confidence of policymakers on the Hill and in the Executive Branch, and will provide another layer of exemplary service to our clients."

"I am looking forward to leading the energy practice at The Ferguson Group and am glad to be partnered with such an experienced team as the 115th Congress tackles critically important energy policy issues impacting not-for-profit community owned utilities," Ms. Pickford said. "The electric utility industry is in the midst of a major transformation and it could not be a more critical time to be involved in federal policy that helps protect the fundamental mission of public power to provide affordable, reliable, environmentally sound electric power to the communities they serve."

#### ***Additional Background on Lori Pickford***

For 16 years, Ms. Pickford served as an integral part of the Morgan Meguire, LLC consulting firm, working on key energy policy issues impacting the electric utility sector. Throughout her career, Ms. Pickford has actively worked on multiple legislative initiatives enacted into law.

Key areas include DOE grid emergency authority to protect the grid against an imminent threat, recently enacted in the *"Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act,"* modifications to the *"Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act"* to help local communities fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects, as well as the multi-year effort to enact the *"Cybersecurity Information Act of 2015,"* a comprehensive bill to enhance two-way cybersecurity information-sharing between the government, and the private sector,

including electric utilities, provide liability protection for entities that share threat information, and protection against the release of personal identification information of customers.

Ms. Pickford has been actively involved in legislative and regulatory matters related to federal tax policy since the enactment of the “*Tax Reform Act of 1986*,” primarily focused on preserving the use of tax-exempt municipal bonds. As part of the “*Energy Policy Act of 2005*,” Ms. Pickford worked on a bipartisan basis with key Members of Congress and Treasury officials to develop, enact and continually improve upon groundbreaking tax credit bonds and direct-pay bonds that finance not-for-profit utility renewable energy projects, through the creation of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs).

In the 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Congresses, Ms. Pickford advocated for the advancement of the “*Hoover Power Allocation Act*” to extend contracts - for another 50 years - to ensure that Arizona, Nevada and California consumers continued to enjoy their share of the benefits of hydropower from Hoover Dam. The final bill was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2011.

Prior to working at Morgan Meguire, Ms. Pickford worked for eight years, specializing in energy, electricity markets, new energy technologies, nuclear power, and federal tax policy at the American Public Power Association where she acquired a comprehensive understanding of the public power industry and its mission.

Ms. Pickford began her career with the Washington office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (1984-1992), a nationally recognized law firm, where she worked with senior energy and tax partners to represent clients before Congress and the Executive Branch.

Ms. Pickford earned a Master’s degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University and a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Old Dominion University.

*For more information about The Ferguson Group, please visit our website at [www.thefergusongroup.com](http://www.thefergusongroup.com).*

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