

## **FERC accelerates smart grid action plan**

The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has accelerated the development of a smarter grid for the national electricity transmission system with the release of a policy statement to set the rules that will bring long-term energy savings to consumers. "A smarter bulk power system, and the generation and demand resources associated with it, will operate more securely, reliably and efficiently," says acting FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff. "The Smart Grid will give consumers better information and the tools to control their electricity costs. And it will play a critical role in the integration of new renewable resources." Smart Grid enhancements will apply digital technologies to the grid and enable real-time coordination of information from both generators and demand-side resources. They will improve the efficiency of the bulk power system and also enable demand response and other transactions and activities that give consumers the tools to control their electricity costs. FERC is seeking comment on the standards for four issues critical to the smooth operation of the Smart Grid: cyber security; communications among regional market operators, utilities, service providers and consumers; ensuring that bulk power system operators have equipment that allows them to monitor and operate their systems; and coordinating the operation of the bulk power system with new and emerging technologies for renewable resources, demand resources, electricity storage and transportation systems. "Developing the transmission infrastructure needed to deliver electricity from renewable energy resources is essential to meeting our national energy goals, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening our national security and revitalizing our economy," says Wellinghoff.

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