

US DOE releases smart grid technology report

The US Department of Energy has released two reports on important policy issues raised by smart grid technologies that can promote innovation, cut costs for consumers and modernise the electrical grid. The first, *Data Access and Privacy Issues Related to Smart Grid Technologies* focuses on how legal and regulatory regimes are evolving to protect consumer privacy and choice while promoting the growth of innovative energy-management services and technologies that rely on detailed energy-usage data. It found there is considerable consensus that flexibility and consumer education will be critical to the successful adoption and deployment of smart grid technologies like advanced metering. The second, *Communications Requirements of Smart Grid Technologies*, examines how the communications needs of utilities and the electrical grid are likely to evolve as smart grid technologies become more widely used. This report recommends that to improve overall coordination, utilities and other smart grid constituents should be represented on key federal industry committees that address communications- and network-related security and reliability issues.

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