

US regulators outline smart grid funding criteria

US state and federal regulators have outlined a list of criteria for the Department of Energy to consider when it starts providing grant and other funding for smart grid projects. The regulators, members of the Smart Grid Collaborative jointly sponsored by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, have developed the criteria as a consensus for establishing preconditions under which smart grid projects would be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "Getting a smart grid established in America is very important," FERC Commissioner Sudeen Kelly says. "We believe we can do this in a way that expands opportunities for consumers while keeping the grid safe, secure and reliable. We want the money that Congress has dedicated to this effort to be put to its best use. The criteria we propose today are a consensus among 19 states and FERC on the best way that DOE can efficiently and effectively fund smart grid demonstration projects," she says.

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