

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

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PSC Holds Smart Grid Technical Conference

-Issues Related to Smart Grid and Utilization of Federal Funding Discussed-

Albany, NY—05/22/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) has announced that a Technical Conference will be held on June 11, 2009, to explore issues associated with the development and deployment of smart grid technologies in New York, including utilization of federal funding.

Smart grid is an aggregate term for the application of various digital technologies to, among other things, modernize and automate transmission and distribution assets to anticipate and respond to system disturbances, enable greater use of variable energy sources, including renewable energy, and provide the capability for customers to control their energy consumption effectively.

“With the goal of enhancing our state’s power system and empowering customers with more information and the ability to control their energy costs, comes the responsibility to ensure that large expenditures for the deployment of a smart grid are in the public interest,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Therefore, the upcoming Technical Conference presents an important and timely opportunity for the Commission to listen to, and discuss with, government and industry experts the myriad of issues related to the deployment and management of smart grid technology.”

The Commission is interested in developing a base of knowledge related to utility smart grid technologies in New York to assist in its decision making in determining whether to support investment in smart grid technologies. As smart grid technologies enhance two-way communication to improve electric grid operation, there are several opportunities for improvement in New York State including: reduction in power system losses; greater demand response; increase use of distributed generation; and better outage management systems.

Government, industry and utility representatives have been invited to address the Commission at the June 11 Technical Conference on various smart grid topics including: current status of technology; communication networks and facilities; standards and protocols; and technology obsolescence. The Commission is also interested in utility smart grid investment strategies, including associated ratepayer costs and utilization of federal funding available from the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Technical Conference will be held on June 11, 2009, in the 19th floor boardroom of the Commission's Albany Offices, Three Empire State Plaza, and video broadcast in the boardroom on the 4th floor the Commission's offices at 90 Church Street, New York City. The Technical Conference will commence at 10:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. **Pursuant to procedures established by the building management, anyone planning to view the Technical Conference in the New York City boardroom must notify Jan Goorsky at 212-417-2378, 48 hours in advance of the conference, and must be prepared to show valid photo identification upon arrival at 90 Church Street.**

In addition to the video broadcasting of the Technical Conference in the Commission's New York City offices, the conference will be broadcast live on the Internet. The Internet broadcast can be viewed through NewYorkAdmin by accessing <http://www.NewYorkAdmin.com> from a computer capable of using RealPlayer. RealPlayer can be downloaded from the NewYorkAdmin Web site. The Commission has no financial interest in the Web site, its management, maintenance or administration. The videocasting will be for viewing and listening purposes only.

Persons with disabilities who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should call the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management office at (518) 474-2520. TTD users may call this number through the New York Relay Service at 1-800-662-1220 or have a representative call directly to the office.