



For Immediate Release
October 28, 2009

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LPPC Offers Strong Support for Smart Grid Modernization *Benefits to Customers Cited*

The Large Public Power Council (LPPC) offered its “strong support” for President Obama’s \$3.4 billion initiative to spur transition to a smarter and more reliable electric grid system. “President Obama and his administration are to be saluted for this massive historic investment in smart grid technology for the nation’s electric consumers,” said Bob Johnston, Chair of the LPPC.

“This revolutionary program will link renewable resources to the grid, increase energy efficiency, provide greater reliability, and will foster energy-saving choices for our customers. We offer our strong support for this Smart Grid Investment Grant award program,” Johnston stated.

“We are particularly pleased that, in a very competitive process, five of our LPPC member utilities were awarded Smart Grid Investment Grants totaling \$223 million, Johnston said. “ This clearly demonstrates LPPC member commitment and ingenuity in using the smart grid to cut energy costs for their customers and to foster the growth of renewable resources. These modernization funds will enable five of the largest publicly owned not-for-profit utilities to make significant technological advances to benefit their customers.”

Of the 100 grants announced by the President, 30 were awarded to public power utilities.

LPPC member utilities receiving Smart Grid Investment Grants included: Sacramento Municipal Utility District, JEA, Salt River Project, MEAG Power, and Snohomish Public Utility District.

“These grants will make it possible,” Johnston said, “for our member utilities to install smart meters, to link renewable energy to the electric grid, to build electric car recharging stations, to reduce peak demand and to provide real-time pricing information so that our customers can reduce their energy bills.”

The LPPC’s membership includes 23 of the nation’s largest publicly owned, not-for-profit energy systems. Members are located in 10 states and provide reliable, low cost electricity to some of the largest cities in the country including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Orlando and Austin.

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