



District of Columbia Public Service Commission

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Fact Sheet:

Smart Grid & Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in the District

The Smart Grid & AMI

It is a national goal to modernize the nation's aging electrical transmission and distribution system into a Smart Grid in order to improve reliability and to secure electricity infrastructure to meet future growth in demand. To upgrade and expand the nation's electrical infrastructure, the Obama Administration awarded federal stimulus grants to utility companies. Pepco received \$44.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to deploy Advanced Metering infrastructure (AMI).



AMI is a network that allows two-way communication between smart meters and a utility company's electrical system. AMI enables the company to collect usage data, by customer, on an hourly basis so consumers can track and alter their energy use as a way to minimize their bills.

Potential Benefits of a Smart Grid and AMI:

- Improve reliability and customer service
- Secure the electricity infrastructure
- Eliminate the need for customers to report outages and enable quicker restoration after storms and other events
- Provide customers with historical energy data, which can be compared to weather patterns and other trends that contribute to bill variation
- Provide support for net metering of renewable energy resources
- Eliminate the need for meter readers to visit each customer and reduce the number of estimated bills
- Enable Pepco to connect and disconnect services remotely



Smart Meters

Pepco began deploying smart meters in the District of Columbia in October 2010. Smart meters initially will be used solely for billing purposes, and they will continue to be read by Pepco meter readers. Pepco's full deployment of 280,000 smart meters will continue through the end of December 2011. Once deployment is complete, Pepco will activate an internal chip in each smart meter which will enable two-way communication between customers' meters and Pepco over a private secure wireless network. This feature will enable Pepco to provide hourly energy usage data to customers so they can track and manage their consumption. The meters will provide customers with more detailed and timely information about their electricity usage and help them make smarter choices about how they use their energy.

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The District of Columbia Public Service Commission is an independent agency established by Congress in 1913 to regulate electric, natural gas, and local telephone utility companies in the District of Columbia.

Promoting Smart Consumption