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ISO New England Releases Smart Grid Report

Research Paper Describes National and Regional Efforts to Employ New Technologies and Optimize Power Grid's Efficiency

Holyoke, MA—February 17, 2009—ISO New England Inc., the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets, today released a report highlighting various efforts to develop and implement Smart Grid technologies. These advanced technologies combined with demand-response initiatives can optimize the efficient operation of the power system, improve reliability, and provide consumers with new tools to better manage their electricity consumption and costs.

The research review paper, *Overview of the Smart Grid—Policies, Initiatives, and Needs*, surveys and distills the sizeable amount of information in circulation regarding the technologies under development or in deployment across the United States, as well as the policy and industry initiatives designed to encourage the implementation of these technologies.

“Our industry is entering a period of great innovation, with Smart Grid technology helping to draw out all the efficiencies the grid can offer,” said Gordon van Welie, ISO New England's President and Chief Executive Officer. “The Smart Grid evolution is already underway in New England, as demonstrated by several state initiatives and projects within the ISO New England footprint.”

Across the country, various technologies are being developed to improve the efficiency of the system, as summarized in the report. In New England, several Smart Grid initiatives have already been identified, and ISO New England has nearly a dozen advanced-technology and demand-response projects underway, including:

- Two types of demand-response programs—with current enrollment topping 2,000 megawatts—to encourage customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of high price or heavy demand
- The Alternative Technologies Regulation Pilot Program that is evaluating the capabilities of technologies, such as flywheel, to help provide grid regulation
- Initiation of a pilot program to test demand-response resources' ability to provide operating reserves to the bulk power system
- Development of an Advanced Grid Simulator, which will model the grid of the future

The report defines and discusses Smart Grid technology development and implementation with respect to supply-side, demand-side, transmission, and distribution technologies. The report also provides insight into different strategies for implementing the Smart Grid, providing various viewpoints on the need for and development of technologies, the establishment of standards and protocols, implementation timetables, and cost allocation.

“Realizing the vision of the Smart Grid and capturing the full benefit of its potential will be the result of an extraordinary effort to coordinate new technologies, engineering, and policy,” continued van Welie.

The report can be found on ISO New England’s Web site at www.iso-ne.com.