

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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SMART METERING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ALBANY - Meeting to Assist State Regulators in Identifying Best Smart Meter Technology -

Albany, NY—3/24/08—The New York State Public Service Commission today announced that Staff of the Department of Public Service will host a technical conference on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to aid Staff in its efforts to develop minimum functional requirements for utility AMI systems by increasing Staff’s knowledge and understanding of this rapidly evolving and complex subject.

“Advanced Metering, also known as Smart Metering, enables customers to better control their energy costs by allowing them to respond to peak prices through the use of state-of-the-art technology; but it can also do much more,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “We want to push ahead with this critically important initiative. However, we realize that we have more questions to answer in order to get it right. To be successful, a clear and comprehensive understanding of the functions that these sophisticated systems are intended to achieve must be developed before they are installed. This technical conference will bring together experts in the AMI field to help answer outstanding questions.”

The Commission will use the two-day technical conference to help Staff establish criteria for minimum AMI functionality that utilities would be required to use as AMI systems are developed. AMI refers to a metering system that provides customers with price information to inform their energy consumption decisions, records customer consumption, and possibly other parameters, hourly or more frequently and that provides for daily or more frequent transmittal of measurements over a communication network to a central collection point.

AMI includes the communications hardware and software and associated system and data management software that creates a network between advanced meters and utility business systems and which allows collection and distribution of information to customers and other parties such as competitive retail providers, in addition to providing it to the utility itself. The stored data can be used for time-sensitive rates, load profiling, demand forecasting, outage detection, "Smart-Grid" management, and a variety of other uses.

The Commission's primary goal in adopting minimum functional criteria for AMI systems is definitional. The utilities' ability to purchase meters of various kinds to measure their customers' consumption of electricity and natural gas is unaffected by the Commission's action as long as these meters are types that have previously been approved by the Commission.

The need for establishing minimum functional criteria is prompted by the Commission's review of the utility proposals for installing more advanced meters with enhanced functionality, that are currently before the Commission. The features and functions of AMI meters and communications systems proposed by the utilities must be appropriate, given the Commission's goals, the state-of-the-art in the metering and communications technology, and the cost of the desired features.

Topics for discussion at the April 14 and 15, 2008 conference at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, will include the following: overview of AMI systems, smart grid systems and their relationship to AMI systems, AMI communication protocols and platforms, meter data access issues, and AMI meter and system capabilities.

Space at the conference is limited and registration is required. To register for the conference, send an e-mail including name, firm or organization's name, and contact information, including e-mail address and daytime telephone number, to Julie.Niedzialkowski@dps.state.ny.us by April 4. Due to space limitations, Staff reserves the right to limit the number of representatives from any one firm or organization attending the conference.

For more information on the Commission's AMI proceeding, please go to the Department's AMI website page at dps.state.ny.us/AMI.htm. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission decisions can also be obtained from the Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).