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Department of Energy Finalizes \$8 Million Grant for ISO New England Smart Grid Project

Funding Enables Region to Pursue Key Project Sooner and at Half the Cost

Holyoke, MA—July 1, 2010—A three-year, \$18 million project to accelerate installation of at least 30 smart-grid devices covering every state in New England was launched today with an \$8 million grant to ISO New England from the United States Department of Energy (DOE).

The smart-grid devices, called phasor measurement units (PMUs), will provide ISO New England's control room operators with enhanced tools to monitor and measure performance of the region's electric grid, improving their ability to detect and address problems on the system. Information on the system's status incoming to the ISO will increase from once every four seconds now to 30 times per second. The technology will improve reliability and create other efficiencies.

As developers move forward with investment in wind projects, these additional PMUs in the region will help accommodate the variable nature of these renewable resources. Over time, the data collected from the PMUs will better inform decisions regarding power grid design and operation. ISO New England and New England transmission companies expect to begin installing equipment later this summer and complete the project over three years.

“The DOE grant will enable this smart grid project to be completed at a lower cost to New England and allow the region to realize the benefits of smart grid technology sooner,” said Vamsi Chadalavada, senior vice president and chief operating officer for ISO New England Inc., operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. “The funding will speed both innovation and integration of smart grid developments in our region.”

The grant will cover nearly 50 percent of the costs associated with installing PMUs in existing substations around the six-state region, as well as development of software needed to make use of the data the PMUs will provide. ISO New England and the transmission owners participating in the project will match the federal grant funds.

DOE is providing grants to facilitate smart grid efforts through funding from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009*. The ISO and transmission owners submitted an application to DOE in August, 2009, for a Smart Grid Investment Grant to fund this PMU project. DOE awarded the grant to the ISO in October, 2009. The agreement was finalized in June.

In all, Smart Grid Investment Grants to New England entities topped \$230 million, which will grow to \$470 million with matching funds from those entities. These proposals include thousands of smart meter installations, as well as advanced sensors and energy storage technologies.