

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) has submitted two separate proposals to the Department of Energy (DOE) for stimulus grant funding under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Proposal #1 is through the "investment program" of DOE. This is a \$35.1 Million proposal to implement a complete communications backbone/infrastructure across our entire service territory consisting of communication towers, wireless/microwave and fiber. In addition to the communications portion of the project we are also proposing to implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across the entire Co-op service territory.

Proposal #2 is through the "demonstration program" of DOE. This is a \$67 Million collaborative effort with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN) consisting of seventeen cooperatives across the country attempting to demonstrate smart grid interoperability/security applications from generation through transmission/distribution all the way to the commercial/residential consumer/end user. NHEC's \$4.9 Million portion consists of a sampling of our service territory which includes 8,000 smart meter modules, 2000 demand response switches, 500 in home displays, and 500 advanced hot water storage units.

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
August 20, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Smart Grid Regional Demonstration grant application (DE-FOA-0000036) submitted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Cooperative Research Network (CRN) for \$66 million to install and study a broad range of smart grid technologies in partnership with cooperatives in New Hampshire and ten other states.

The CRN proposal will save energy and reduce costs to consumers by advancing our knowledge of how best to implement smart grid technology into our electrical delivery systems. Under this grant, CRN will conduct enhanced distribution and demand management studies in partnership with 26 of its more than 900 member cooperatives. Data from all participating co-ops will be centrally compiled to develop cost-benefit studies, verify smart grid technology viability and validate new smart grid business models that can be adapted and replicated across the country.

The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) is one of the partner co-ops involved in the CRN application. NHEC is member-owned and controlled electric distributor serving approximately 80,000 members in 115 towns and cities across 9 of New Hampshire's 10 counties. The co-op has a history of leadership in the field of energy efficiency, and was recently awarded a grant from New Hampshire's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund to expand programs to help consumers weatherize homes and buy energy star appliances.

As a partner in the CRN proposal, NHEC will install 8,000 smart meter modules, 2,000 demand response (load management) switches, 500 in-home displays and 500 advanced thermal storage units in the Lakes region and North County of New Hampshire. These smart grid devices will allow NHEC to contribute to 9 distinct studies within the national CRN project including advanced metering, water heater & air conditioning load control and demand response. NHEC's participation will be of significant benefit to consumers in New Hampshire and across the country.

I was proud to support provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that made significant investments in the future of smart grid and energy transmission. These new technologies will reduce costs and lower consumption to the benefit of consumers and businesses nationwide.

I strongly support CRN and NHEC's application and urge your careful consideration of this worthy project. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Mike Firestone, at (202) 224-6299.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator