



NEWS RELEASE
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PSC Chairman Tony Clark Speaks at White House Grid Modernization Event

North Dakota Public Service Commission Chairman Tony Clark led a delegation of 14 State public service commissioners to participating in the rollout of a major White House initiative to modernize the electricity system.

The June 13 event marked the release of the White House's report on grid modernization issues, entitled "A Policy Framework for the 21st Century Grid: Enabling Our Secure Energy Future." The report is available online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/nstc-smart-grid-june2011.pdf>.

The White House also announced several new projects related to the report, including the issuance of \$250 million in loans for smart-grid development in rural locations and the launch of a private-sector initiative called Grid 21 aimed at promoting consumer friendly innovations on the transmission system.

Chairman Clark, who was a panelist during the event's opening keynote discussion, participated in the event through his work with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). NARUC is the national association representing State public service commissioners throughout the country. Chairman Clark currently serves as the Association's President.

Chairman Clark said the event helped broaden understanding between State and federal agencies on these issues. "I was honored to be able to represent North Dakota consumers at this event," Chairman Clark said. "Modernizing the nation's electricity system depends on several factors—cost, reliability, technology, security, and, most importantly, consumer benefit. It also depends heavily on the interaction between federal and State agencies. This event was a strong indication that State and federal officials can work closely together on such an important issue. While we may not always agree, these kinds of forums build greater understanding of each other and the challenges we confront. New 'smart' grid technologies could dramatically change how we use and consume electricity. But they also leave numerous unanswered questions that State commissions must consider. This is why a strong federal-State relationship is essential as we move forward and make the electricity system work best for the consumers we all serve."

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