

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Alan Farber [afarber@agiosat.net]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 1:47 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01

Categories: Ready to Docket



California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

AGIOSAT GOVERNMENT SERVICES INC, a satellite communications' company located in Chatsworth, California is pleased to provide the following comments on the California Energy Commission First Triennial Electric Investment Program Charge (EPIC) Investment Plan.

SMART GRID and Grid Operations, Transmission & Distribution Systems

Over the past several years, smart grid initiatives around the world have focused largely on the deployment of smart meters. However there is an increasing need to look at utility-scale applications like substation automation, distribution automation, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) backhaul, remote monitoring, workforce mobility, and communications network redundancy. These applications are expected to bring dramatically improved operational efficiency to utilities and their ratepayers and customers as well as reliability to the grid. While substation and distribution sites in urban and suburban markets can be readily connected to the grid via existing terrestrial communications networks, in order to create a fully-automated, reliable grid, rural and remote sites must also be accommodated and backup systems need to be in place for critical sites.

Satellite communications should be advanced through technical field deployment and demonstration as a viable solution in order to bring smart grid functionality and all of its benefits to sparsely populated geographies. Additionally, as a non-terrestrial-based network, satellite communications may be the only solution to keep the grid connected and/or bring it back online rapidly in cases of natural (or manmade) disasters. These are appropriate and important uses of satellite communications in the smart grid today; looking ahead, satellite technology advances if they overcome "*The Valley of Death*" will be capable of bringing electric service especially renewable energy to previously un-served areas.

The overall objective of this focus would be consistent with the primary and mandatory guiding principle of the Electric Program Investment Charge which is to provide electricity ratepayer benefits, defined as promoting greater reliability, lower costs and increased safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in this proceeding.

Sincerely,



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