



July 24, 2013

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station - 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

VIA Electronic Mail

RE: D.P.U. 12-76, Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Modernization of the Electric Grid

Dear Secretary Marini:

TechNet greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on the “Report to the Department of Public Utilities from the Grid Modernization Steering Committee,” filed on July 2, 2013, in the [Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Modernization of the Electric Grid, D.P.U. 12-76.](#)

TechNet, (www.technet.org) is a bi-partisan CEO driven advocacy group that represents the nation’s leading technology companies in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, networking, clean energy, e-commerce, internet media and venture finance, many of those companies are located here in Massachusetts. TechNet’s mission is to actively promote policies that strengthen the nation’s innovation-driven global competitiveness as well as create private sector initiatives that will ensure U.S. competitiveness and economic leadership. Many of the companies that TechNet represents are investing resources and actively engaged in the energy industry. These companies have revolutionized virtually every aspect of how people live, work, and do business in every sector. Energy, should - and will - be no different.

TechNet supports the Department’s goals for a modernized grid, particularly those that seek to harness innovation by enabling existing and new technologies with the ultimate goal of a more efficient, robust and cost effective electricity system that in the long run will enhance customer opportunities and support state policy goals to integrate clean energy resources.

In order to achieve the Department’s goals and take advantage of the opportunities it has described, TechNet recommends that the Department follow the principles and recommendations in Chapter 5 of the Report supported by the Clean Energy Caucus. TechNet also endorses the Utility of the Future *comprehensive* regulatory framework described and the business case approach supported by the Clean Energy Caucus to evaluate benefits and costs of grid modernization investments. In addition, TechNet supports the following complementary regulatory models: Distribution Services Pricing, Time Varying Rates and Direct Load Control, and the creation of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council.

TechNet encourages the Department to provide guidance “that will enable Massachusetts electric distribution companies and their customers to take advantage of grid modernization opportunities.” Specifically, TechNet supports the recommendation of the Clean Energy Caucus, National Grid and the Department of Energy Resources that the Department provide this guidance by October 1, 2013, and “encourage utilities, in the context of their next base rate proceeding, to include a grid modernization investment proposal consistent with the Department’s directives.” TechNet also recommends the Department open a separate investigation into time varying rates and a targeted electric vehicle proceeding.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the “Report to the Department of Public Utilities from the Grid Modernization Steering Committee.” TechNet appreciates the Department’s leadership in opening D.P.U. 12-76 to investigate the development of a modern grid that will harness innovation from technologies of today and the future, so that the Commonwealth can secure the benefits of grid modernization for its citizens, businesses and all industries.

Sincerely,

Angela M. O’Connor
Executive Director
TechNet, New England