

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**
2 **Resolution 2018-13**
3 **In Support of Grid Modernization Assistance**
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5 **Background**
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7 The Pacific Northwest has been an industry leader in energy planning, energy conservation, and
8 clean energy resource development. The region has embraced new energy resources such as
9 electric vehicles, distributed energy such as solar, renewable energy sources including wind and
10 geothermal, and is a recognized leader in green buildings. Grid modernization technology (often
11 referred to as ‘smart grid’ technology) is an area where the region has also taken a leadership role,
12 as evidenced by the number of member utilities who have engaged in Department of Energy
13 technology grants, made their own investments in modernization technologies at the distribution
14 level, and collaborated with consumers to pilot technologies.
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16 Promotion of modernization and optimization technologies through pilots and large scale
17 demonstration projects can benefit NWPPA members. Promotion also stimulates the economy
18 through job creation with the development of new equipment and software for metering,
19 monitoring, controls, communications and other operational and consumer technologies.
20 Modernization solutions can allow a more effective accommodation of increasing levels of variable
21 energy resources as well as optimizing the system for various distributed energy resources – such as
22 distributed renewables, energy storage, automated demand response, transactive controls, and
23 homes/buildings that more intelligently interact with utility systems. Grid modernization can also
24 allow integration of connected, responsive, and controllable assets to the benefit of the overall grid
25 system and end-use consumers through interactively managing energy affordability, and increasing
26 resilience and reliability.
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28 Recognizing the potential benefits, Congress sought to stimulate grid modernization technologies
29 development through the legislation since 2007 with the Energy Independence and Security Act of
30 2007 (EISA) and, more recently, in comprehensive energy legislation.
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32 **NWPPA's Position**
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- 35 • NWPPA supports the federal government’s continued role in stimulating grid modernization
36 technology development by supporting research and development and grants for pilots and
implementations of various grid modernization technologies.
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38 Origination Date: 2016. Revised 2017.