

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**  
2 **Resolution 2019-13**  
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 with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA)  
30 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  
implementation of various grid modernization technologies.
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38 Origination Date: 2016. Revised 2017.