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Contact: Annie Haas, Battelle, 509-375-3732

Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration cited in White House report CEA quarterly economic report calls out smart grid funding, job creation

RICHLAND, Washington – A quarterly report from the Council of Economic Advisers, or CEA, to the White House specifically mentions the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project as an example of a smart grid project generating the most Recovery Act investment.

A <u>news release</u> issued earlier today by the White House mentions that, "Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have been awarded \$88 million for a regional smart grid demonstration project. Bolstered by \$90 million in matches from utilities and technology companies, the \$178 million project features 12 utilities and 15 test sites and the states estimate it will create or retain 1,500 jobs across the five states."

The CEA's Fourth Quarterly Report on the Economic Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 finds that the Recovery Act is responsible for 2.5 to 3.6 million jobs. The report also finds that every government dollar invested in the Recovery Act generates three times as much outside investment.

The Council of Economic Advisers is a group of three economists who advise the President of the United States on economic policy. The council was established by the Employment Act of 1946 to provide presidents with objective economic analysis and advice on the development and implementation of a wide range of domestic and international economic policy issues.

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