



BPA informing smart grid investments in the Pacific Northwest

**by Katie Pruder, Smart Grid Outreach Coordinator, Bonneville Power Administration
July 15, 2011**

Developing the business case for smart grid – that is, showing with high reliability that the benefits outweigh the costs, is one of four primary objectives of the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project. It is important for the region to know that major investments in equipment and technology will pay off in the long run. The demonstration project can help put the region in a better position to make those decisions within the next few years.

At the helm of the business case development is The Bonneville Power Administration, a \$10 million contributor to the demonstration projects' infrastructure. Using data streams from project participants, BPA will measure and validate the costs and benefits of smart grid technology to consumers, utilities, regulatory bodies and the nation.

BPA recently completed a blueprint for developing a regional business case and supporting data.

When complete, the business case will be shared throughout the five state region and can potentially serve as a model for other parts of the country. In fact, the project was featured in a recent [White House report](#) --- in a section about supporting investments in smart energy by the utility sector.

#