



# GRIDWORKS

NM PRC's 2022 Grid Modernization Webinar Series  
March 17, 2022 Webinar #3  
*Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Communications*  
Meeting Notes

## Meeting Objectives

- Provide overview of components and practices of AMI and communications
- Gather stakeholder input on AMI and communications as part of NM PRC grid modernization rulemaking

## In attendance:

- Over 35 individuals
- 20 organizations

Meeting Agenda is available [here](#)

## A presentation on Integrated Distribution Planning (IDP) was presented by:

- Jim Ogle, Chief Engineer, Electricity Infrastructure Group, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
  - Presentation slides available [here](#)

## Stakeholder Facilitated Discussion (Grounding; Reflection; Interpretation; Decisional)

- Observations/Discussion
  - AMI is the cornerstone of grid modernization efforts. The cost of AMI is concrete but the benefits depend on uses of information provided, ranging from grid operational improvements to enabling greater customer choice. A systems approach to AMI investments can create a full range of benefits.
  - Customer profile information that can be obtained from AMI meters can enable improved rate design, including rate design to support customer engagement and saving options.
  - PRC would benefit from having more information presented in Grid Mod filings identifying benefits that can result from AMI meter data and infrastructure and investments that may be able to be avoided.
  - Coupling a Distributed Energy Resources' smart inverters with AMI capabilities can provide benefits of additional information and system control.
  - Difficult-to-quantify benefits include societal benefits of improved resiliency and energy security, but these benefits are a key outcome for grid modernization investment.



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- Smart meters provide granular data that support more effective system planning, such as for hosting capacity planning.
- Potential content for Grid Mod Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR):
  - AMI filings need to be comprehensive, providing the benefits from services that will be enabled, such as reliability and outage management, voltage and reactive power regulation, DER integration, and demand response.
  - Return on investment of legacy equipment (that may be replaced by newer technology) needs to be addressed in grid modernization efforts.
  - To effectively evaluate AMI proposals utilities will need to present benefits and the PRC will need criteria to evaluate AMI benefits.
  - Confidentiality rules necessary for data and customer protections and opt-out provisions should be included in the Customer Service Rule, rather than in a grid modernization rule.
  - Adding AMI can require substantial changes and investment in back office operations, which may require a multi-year implementation approach.
- Other process input:
  - NM Inverter Function and Setting Subgroup would benefit from exploring interface opportunities with AMI meters
- Post-Webinar Input (not considered by participants):
  - For utilities such as PNM, which serve as the Balancing Authority for co-ops or other entities, the status of their AMI and other advanced grid management capabilities hinders or supports operations of utilities for which they provide balancing services.
  - In 2006 the NM PRC conducted a Notice of Inquiry into Advanced Metering and Time-based Rates (06-00391). Utilities filed white papers in response. The docket was closed without action.