

Utah Rural Electric Association

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A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative 

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January 24, 2007

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building, 4th Floor
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City UT 84111

Attention: Julie Orchard
RE: Docket 06-999-03 – Smart Metering

Consistent with the provisions contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Utah Public Service Commission is required to consider five new federal standards relative to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. The Utah Division of Public Utilities issued a memo to the Utah Public Service Commission dated January 8, 2007 recommending that the Smart Metering standard not be adopted at this time. The Utah Rural Electric Association concurs with the recommendation of the Division.

During a technical conference held August 30, 2006 to discuss the new standards it was noted that Rocky Mountain Power is the only electric utility over which the Utah Public Service Commission has ratemaking authority. Under Utah law the locally elected board of directors at each cooperative determines the level of rates and charges to cooperative members. Each cooperative is required to hold public meetings, receive approval from the board of directors and any applicable federal regulator, and file its tariffs with the Commission. I believe the co-op boards have done an excellent job regulating the rates and charges for the services they provide.

Utah's Electric Cooperatives have through the years invested in various metering technologies designed to provide reliable metering data while maintaining reasonable costs to their member/owners. While the Division recommends further study into the issue of advanced metering, we believe this is something our cooperatives will initiate on their own as they continue evaluating investments in new technology and the costs/benefits they provide to the members of their cooperatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Peterson
Executive Director