

OPC'S SMART GRID OPT-OUT PETITION

Questions & Answers

How was Pepco's smart grid deployment approved?

In June 2009, the District of Columbia City Council enacted the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Act (D.C. Code §34-1562) (Smart Grid Act). This D.C. law approved Pepco's deployment of the smart grid on the condition that the Company received sufficient funds from the U.S. Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) Smart Grid Investment Grant.

In December 2009, Pepco received \$44.6 million, the maximum amount it could receive from the U.S. DOE's Smart Investment Grant. In December 2009, the Commission determined that Pepco had received sufficient funds. Thus, Pepco's deployment of the smart grid was approved. Pepco began installing smart meters in October 2010.

Currently, can consumers choose not to have a smart meter on their home?

No. D.C.'s Smart Grid Act does not provide consumers with an opportunity to decline participation in Pepco's smart grid program. The opportunity to decline participation is known as an opting-out. Despite the fact that the Smart Grid Act does not allow an opt-out provision, laws can change if there are facts to support a change.

What can OPC do about the fact that there is no opt-out?

In December 2011, after hearing numerous complaints about not having an opportunity to opt-out of Pepco's smart grid program, OPC filed a Petition requesting the D.C. Public Service Commission require Pepco to conduct a technical and economic feasibility study for providing an opt-out provision. The study would provide a factual basis to determine the financial and technical impact of allowing consumers to opt-out and determine how much consumers would have to pay to opt-out. In response to a Commission directive, on January 23, 2012, OPC submitted a supplemental document in support of the need for a feasibility study. We are awaiting a PSC decision.

What is OPC's position on opt-out?

OPC believes this is an important public interest issue involving myriad considerations, including public safety, privacy and cost issues. As the public advocate representing the interests of all DC consumers, OPC has a statutory obligation to first, ensure that the facts are fully aired and, second, that a reasonable and rational decision is rendered. At this time, OPC needs more facts on the issue to make a final policy determination. The proposed study will provide the needed facts to determine the impact of an opt-out provision on all D.C. ratepayers and consumers. At a minimum, OPC believes the public has a right to have its concerns addressed.



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Have other states approved an opt-out provision?

Yes. California and Maine have approved an opt-out provision for consumers.

What can I do to support OPC's Petition?

If you want to support OPC's Petition, you can do so by contacting the Commission in writing at:

D.C. Public Service Commission

1333 H Street, NW

2nd Floor, West Tower

Washington, DC 20005

Attn: Formal Case No. 1056: OPC's Opt-Out Petition

Or via e-mail at:

bwestbrook@psc.dc.gov

Subject Line: Formal Case No. 1056: OPC's Opt-Out Petition