



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – June 25, 2010

Contact: Karen Gerwitz, DORA Director of Communications, 303-894-2338

Colorado's Consumer Counsel Bill Levis to Present on Smart Grid Privacy to U.S. Department of Energy

DENVER – On Tuesday, June 29, 2010, DORA's Consumer Counsel will testify on smart grid technology to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Department of Energy is collecting information about the data access and privacy implications of smart-grid technologies that can provide consumers with near-real-time, granular data about their energy consumption. This public roundtable is intended to supplement the data collected through public comments submitted in response to the Notice of Inquiry that DOE published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2010. In announcing the roundtable, the DOE noted that "these technologies have enormous potential to increase the efficiency of power consumption, but they raise new questions about access to consumption data generated by a more interactive electrical-transmission grid." Colorado Consumer Counsel Bill Levis was invited to discuss specific privacy concerns of residential consumers.

DOE General Counsel Scott Blake Harris said, "Effective data management and privacy protection will be essential to the widespread adoption of smart-grid technologies that can help improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy. I am grateful that such a diverse and impressive set of panelists have agreed to assist DOE in understanding the long-term implications of these critical issues."

While Levis is the only consumer counsel or state official invited, Colorado does have two other representatives also attending the roundtable: Adrian Tuck, Chief Executive Officer of Boulder-based energy management company Tendril, Inc. and CU law professor and Senior Advisor for Technology and Innovation to the Director of the National Economic Council Phil Weiser. Other featured panelists include: Robert C. Rowe, the President and CEO of NorthWestern Energy; Arlen Orchard, General Counsel of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Michael A Goodroe, President and CEO of Sawnee EMC; Rey Ramsey, CEO of TechNet, Inc.; David Szczupak, CTO of Whirlpool Corp.; and Jeffery A. Campbell, Director of Technology and Communications Policy for Cisco Systems, Inc.

The smart grid trial in Boulder, the first smart grid city in the country, will begin this fall with 2,000 volunteer and 5,000 randomly selected households. The trial will look at time-of-day pricing, critical peak pricing (on hot afternoons when power needs to be limited) and monetary incentives to decrease usage. Trial participants will have real time computer access to control their air conditioning and heat, as well as several other electric devices in their homes.

This public roundtable discussion will be held from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm (EST) at the Department of Energy's Forrestal Building, Room 8E069, Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0121. For more information, contact Kathy Dickerson by email at Katharine.Dickerson@hq.doe.gov or by phone at 202-586-5281.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.