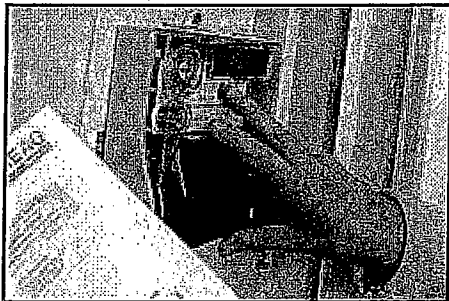


FERC Notes Co-op Smart Grid Growth


By Steven Johnson | ECT Staff Writer Published: January 8th, 2013

Federal regulators are paying attention to the work electric cooperatives are doing in advancing smart grid technologies among their members.



Electric co-ops lead the nation in adoption of smart grid technologies for their members, federal regulators say. (Photo By: Siemens)

A report issued late last month by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission noted that co-ops remained national leaders in implementing advanced metering in 2012.

“As in previous surveys, electric cooperatives have the largest penetration, nearly 31 percent, among categories of organizations,” the commission said in its *Assessment of Demand Response & Advanced Metering*. 

That’s well above the 22.9 percent penetration level for all U.S. utility customers that FERC reported for 2011.

“Customers are getting more information about their consumption of electricity and the associated prices,” FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said in a statement accompanying the report. “And they are being offered more options to act upon this information to manage their usage and costs.”

According to the FERC report, advanced metering penetration among co-ops increased from 16.4 percent in a

<http://www.ect.coop/power-supply/smart-grid/ferc-notes-coop-smart-grid-growth/51331>


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2008 survey to 24.7 percent in 2010 to 30.9 percent in 2012.

In all those instances, the co-op numbers were higher than similar statistics for IOUs, municipal systems, political subdivisions and state and local utilities.

“Co-ops’ repeated ‘first-place win’ demonstrates that they will do the right thing for their consumer-owners without compulsory federal or state regulation,” said Rich Meyer, NRECA senior regulatory counsel.

Particularly impressive was the growth in Georgia, which FERC attributed mostly to co-ops.

“Georgia’s advanced metering market penetration rate increased by almost 54 percentage points from 2010 to 2012. The majority of this growth came from cooperatives such as the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corp.,  which added over 140,000 advanced meters between 2010 and 2012,” it said.

The report also cited out NRECA’s smart grid initiative among efforts supported by the Energy Department’s Smart Grid Demonstration Program project.

NRECA’s Enhanced Demand and Distribution Management Regional demonstration has focused on technologies that could benefit more than 700,000 members in a dozen states.