



July 15, 2010

Commissioner Marc Spitzer

**STATEMENT**

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket Nos. AD10-15-000

Item No. A-3

## Statement of Commissioner Marc Spitzer on Smart Grid Update

"I would like to thank the team for their hard work on this matter. The team alluded to the enormous amount of "behind the scenes" work on these issues with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, industry and other members of the smart grid community. I appreciate staff's efforts in this regard.

The July 2009 Policy Statement set forth a framework under which the Commission will work towards Energy Independence and Security Act's (EISA) goal of modernizing the nation's electricity transmission and distribution system to maintain a reliable and secure electricity infrastructure. The Policy Statement provided guidance regarding the development of a smart grid for the nation's electric transmission system, focusing on the development of key standards to achieve interoperability and functionality of smart grid systems and devices. The intention of today's presentation is to provide additional guidance as to how the Commission will, procedurally, adopt smart grid interoperability standards and protocols as required by the EISA.

I support the process recommendations described by staff. Given that EISA is statutorily different from the Federal Power Act, I think it is important that we explain the process for adoption of smart grid standards under EISA. But, as staff noted, the recommendations discussed today are a reflection of current information. As the standards development process continues to evolve, the Commission will need to be flexible to adapt to changed circumstances. I look forward to the additional work that we need to do to make smart grid, and the benefits it can provide, a reality for consumers."