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## **National Governors Association selects Rhode Island for electric power modernization program**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The National Governors Association (NGA) has selected the State of Rhode Island to participate in a new effort to modernize the State’s electric power sector.

“There is no question that Rhode Island has emerged as one of our nation’s leaders in renewable energy and efficiency development,” said Governor Gina Raimondo. “The National Governors Association is providing our State with another exciting opportunity to continue this important work and to team up with other states that are on similar path.”

Led by the Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo, the R.I. Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Office of Energy Resources and the Public Utilities Commission, will work with utility National Grid and other stakeholders to develop draft regulatory recommendations in four areas:

- The future utility business model.
- The potential for advanced meter and communications technologies to add customer value.
- Electrification of heating and transportation.
- More transparent distribution system planning.

NGA selected three other participants – Kentucky, Oregon and Washington – in a competitive application process.

“As we seek to integrate affordable, clean and reliable energy, we are thrilled with the opportunity to work with the National Governors Association and leading industry experts to shape our future electric grid,” said Macky McCleary, administrator of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. “This project is another step toward a nimbler electric grid to serve Rhode Island.”

New technologies, such as rooftop solar systems, have created more opportunities for customers to control the way they use energy and for the electric system as a whole to offer cleaner, more reliable energy at lower costs. These changes hold significant implications for the relationship between customers and the utility. Rhode Island’s grid modernization initiative works toward providing Rhode Islanders with

the right tools and guidance to take advantage of these opportunities for cleaner, more reliable energy at the lowest possible cost.

“Grid modernization is an important part of our State’s goal to deliver clean, affordable and reliable energy with the help of innovative technology and smart policy,” said State Energy Commissioner Carol Grant. “We are excited to be selected for this program because it will provide us an opportunity to collaborate with other states, to learn from their successes and see what energy practices make sense to adopt here at home.”

“It’s an exciting time in Rhode Island, as the State is advancing policies, and utility customers are adopting technologies that are at the forefront of electric utility transformation,” said Margaret Curran, chairperson of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. “NGA’s Policy Academy will help the administration and each of our state agencies improve the development and results of grid modernization.”

For the past three years, the NGA Center for Best Practices Environment, Energy and Transportation Division has provided states with expertise in power sector modernization. This policy academy will build on those efforts, which include work with governors’ offices and public utilities commissions from more than 25 states.

***About the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission:*** *The Public Utilities Commission serves as a quasi-judicial tribunal with jurisdiction, powers, and duties to implement and enforce the standards of conduct under §39-1-27.6 and to hold investigations and hearings involving the rates, tariffs, tolls, and charges, and the sufficiency and reasonableness of facilities and accommodations of railroad, ferry boats, gas, electric distribution, water, telephone, telegraph, and pipeline public utilities, the location of railroad depots and stations, and the control of grade crossings, the revocation, suspension or alteration of certificates issued pursuant to §39-19-4, appeals under §39-1-30, petitions under §39-1-31, and proceedings under §39-1-32.*

***About the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers:*** *The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC) exercises the jurisdiction, supervision, powers and duties not specifically assigned to the Commission, including the execution of all laws relating to public utilities and carriers and all regulations and orders of the Commission governing the conduct and charges of public utilities.*

***About the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources:*** *The Office of Energy Resources (OER) is Rhode Island’s lead state agency on energy policy and programs. The mission of OER is to lead Rhode Island to a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to increase the reliability and security of our energy supply, reduce energy costs and mitigate price volatility, and improve environmental quality. By developing and implementing smart energy policies—such as those that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy—OER helps advance Rhode Island as a national leader in the new clean energy economy.*

***About the National Governors Association:*** *The National Governors Association is a bipartisan organization of the nation’s governors. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with a collective voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.*

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