

Federal Smart Grid Initiatives & Incentives: Recent Developments

Date	Program	Event
March 31, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program and Smart Grid Demonstration Project Grants	Smart Grid Collaborative submitted a detailed proposal to the DOE regarding the funding criteria the Collaborative believes should be considered when awarding Smart Grid federal grants.
April 20, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	DOE released Notice of Intent for SGIG program. It included draft eligibility requirements and a draft application.
May 18, 2009	Interoperability Standards	Department of Energy announced it gave \$10M to NIST to establish interoperability standards (as per ARRA requirement).
May 18, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	DOE announced that the maximum grant amount under the program will be increased to \$200M (original cap was \$20M under Notice of Intent).
May 18, 2009	Smart Grid Demonstration Project Grants	DOE announced that the maximum grant amount under the program will be increased to \$100M (original cap was \$40M under Draft FOA).
May 21, 2009	Cost Recovery	The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) began soliciting comments in the Smart Grid Policy Docket (PL09-04), specifically relating to how it should address requests for rate recovery from public utilities who install Smart Grid facilities that are <i>not</i> paid for with DOE funds.
June 5, 2009	Waxman-Markey Bill <i>aka American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009</i>	House Committee on Energy and Commerce recommended to the House that the bill, as amended by the Committee, be passed. The bill pushes for Energy Star certification of Smart Grid appliances and for reduction in peak demand energy usage.

Date	Program	Event
June 8, 2009	Smart Grid Demonstration Project Grants	DOE posted modified Draft FOA including new program description: <i>“Smart Grid projects will include regionally unique demonstrations to verify smart grid technology viability, quantify smart grid costs and benefits, and validate new smart grid business models, at a scale that can be readily adapted and replicated around the country. The goal of this FOA is to demonstrate technologies in regions across the States, Districts, and Territories of the United States of America that embody essential and salient characteristics of each region and present a suite of use cases for national implementation and replication. From these use cases, the goal is to collect and provide the optimal amount of information necessary for customers, distributors, and generators to change their behavior in a way that reduces system demands and costs, increases energy efficiency, optimally allocates and matches demand and resources to meet that demand, and increases the reliability of the grid.”</i>
June 9, 2009	Interoperability Standards	NIST published an initial standards framework (Release 1.0) setting 16 standards. 30-day public comment period on Release 1.0 began.
June 17, 2009	American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009	Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported this new original bill. Specifics are yet to be determined, but this bill aims to create further incentives for Smart Grid technologies.
June 17, 2009	Interoperability Standards	The Electric Power Research Institute (a contractor helping NIST implement interoperability standards) delivered to NIST a report that identifies issues and proposes priorities for developing technical standards for a U.S. smart grid.
June 17, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	Expected date for “Funding Opportunity Announcement” that was to outline requirements for receiving grant and award process. Deadline missed: Ongoing discussions between DOE and OMB.
June 25, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program and Smart Grid Demonstration Project Grants	Final “Funding Opportunity Announcements” released, outlining requirements for receiving grants and award processes.

Federal Smart Grid Initiatives & Incentives: Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Program	Event
June 30, 2009	Grant in Lieu of Tax Credit (ARRA § 1603)	Expected date for IRS to release application for the program. Companies must be accepted to program before receiving a grant in lieu of a tax credit.
Early/Mid July, 2009	Federal Loan Guarantees	Solicitations for Innovative Loan Guarantee Program and commercial guarantees expected to be posted. Solicitations will be posted at www.lgprogram.energy.gov .
July 8, 2009	Interoperability Standards	Deadline for public comments on the 16 proposed interoperability standards published by NIST on June 9, 2009. Comments can be sent to: smartgridcomments@nist.gov .
July 20, 2009	Interoperability Standards	Deadline to apply for government contract: contractor to support NIST in coordinating the development and harmonization of standards. Solicitation #: SB1341-09-RP-0070.
August 6, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	First application deadline for SGIG Program.
August 17, 2009	Qualifying Advanced Energy Property Tax Credit (48C)	Deadline for IRS to establish a "qualifying advanced energy project program" to consider and award certifications for investments eligible for credit under IRS Code Sec. 48C. A company must get certification before they can claim the credit.
August 26, 2009	Smart Grid Demonstration Project Grants	First application deadline for Smart Grid Demonstration program.
September 30, 2009	Interoperability Standards	The latest NIST is expecting to describe an initial Smart Grid architecture and initial set of standards to support implementation. Note: Compliance with the final interoperability standards will be a prerequisite to receiving federal grants, loan guarantees, and tax credits.
November 4, 2009	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	Second application deadline for SGIG Program.
December 31, 2009	Interoperability Standards	The latest NIST is expecting to establish the Smart Grid Interoperability Standards Panel to develop further standards, address gaps, and harmonize standards.
March 3, 2010	Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program	Third application deadline for SGIG Program.
December 31, 2010	Grant in Lieu of Tax Credit (ARRA § 1603)	Construction of property, for which the grant was claimed, must be started.

Date	Program	Event
August 17, 2011	Qualifying Advanced Energy Property Tax Credit (48C)	Expected deadline for certification applications (two years after IRS publishes guidelines for award certifications).
September 30, 2011	Federal Loan Guarantees	Projects receiving loan guarantees must be under construction.