

McMurrian Email Shows Path To FP&L and Influence

Posted By Staff On June 25, 2009 @ 10:45 AM In FPSC | No Comments

Three days after Commissioner McMurrian returned from the Standard & Poor's Utility Conference on credit issues, EPRI, a utility sponsored industry group, was seeking McMurrian's participation in another conference.

The following email was received by Ms. McMurrian on March 13, 2009:

Dear Commissioner McMurrian,

I'm writing to invite you to participate in an EPRI advisory group on smart grids and energy efficiency.

In my role as leader of state and regional relations for EPRI, I have created an Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group to advise EPRI energy efficiency and smart grid researchers on research agendas and objectives, and on adoption and implementation strategies.

I'm writing to invite you to participate in the group and represent Florida regulatory perspectives. Your interest in technology would bring an excellent perspective to the group. Marlene Santos and Ken Hoffman of FPL recommended we invite you to participate.

The group is composed of stakeholders representing utility regulatory commissions, academic, state, and federal research centers and governmental organizations, consumer advocates, non-governmental organizations, and members and staff of national organizations representing public sector stakeholders. The roster as of February 2009 is attached.

The group meets twice a year. We also hold some phone calls during the year. EPRI covers the cost of travel, room, and board for the Public Advisory Group members to participate in these meetings.

We invite utility funders of our smart grid and energy efficiency research to participate in these meetings as well.

In 2009, our first meeting will be April 7 – 8 in Boulder, CO to tour Xcel Energy's SmartGridCity facilities, as well as review recent EPRI results and plans for research. We will also discuss stimulus package roles and challenges. The second meeting will be held in the September/October timeframe in a location to be determined.

Please consider this invitation. We would be pleased to have you be part of this group. I do recognize that this time commitment may be unrealistic for you. It may be more reasonable to have you designate a person to participate.

I will call your office to set up a time to discuss this. Thank you and I look forward to talking with you!

Ellen Petrill

Director, Public/Private Partnerships
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue | Palo Alto, CA 94304

[Click here to see the email that McMurrian received](#) ^[1].

The above email indicates that FP&L representatives recommended that EPRI ask Commissioner McMurrian to participate in the advisory group on smart grids and energy efficiency.

In addition, the above email indicates that "utility funders" will be present at the meetings and that all expenses will be paid by the EPRI, which is funded by utilities.

Research by FPSCReports.com into the pending FP&L rate case indicates that the utility is seeking recovery of revenue from customers for infrastructure associated with smart grids and energy efficiency. Listed below is a quote from FP&L's petition for a rate increase. The full document can be viewed here ^[2].

In addition, FPL is proposing to make a major investment in technology to create a smarter and more efficient delivery system through an advanced metering infrastructure. This investment, totaling more than \$600 million over the next several years, will enable customers to go online and monitor how much energy they have used by the month, week, day or hour, thus helping them to better manage their energy costs, and opening the door for new potential energy efficiency programs.

Commissioner McMurrian's response to this request is below:

Ellen, Yes, I think I'd like to join the group if it's not imperative that I attend the upcoming meeting. As I think Kay explained, it conflicts with an Agenda conference. I have asked Lorena to talk with our staff to see about sending someone in my place. Those things take time, so we have no answer on that yet. Anyway, I hope this gives you what you need. I look forward to working with you on this; I think it will dovetail well with my participation in the FERC/NARUC Smart Grid Collaborative. Best regards, Katrina

Click here to view the email containing McMurrian's response ^[3].

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URLs in this post:

[1] Click here to see the email that McMurrian received: <http://www.fpscreports.com/wp-content/uploads/M4.pdf>

[2] The full document can be viewed here: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/09/02320-09/02320-09.pdf>

[3] Click here to view the email containing McMurrian's response: <http://www.fpscreports.com/wp-content/uploads/M5.pdf>

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From: Petrill, Ellen [epetrill@epri.com]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 12:45 PM
To: Katrina McMurrian
Cc: Lorena Holley; Kay Posey; Hutchinson, John
Subject: Invitation to Join the EPRI Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group

Dear Commissioner McMurrian,
I'm writing to invite you to participate in an EPRI advisory group on smart grids and energy efficiency.

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Ellen Petrill

Director, Public/Private Partnerships
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue | Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel: 650.855.8939
Email: epetrill@epri.com

www.epri.com

Together... Shaping the Future of Electricity

From: Katrina McMurrian
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 4:27 PM
To: 'Petrill, Ellen'
Cc: Kay Posey; Lorena Holley
Subject: FW: Invitation to Join the EPRI Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group

Ellen, Yes, I think I'd like to join the group if it's not imperative that I attend the upcoming meeting. As I think Kay explained, it conflicts with an Agenda conference. I have asked Lorena to talk with our staff to see about sending someone in my place. Those things take time, so we have no answer on that yet. Anyway, I hope this gives you what you need. I look forward to working with you on this; I think it will dovetail well with my participation in the FERC/NARUC Smart Grid Collaborative. Best regards, Katrina

From: Kay Posey
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 8:36 AM
To: Katrina McMurrian
Subject: FW: Invitation to Join the EPRI Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group

did you want to join?

From: Petrill, Ellen [mailto:epetrill@epri.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 5:21 PM
To: Kay Posey
Cc: Hutchinson, John
Subject: RE: Invitation to Join the EPRI Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group

Kay,
Do you know whether Katrina has decided whether to join the group or not? I would like to know whether I should add her name to the roster. By the way, Commissioner Rachelle Chong of California Public Utilities Commission has joined.

Attached is the latest roster.

Ellen Petrill

Director, Public/Private Partnerships
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue | Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel: 650.855.8939
Email: epetrill@epri.com

www.epri.com

Together...Shaping the Future of Electricity

From: Petrill, Ellen
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 12:18 PM
To: 'katrina.mcmurrian@psc.state.fl.us'; 'kposey@psc.state.fl.us'
Cc: 'holley@psc.state.fl.us'; Hutchinson, John
Subject: RE: Invitation to Join the EPRI Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Public Advisory Group

Dear Katrina,
Thank you for your interest in the group. Attached is the agenda for the April 7-8 meeting. Kay Posey and I talked. She said you are committed on April 7 in Florida, so you could not make this meeting. If you are interested in joining the group, but can't make this meeting, I encourage you to send a designee—a staff person or advisor how could participate, comment, and take back information to you after the meeting.

Let me know what you think. Thanks!

6/25/2009