

# Barriers to Smart Grid Implementation – Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?

## Utility Field Service Conference

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Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy,  
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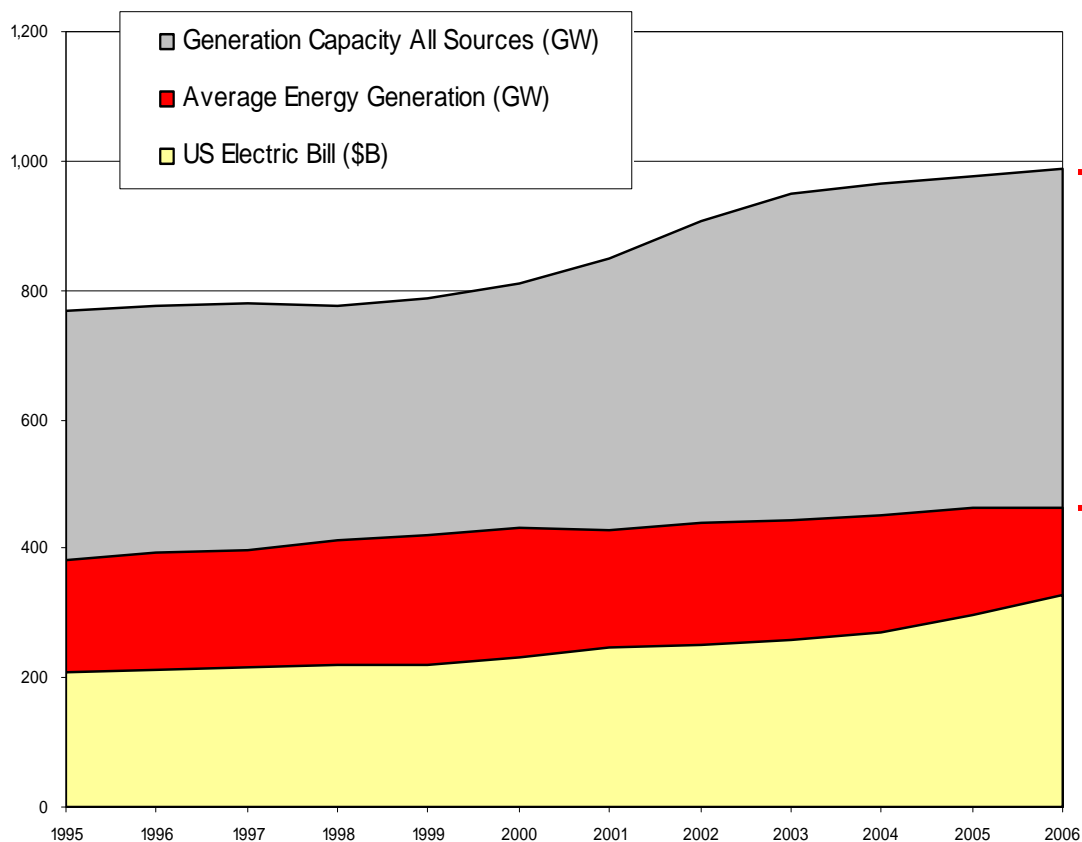
Conducted by the National Energy  
Technology Laboratory

- **The national average in reliability metrics over the last 5 years shows a 3% per year increase in outage duration and 4% per year increase in outage frequency.**
- **The businesses in the average state lose more than \$1B annually in revenue from outages and power quality events.**
- **Modern infrastructure and technology-rich regions draw business to themselves, an important driver for municipal economic development.**
- **The business as usual approach to electricity supply in the average State will lead to a 50% increase in electric bills over the next 7 to 10 years.**
- **The States have little chance of developing a renewables portfolio without the foundation provided by a Smart Grid.**



# Capacity and Energy Production

### US Electric Trends



Ever-widening gap drives asset utilization down and cost up.

Average energy increased 16% over last decade; peak capacity increased 27%.

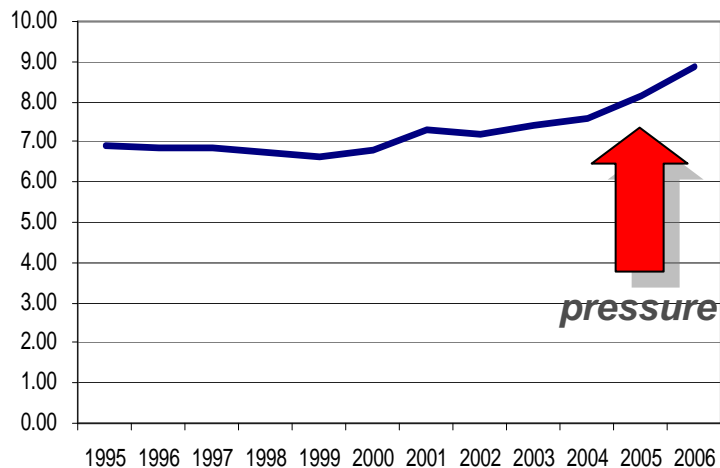
Source data: DOE EIA



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# Cost and Asset Utilization

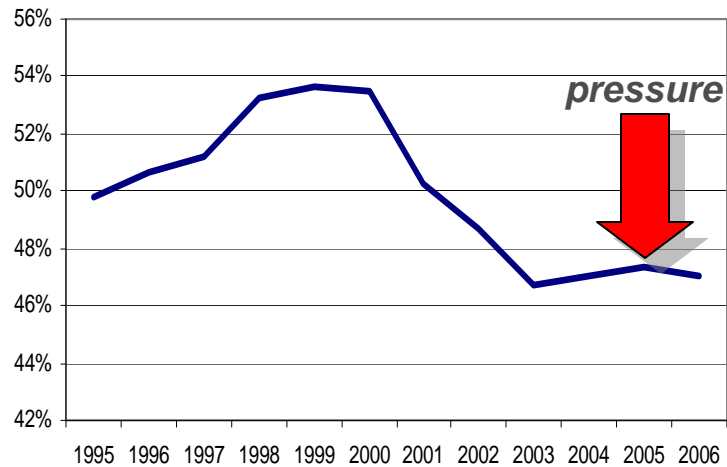
### Average Retail Price (cents/kwh)



30% increase over last decade

- Natural gas prices
- Capital build and O&M costs
- Equipment scarcity (China, India, ME)

### Generation Asset Utilization



8% drop over last decade

- Large peaking units builds
- Cancelled baseload coal plants

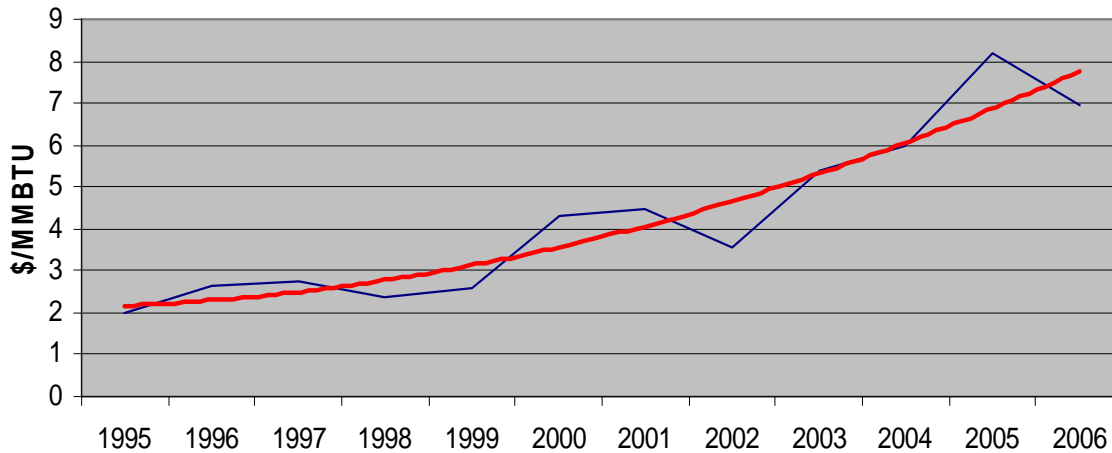
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# Natural Gas Price Trend

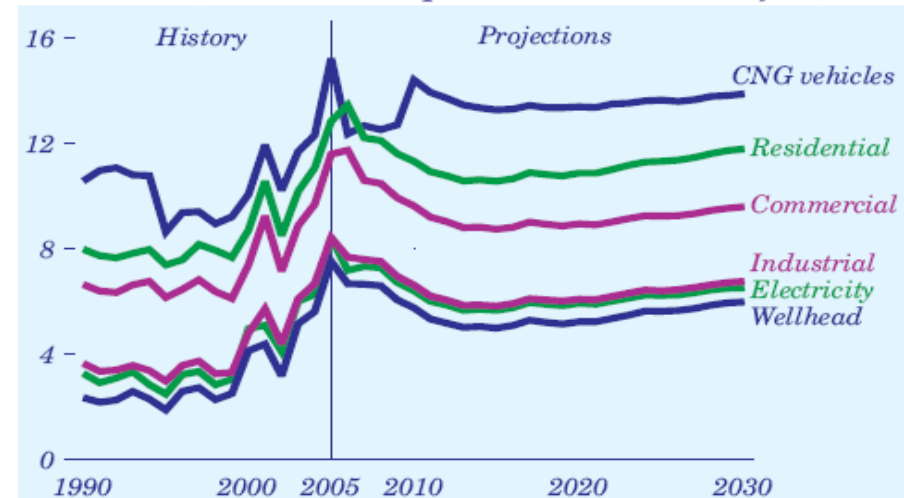
### Wholesale Natural Gas Supply to Electric Generators



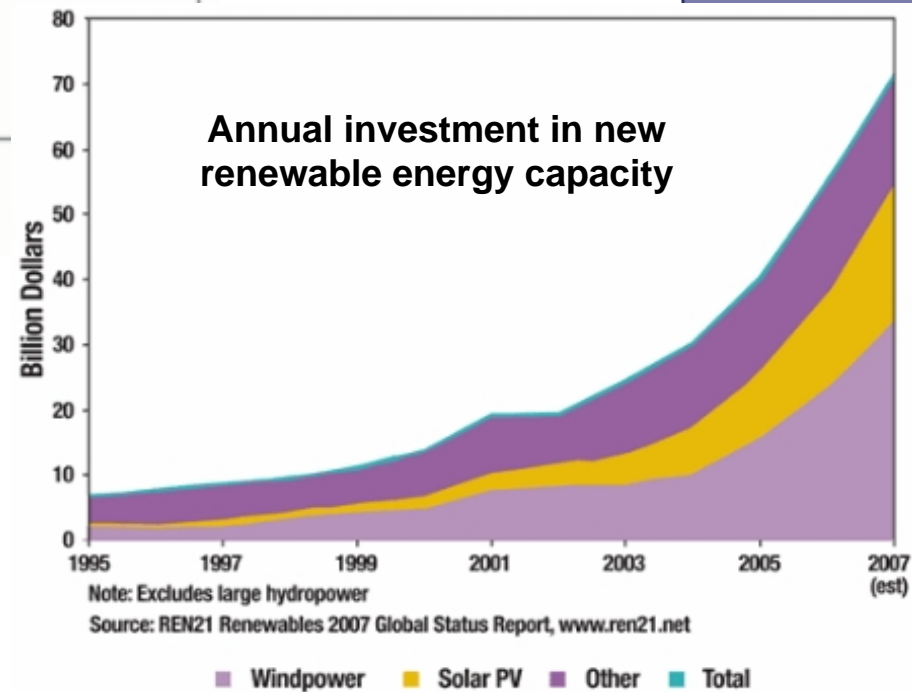
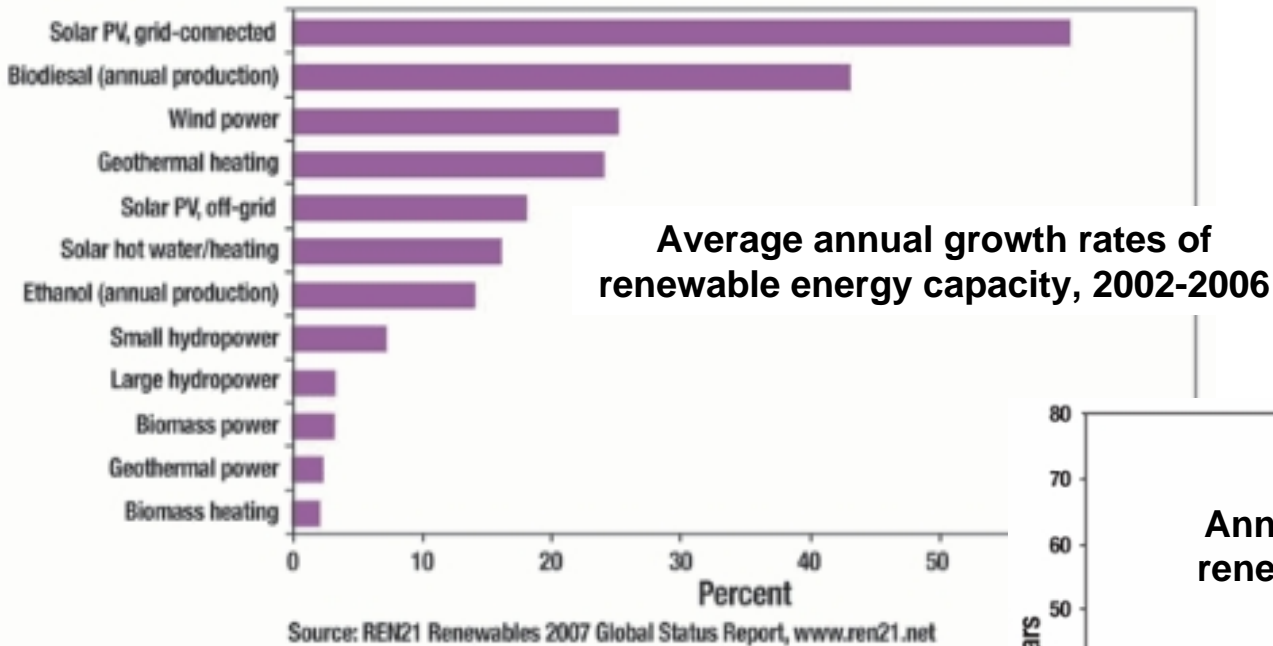
**251% increase in the last decade.**

**What will the future price be? Any Bets?**

*Figure 73. Natural gas prices by end-use sector, 1990-2030 (2005 dollars per thousand cubic feet)*



# Renewables Growth



# Today vs. Tomorrow

Today's Grid	Principal Characteristic	Modern Grid
<p><b>Consumers are uninformed and non-participative with the power system.</b></p>	<p><b>Enables active consumer participation</b></p>	<p><b>Informed, involved and active consumers. Broad penetration of Demand Response</b></p>
<p><b>Relatively small number of large generating plants. Numerous obstacles exist for interconnecting DER</b></p>	<p><b>Accommodates all generation and storage options</b></p>	<p><b>Very large numbers of diverse distributed generation and storage devices deployed to complement the large generating plants. "Plug-and-play" convenience. Significantly more focus on and access to renewables.</b></p>
<p><b>Limited wholesale markets still working to find the best operating models. Not well integrated with each other. Transmission congestion separates buyers and sellers. Limited opportunities for consumers</b></p>	<p><b>Enables markets</b></p>	<p><b>Mature wholesale market operations in place, well integrated nationwide and integrated with reliability coordinators. Retail markets flourishing where appropriate. Minimal transmission congestion. New commercial goods and services available to consumers</b></p>

# Today vs. Tomorrow (cont.)

Today's Grid	Principal Characteristic	Modern Grid
<p><b>Focused on outages rather than power quality problems. Slow response in resolving PQ issues</b></p>	<p><b>Provides power quality for 21<sup>st</sup> century needs</b></p>	<p><b>Quality of power meets industry standards and consumer needs. PQ issues identified and resolved prior to manifestation. Various levels of PQ at various prices.</b></p>
<p><b>Minimal integration of limited operational data with Asset Management processes and technologies. Siloed business processes. Time based maintenance.</b></p>	<p><b>Optimizes assets and operates efficiently</b></p>	<p><b>Greatly expanded sensing and measurement of grid conditions. Grid technologies deeply integrated with asset management processes to most effectively manage assets and costs. Condition based maintenance.</b></p>
<p><b>Responds to prevent further damage. Focus is on protection of assets following system faults.</b></p>	<p><b>Self-heals</b></p>	<p><b>Automatically detects and responds to actual and emerging transmission and distribution problems. Focus is on prevention. Minimizes consumer impact.</b></p>
<p><b>Vulnerable to malicious acts of terror and natural disasters</b></p>	<p><b>Resists attack</b></p>	<p><b>Resilient to attack and natural disasters with rapid restoration capabilities</b></p>



# What's taking so long to get there?

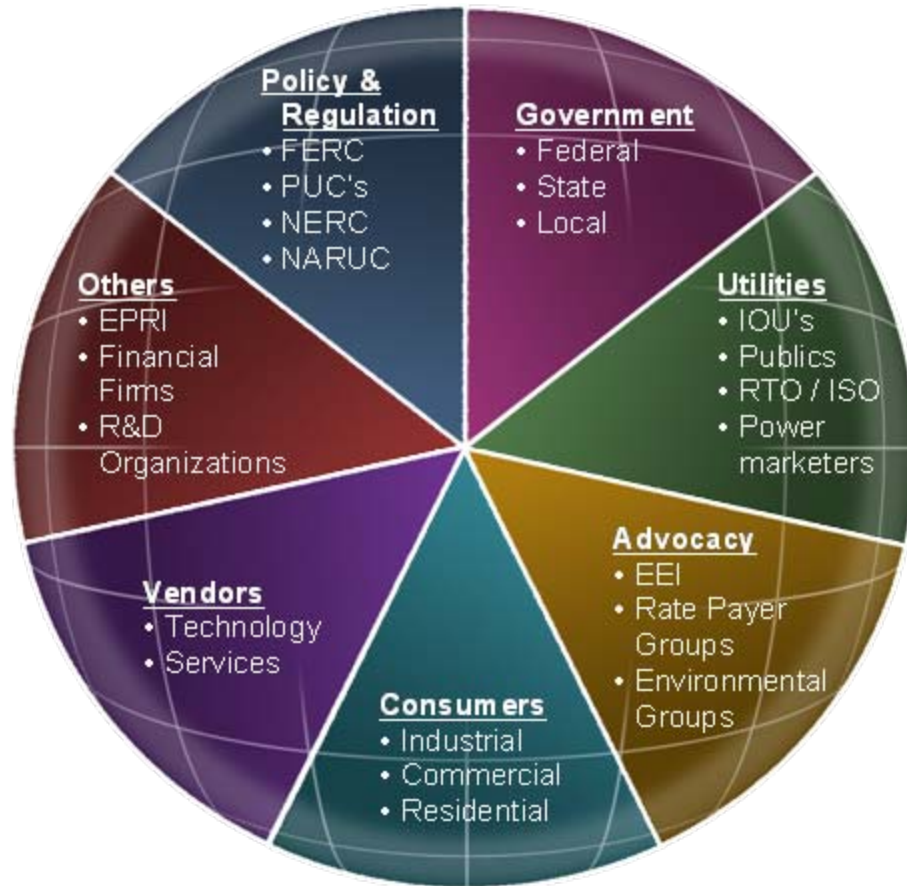
## *So many variables to align:*

- Lot of players
- Regulatory Policies
- Legislation
- Communication and Culture
- Technical



# Lot of players!

- All Play a Part
- Need a clear vision
- Alignment critical
- Keep the “End in mind”
- Must be “win-win”



## *Regulatory policy could incentivize investment in the Smart Grid:*

- ***Time based rates*** - incentives for consumers to become actively involved
- ***More favorable depreciation rules*** – recovery of book value for assets that are retired early for “smart grid” reasons
- ***Policy changes that provide incentives and remove disincentives to utilities*** – investment in a Smart Grid should make business sense
- ***Clear cost recovery policies*** - uncertain cost recovery increases investment risk
- ***Societal benefits*** – business cases should include societal benefits for completeness and correctness to ensure informed decisions are made by the regulator



- **Improved system operations**
  - More efficient use of the network
  - Improved customer service, reduced costs
- **Improved economic efficiency**
  - Greater information on usage and costs
  - Increased reliance on dynamic pricing
- **Increased deployment of customer-sited resources**
  - End-use efficiency
  - Distributed generation, combined heat-and-power

- Source: Regulatory Assistance Project



## ■ **EPACT 2005**

- Studies: congestion, energy efficiency, demand response, trends in the workforce, etc
- National interest corridors and transmission siting
- RD&D and commercial application programs related to distributed energy and advanced grid reliability

## ■ **EISA – 2007**

- RD&D Program for SmartGrid technologies
- Regional Demonstration Initiative with cost sharing
- 20% Cost Reimbursement
- Regulators “shall consider”



*A significant change management effort is needed:*

- Communicate a vision
- Strengthen consumer education and sense of urgency
- Align stakeholders around the vision
- Provide the motivation (win-win)
- Develop metrics to monitor progress
- Keep the “end in mind”
- Active leadership by regulators

*DOE SmartGrid Implementation Workshop – June 2008 – Vision and Metrics*



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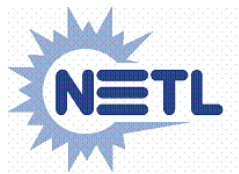
## *Some technical issues:*

- Standards (interconnection and interoperability)
- Integration vs. “widgets”
- Distributed system behavior not well understood
- Decades behind in “computing and communications”
- Loss of skilled human resources
- Minimal funding of R&D
- Transformation of transportation infrastructure



# MODERN GRID STRATEGY

How do we achieve a Smart Grid?





# Where does the industry start?

- **Plan**
  - Create the vision
  - Identify the milestones
  - Determine the sequence
  - Define needed technologies and applications
- **Deploy**
  - Address the barriers
  - Apply resources
- **Measure**
  - Establish metrics
  - Monitor progress

The payoff to modernizing the electric infrastructure from the resulting economic progress could easily exceed \$1T per year in additional GDP within a decade.

*Galvin Electricity Initiative, 2005*



## ■ The Modern Grid Strategy

- Collaborative, public/private effort open to all
- Independent “broker”

## ■ [www.netl.doe.gov/moderngrid/](http://www.netl.doe.gov/moderngrid/)

- Downloadable documents
- Forums
- Meeting announcements

## ■ [www.smartgridnews.com](http://www.smartgridnews.com)

- Grid modernization columns, articles and case studies
- Modern Grid BLOG (future)

## ■ [moderngrid@netl.doe.gov](mailto:moderngrid@netl.doe.gov)

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