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Title - Smart Grid Investment Evaluation and Role of Regulators in Deployment of Smart Systems.

Technology, climate concerns, and customer preferences are instigating rapid change in the production, transmission, distribution and consumption of electric energy. This includes distributed generation such as solar photovoltaics and system investments such as synchrophasors, advanced distribution system management systems, data analytics, smart meters, and communicating appliances. Smart grid technologies are seen as a way of making the transmission and distribution systems more flexible, reliable, and able to absorb and integrate distributed and renewable resources, while maintaining the reliability of the electric system.

How should regulators evaluate smart grid investments by utilities? What does it mean to have a “smart” system? Are regulators responsible for creating a smart grid? What would a successful program to create a smart grid mean for consumers, utilities, and other market entrants? How should the existing utility business model change to accommodate a smart grid? How should regulators and regulation change? These ideas and others will be discussed.