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## **DOE Stimulus Grants Allocated for Smart Grid**

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed by President Obama in February 2009, includes \$4.5 billion specifically allocated for Smart Grid grants to transform the nation's aging electricity grid. But exactly what is a "Smart Grid," and how can cooperatives take advantage of the grant money that will be available? There are many Smart Grid definitions being used in the industry right now, and the following comes from the website of a Maryland based company named "CURRENT" that is working to provide Smart Grid software solutions: ***"A Smart Grid is an advanced system that incorporates widely distributed intelligent sensors and employs real-time communications to automatically sense and correct inefficiencies and disturbances on the electrical distribution system."***

According to Matt Dhillon, CURRENT's Director of Smart Grid Engineering, ***"CURRENT's Smart Grid products help transform the existing grid into a self-healing, self-optimizing 21st century power system capable of supporting the wide spread use of renewables."*** Dhillon goes on to state, ***"The Department of Energy (DOE) has previously identified three due dates for grant applications: July 29, 2009, December 2, 2009, and March 31, 2010; however, the DOE is not certain about the availability of funds after the first deadline."***

Several other software and hardware companies are also in the **process of ramping up to provide Smart Grid solutions, and Patterson & Dewar Engineers will be working in partnership** with many of these companies as well as cooperatives. Shown below are two useful industry links that will help cooperatives to get started in learning more about Smart Grid:

- <https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/>
- [http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/news/SGN\\_Stimulus\\_Tool\\_Kit\\_printer.html](http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/news/SGN_Stimulus_Tool_Kit_printer.html)

If you have questions about Smart Grid solutions or technology, please contact P&D at 770-453-1410.

*If you wish to receive P&D's newsletter, uPDate, by e-mail, please let us know. Send an e-mail to sales@pd-engineers.com*

# Who owns that old, abandoned pole?

By Steve Conover

Joint-use agreements between power companies and telephone/cable companies have been around for many years. Nearly all old joint-use contracts contain at least some verbiage that has become outdated over the years, and typically there are many procedures outlined in these contracts in which both entities fall short in fulfilling. It's not uncommon for relations between the entities to be at least somewhat strained; hence, attempts to modify contracts are often avoided by both parties for fear of further complicating these matters.

While there are many issues that should be addressed concerning joint-use, one matter that deserves immediate attention is the question of ownership of abandoned poles. **Who really owns that old, abandoned pole once the power company moves its facilities to a new pole, and who will be responsible if the old pole breaks and causes some type of personal injury or damage?** To answer these important questions, you must look at the terms of your joint-use contract, your procedures, and your documentation to determine where you could possibly stand in a situation like this. The following suggestions contain some of the most important guidelines to get you started in this process:



**All companies have moved their facilities off this old pole; however, no one took the time to pull and retire it. Who would be responsible if it broke and caused an accident?**

- ✓ **When reviewing your contract be sure to read the entire contract, and check it closely:** In many old agreements, the terms for transfer of pole ownership are stated in multiple ways depending on the circumstances, and the terms are found in different sections of the contract. For example, it is typical to find one set of provisions for transferring ownership that are to be followed when replacing or relocating a jointly used pole and another set of provisions to be used for "abandonment" of a jointly used pole. Often these terms can be vague, and a utility may even need to consult legal counsel in order to make some determinations.
- ✓ **Be sure that your documentation concerning transfer of ownership is adequate and that you will be able to produce it several years down the road:** Many utilities may prepare proper documentation but lack a system that would help them to produce documentation on a specific pole years later. A pole location described by GPS coordinates and kept in a computerized database which links to the transfer of ownership documentation should solve the problem.
- ✓ **Devise a plan to deal with both past and future transfer of ownership matters:** Setting up procedures to take care of future pole ownership documentation will probably be easier than fixing the lack of proper documentation from the past. There are several ways that this can be approached, and many utilities feel that doing it in an organized manner such as by circuit, district, or other geographic designation will work best. Each utility should look at its own particular situation to decide the best methods and to define the scope of the project.
- ✓ **Consider all of the ramifications of your actions:** It's hard to imagine that removing liability from a potentially hazardous pole could have a negative side, but it is possible. One example is that if ownership is positively transferred to an



Scenes like this one dot the landscape in many areas of the country. Double-wood situations are becoming a growing problem, and many power companies may have more liability in these situations than they realize.

*(Continued from page 2)*

other entity you may no longer be able to collect joint-use attachment fees, and the other entity may indefinitely put off transferring from the old poles to your new poles.

In summary, working through these issues takes time, resources, and a companywide commitment to addressing them. Patterson & Dewar Engineers offers a wide variety of services to assist our clients with joint-use including:

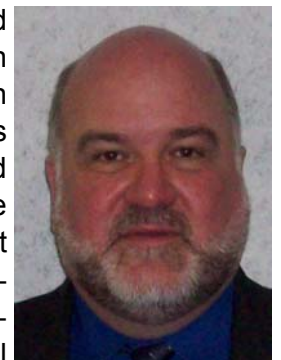
- ✓ Calculating and negotiating fair attachment rates per contract formulas
- ✓ Evaluation and preparation of reports on the pros/cons of current contracts
- ✓ Writing or providing assistance in writing new, more appropriate joint-use contracts
- ✓ Taking a lead or support role in negotiating new contracts with telephone/cable companies
- ✓ Assisting with setting up procedures to help manage and document abandoned poles, transfers, or other joint-use activities
- ✓ Helping to prepare and/or negotiate transfer agreements with telephone/cable companies
- ✓ Meeting with and/or training key employees in all aspects of joint-use
- ✓ Assisting with field inventory of joint use attachments and field mapping of joint-use facilities

If you would like to discuss our joint-use services please contact Steve Conover at 606-872-3501, or by e-mail at [sconover@pdengineers.com](mailto:sconover@pdengineers.com). We look forward to hearing from you and helping to meet your needs ❖

## Faces at P&D

Patterson & Dewar Engineers is pleased to announce the promotion of **William Henry, PE** to Substation Manager. As Vice President and Senior Electrical Engineer, William has been serving P&D clients for over 17 years. As a Commissioning, Testing and Consulting Engineer with the firm, William has extensive experience performing and managing design, testing and commissioning of electrical equipment and systems in various substation, generation, data center and other highly reliable power systems. Additionally, he has managed large testing and commissioning projects. William also has experience with control system analysis, modification, and troubleshooting. William's commitment to providing the highest quality engineering services to

meet our clients' needs has earned him an exceptional reputation in the industry. His prior 14 years with Georgia Power Company and his work here at P&D give him a broad foundation of technical expertise from both the utility and consultant perspectives. In his new role, William will bring leadership to the entire substation effort, and he will also focus on growing the group both in technical capabilities as well as geographically to serve a broader range of substation clients. Please join us in congratulating William. He can be contacted at 770-453-1410 or [whenry@pd-engineers.com](mailto:whenry@pd-engineers.com). ❖



# Transmission Today

It may be no surprise to you that even electric utilities are tightening their wallets and bracing for a hard economic recovery. What may be surprising is the continued growth of transmission work amidst these troubled times. The rapid development of wind farms across the Southwest and Mid-West is exposing the lack of transmission capacity. To carry this new generation of power, the conductors, towers, and the system itself needs to be upgraded or rebuilt. Even weather related occurrences expose the fact that the system demands attention. Regardless of how the economy looks, the necessity of keeping the lights on requires dependable transmission lines.

Our strong team of expertise places Patterson & Dewar Engineers at the forefront in aiding utilities with Transmission needs. In the last year, our team has more than tripled in size to provide the best quality of services for each client. **With a combined experience of approximately 75 years, the P&D team has completed projects ranging from small taps to complex 350-mile jobs with voltages as high as 345 kV.** P&D's Transmission work is generated from solid relationships that are built on quality engineering services over many years. Our clients are predominantly in the Southeast, but our transmission work is quickly expanding all over the US.

Jerry Crawford, PE leads the team based in Atlanta and

brings a wealth of experience from the investor owned utility market. Enhancing Mr. Crawford's depth of knowledge in transmission is his background in structural engineering and his time working at Meyer Industries. Combined with team members' experiences in the Cooperative world, P&D provides services for a variety of clients with specific needs. Many in the group have in-depth understanding of the distribution system aiding in the design, construction, and coordination processes of both systems. Additionally, our transmission group works closely with the P&D survey team as well as other independent surveyors, both ground survey crews and Lidar survey, to acquire the required information for transmission design in an efficient manner that reduces the time required to collect data and complete the transmission line design.

If P&D can assist you with upcoming transmission projects, please contact Jerry Crawford ([jcrawford@pdengineers.com](mailto:jcrawford@pdengineers.com)) or Anita Bandela ([abandela@pdengineers.com](mailto:abandela@pdengineers.com)) at 770-453-1410. ❖

*Please stop by Booth #11 and visit us at the 2009  
Electrical Transmission and Substation  
Structures Conference in Fort Worth, TX,  
November 8-12, 2009.*

## Patterson & Dewar Engineers



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