



PRESS RELEASE

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**District will receive \$44.6 million in federal stimulus funding for smart grid
*Councilmember Bowser initiated legislative action for its implementation***

Washington, DC – In a much-anticipated announcement this afternoon, President Obama highlighted the release of \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus funding to modernize the country’s energy infrastructure. The funding is intended to transform the country’s power grid into a so-called smart grid, which will allow electric companies to more efficiently deliver electricity to consumers, improve reliability, and increase energy conservation by allowing consumers to see the real cost of energy in real time. The Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) will receive a \$44.6 million grant to install smart meters in the District, which is approximately half of the cost to install smart meters citywide. Last spring, Councilmember Bowser worked with her colleagues on the Council to legislatively authorize Pepco to build out the smart grid in the District.

As chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Councilmember Bowser oversees the Public Service Commission (Commission), which regulates public utilities. In the smart meter authorization provision that the Councilmember crafted for the FY2010 budget, she mandated that the Commission review any federal smart grid grant within 60 days to determine whether it is sufficient to make smart grid implementation worthwhile for ratepayers.

Councilmember Bowser said “The implementation of the smart grid will put the District on track to become a leader in clean and renewable energy. The smart meters will go a long way in helping the District’s consumers become more energy efficient because they will be more apt to use energy-thirsty appliances, for example, when the rates are cheaper. Congratulations to Pepco for receiving this funding, which will save ratepayers millions of dollars over the next few years. I look forward to the Commission wrapping up its sufficiency review by the end of the year.

“A smarter grid will allow us to maximize energy conservation and lower electric bills. We are on the cusp of a smarter and greener future. The bandwidth of progress related to conservation has the potential to expand exponentially. I predict that our relatively compact city will have a smart electric grid built out within a few years,” she said.

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A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. She is also a member of the Committees on: Economic Development, Human Services, Public Works and Transportation, and Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information.

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