



UTC Brief

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SUMMARY

The Utilities Technology Council (UTC) is a global trade association dedicated to serving critical infrastructure providers in the electric, gas, and water industries. Through advocacy, education and collaboration, UTC seeks to create a favorable business, regulatory and technological environment for companies that own, manage or provide critical telecommunications systems. UTC's members include investor-owned, private electric utilities; private, not-for-profit rural electric cooperative utilities; public, not-for-profit public power utilities; private and public gas utilities; and, private and public water utilities. As such, UTC focuses its advocacy efforts on policies in Congress, at the Federal Communications Commission, and elsewhere that impact the information and communications technologies deployed by our members. These increasingly crucial technologies enable critical infrastructure providers like electric, gas, and water utilities to enhance their efficiency and reliability.

BACKGROUND

The Utilities Technology Council (UTC) is a global trade association dedicated to serving critical infrastructure providers. Through advocacy, education and collaboration, UTC creates a favorable business, regulatory and technological environment for companies that own, manage or provide critical telecommunications systems in support of their core business. UTC was founded in 1948, to advocate for the allocation of additional radio spectrum for power utilities. Over the years, has evolved into a dynamic organization that represents electric, gas and water utilities critical infrastructure companies and other industry stake-

holders. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., UTC provides information, products and services that help members:

- Manage their telecommunications and information technology more effectively and efficiently
- Voice their concerns or support of policy proposals to legislators and regulators
- Engage in peer-to-peer relationships with other telecom and IT professionals
- Interface with manufacturers and telecommunications carriers on issues like cybersecurity

UTC is also an authorized, certified "frequency coordinator" for the Private Land Mobile Radio Services below 512 MHz and 800-900 MHz frequencies. The radio portion of the electromagnetic spectrum is needed to enable wireless applications for utilities, public safety, and telecommunications providers, among others. This radio spectrum is subdivided into various "bands" (measured by "hertz") that have different properties. UTC is the sole frequency coordinator authorized to coordinate channels previously allocated exclusively to the Power Radio Service. In addition, UTC maintains the national Power Line Carrier (PLC) database for the coordination of PLC use with licensed government radio services in the 10-490 kHz band.

UTC POSITION

There is a seismic shift taking place within the global utility and critical infrastructure industries – telecom professionals being recast into IT organizations, IT being converged with operational technology (OT), and security becoming increasingly important as well as a shared responsibility. These shifts in the electric, gas, and water sectors are occurring within the context of both government policies that seek to promote certain environmental outcomes and as a result of technological innovation in telecommunications and IT. This evolution will enable UTC to not only help its traditional utility telecommunications professionals, but also to aid this new, converged constituency navigate this shifting environment, and to support them in their efforts to deliver optimal solutions to the utility organizations they serve.

In the case of the electric sector, the increasing use of distributed generation and the evolution of storage technology mean that the electric utility industry must use telecommunications and IT applications to understand their systems at a much more granular level than ever before. The enhanced deployment of such technologies is essential to ensure reliable service and to meet customer demands. Finally, all critical infrastructure sectors must deploy ever more sophisticated security strategies in order to manage the cybersecurity risks that come with these technologies.

UTC focuses on advocacy, education and collaboration with our members, other associations and federal, state and local leaders to move key areas forward. Key focus areas include, IT/OT convergence, security, spectrum allocation, broadband and telecom opportunities, as well as others. Utility critical infrastructure and communications networks necessitate continual focus from UTC. From government relations and advocacy to spectrum services and frequency coordination, UTC's

dedicated staff continually monitor and share key infrastructure innovations. UTC's Government and Industry Affairs group is available for meetings on Capitol Hill.

ABOUT UTC

The Utilities Technology Council (UTC) is a global trade association dedicated to serving critical infrastructure providers. Through advocacy, education and collaboration, UTC creates a favorable business, regulatory and technological environment for companies that own, manage or provide critical telecommunications systems in support of their core business.

History: UTC was founded in 1948, to advocate for the allocation of additional radio spectrum for power utilities. Over the last 68 years, UTC has evolved into a dynamic organization that represents electric, gas and water utilities, as well as natural gas pipelines, critical infrastructure companies and other industry stakeholders.

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