

UTC 2018 Resolution: Calling on the Federal Communications Commission and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to Hold Regular Meetings

WHEREAS, the energy and water industries rely on telecommunications networks to reliably and safely deliver essential electricity, natural gas, and water services; and,

WHEREAS, these telecommunications networks are often developed, owned, and operated by energy and water providers and provide a much higher level of reliable service than those operated by commercial telecommunications service providers; and,

WHEREAS, nearly every federal, state, and local government considers the energy and water industries to be the most critical of all critical infrastructure industries; and,

WHEREAS, energy, water, and telecommunications service providers are usually regulated by the same government agency at the state level, but at the federal level, energy and telecommunications providers are regulated by separate agencies—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and,

WHEREAS, the FERC is the federal regulator responsible for assuring safe and reliable delivery of electricity services on the bulk electricity system (BES); most UTC members are regulated by FERC at some level; and,

WHEREAS, UTC members regulated by FERC must adhere to stringent reliability rules and regulations for delivering electricity and natural gas to their consumer; and,

WHEREAS, the FCC is responsible for, among other things, efficiently allocating radio spectrum amongst numerous parties, including first responders, emergency services, and competing commercial services; and,

WHEREAS, electric utilities regulated by FERC require radio spectrum to safely and reliably deliver electricity over the BES; and,

WHEREAS, spectrum policies at the FCC do not currently consider the criticality of these utility services when auctioning and allocating spectrum; and,

WHEREAS, FERC holds formal meetings with other government agencies on a regular basis, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and,

WHEREAS, both the FERC and FCC participate in multi-agency initiatives on emergency response and other issues; and,

WHEREAS, formal meetings between the FERC and FCC will promote a dialogue on reliability, spectrum, and grid modernization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), convened at its 2018 Telecom & Technology Annual Conference in Palm Springs, California, asks that the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission establish a formal and recurring meeting to discuss the convergence between the energy and telecommunications industries.

Adopted by the UTC Membership, May 10, 2018