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Updated transactive energy framework released
GWAC document defines a market-driven future energy management system

RICHLAND, Wash. – Based on feedback solicited from the energy industry over the last year, the GridWise Architecture Council, or GWAC, recently released an updated version of the GWAC Transactive Energy Framework. The framework provides a common point of reference for the broad set of stakeholders interested in developing the principles, guidelines, definitions and architectures to advance transactive energy systems.

In its simplest form, transactive energy systems provide a means for customers of all sizes to join traditional providers in producing, buying and selling electricity – using transparent pricing and automated controls – while ensuring a reliable and cost-efficient electricity system. Of course the premise is far from simple. A modernized grid must accommodate many new elements, from expanded deployment of variable generation and distributed energy resources to new, intelligent devices, appliances and other “smart” loads. Transactive energy systems provide mechanisms to accommodate these new elements in an efficient, market-based manner.

Since the framework was first released in November of 2013, the Council has actively engaged a broad set of stakeholders through workshops and conferences to evolve the concepts of transactive energy systems. Over the last year, for example, the definition of – and technical and economic drivers for – transactive energy have been honed. Additionally, the underlying principles have evolved to ensure broad stakeholder applicability. These and other framework refinements were rolled out at the winter meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in mid February, which provided yet another key venue for dialogue.

In 2015, GWAC will continue its outreach to stakeholders and further evolution of the framework in several key areas, including

• Technical and economic drivers motivating adoption
• Consideration of multiple perspectives (industry, regulatory, etc.)
• Conceptual or reference architecture for transactive energy systems
• Identification of the challenges to implementing such systems

About the GridWise Architecture Council
The GridWise Architecture Council was convened in 2004 by the Department of Energy with support from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. As a volunteer council, the GWAC includes practitioners and leaders with broad-based knowledge and expertise in power, information technology, telecommunications, financial systems and other fields who are working together toward a coordinated GridWise vision—the transformation of the nation's energy system into a rich, collaborative network filled with decision-making information exchange and market-based opportunities.

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