

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Awarded Federal Stimulus Funding

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) has been awarded a U.S. Department of Energy grant authorized through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). U.S. Energy Secretary, Steven Chu, has announced that \$4.2 million would be going to state public utility commissions as part of the ARRA's State Electricity Regulators Assistance initiative. [link to *DOE press release* : <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8030.htm>] The MPUC's grant will be used to add full-time electric power systems specialists to assist the MPUC with its growing energy facility permitting workload and with transmission planning initiatives within Minnesota as well as those occurring on a regional and national level. The MPUC's program will begin later this year and will extend over the subsequent two years.