

**“Houston’s smart grid:  
transforming the future of electric distribution and  
energy consumption”**

CenterPoint Energy to receive \$200 million federal  
stimulus grant to accelerate current smart meter  
project and begin building intelligent grid

Press Conference

Remarks

by

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## **Houston's smart grid: transforming the future of electric distribution and energy consumption**

### **Smart meters will benefit consumers**

Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for coming this morning. We appreciate you being here. We also want to welcome Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, with us this morning. Welcome to the city and thank you for being here as well. We're going to hear from the secretary in just one minute. Let me give a few opening remarks.

First, let me tell you how gratified and excited we are to be receiving \$200 million in federal stimulus funds to accelerate the deployment of our Smart Grid initiatives. I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Department of Energy for their confidence in our company and in these two projects, the Advanced Metering and Intelligent Grid projects. These two projects are leading edge projects that will not only benefit our customers but will help lead the way for other utilities across America to implement similar technology. While we label this project as a rollout of the Intelligent Grid, it is really much more than that. It is essentially the rollout of a new era in energy efficiency. With the new Smart Meter and an integrated communication system, we will enable our customers to become wise energy users: simply knowing on a real-time basis their energy consumption will be powerful. But this enabling technology will lead to better ways to price energy as well as to new smart appliances and home area networks that can help consumers better manage energy consumption in their homes.

### **Smart meters are only the beginning**

In addition to the meters, we will also be adding intelligence to the grid itself, which will improve reliability and help us to be more proactive than reactive when it comes to dealing with outages, system maintenance and other aspects of the operation of the vital electric infrastructure. We believe these two projects will be transformational both in the ways consumers -- and not just Houston consumers -- use and conserve energy and the way utilities, not just CenterPoint, operate the nation's grid. We believe the administration's award of this grant to CenterPoint is a significant step in this transformation, and Mr. Secretary, we are grateful for the administration's assistance.

## **Welcome Secretary Salazar**

I am pleased to have a chance to express that gratitude to Secretary Salazar personally. Many of you know this, but Secretary Salazar is a fifth generation Coloradan. Texans always appreciate people who have connection with the land, and I know that you come from a family of farmers and ranchers and that water rights and natural resource issues have been among your passions during your whole public career, and it's been a great career. He's been the Attorney General of Colorado. He has been the Director of Colorado Department of Natural Resources. He was a United States senator, and he was unanimously confirmed by the senate as Secretary of Interior. So, Mr. Secretary, welcome to Houston and welcome to CenterPoint Energy.