

Grid Modernization

The nation's electric transmission and distribution system is gradually evolving using modern broadband communications and information technologies. Grid modernization:

- Enables the integration of renewable resources into the grid,
- Reduces the need for new generation,
- Increases reliability through voltage and VAR regulation,
- Better signals prices to consumers, and
- Allows consumers to take control of their energy consumption through home energy management.

As such, grid modernization integrates the worlds of electricity generation and delivery, broadband communications, information technology, and device manufacturing. Given our breadth of experience in energy and communications, Wilkinson Barker Knauer uniquely understands this new frontier and is well situated to help clients thrive in this emerging marketplace.

Wilkinson Barker's attorneys have extensive experience in grid transactional matters. We have on-the-ground experience in counseling investor-owned utility clients through every phase of a grid modernization, including negotiating multi-vendor agreements; formulating standards, integration, privacy, security and ownership strategies; managing ongoing deployment issues; and coordinating with regulatory agencies. In addition, we can assist communications providers, equipment manufacturers, home energy management providers, utilities and rural cooperatives in negotiating complex acquisitions, mergers, investments and business transactions in this heavily-regulated utility environment.

We know both the state and federal aspects of grid modernization, how they interrelate, and how to navigate the regulatory sphere. We help clients develop and implement their business strategies for home energy management and monitoring, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and backhaul deployments, and demand response aggregation, among others. We also assist clients on a wide range of policy and regulatory smart grid matters at state public utility commissions and the relevant federal agencies related to privacy and data access rules, cybersecurity, cost-recovery, deployment plans and interoperability standards.

HIGHLIGHTS

With experience in both energy and communications, we understand the convergence of energy and broadband to counsel clients through every phase of grid modernization

Counsel to utility clients through every phase of smart grid deployment

Knowledgeable in both the state and federal aspects of grid regulation