

Key Players, Terms, & Acronyms

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This document is intended to provide readers with *current* popular terminology and acronyms related to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology (PUET) Interim Committee’s jurisdiction, as well as the most common agencies and stakeholders that come before the committee; it is not intended to serve as a comprehensive list. Where selection from multiple definitions for the same term was necessary, definitions reflect Utah’s specific PUET landscape.

Public Utilities & Energy¹

AMI/Advanced Metering Infrastructure: an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers. The system provides a number of important functions that were not previously possible or had to be performed manually, such as the ability to automatically and remotely measure electricity use, connect and disconnect service, detect tampering, identify and isolate outages, and monitor voltage. Combined with customer technologies, such as in-home displays and programmable communicating thermostats, AMI also enables utilities to offer new time-based rate programs and incentives that encourage customers to reduce peak demand and manage energy consumption and costs.

AMR/Automatic Meter Reading: wireless communication for remotely collecting usage data from utility customers’ electricity, gas, and water meters; processed data is used to generate customers’ bills.

ART/Advanced Reactor Technology: advanced nuclear reactor technologies, including advanced small modular reactors.

Base Load: The minimum amount of electric power delivered or required over a given period of time at a steady rate.

CL: CenturyLink

DEU: Dominion Energy Utah

Docket: A formal record of a regulatory commission proceeding. These records are available for public inspection and copying. Each individual case proceeding is identified by an assigned number.

DPU: Utah Division of Public Utilities

DSM/Demand Side Management: means an activity or program that promotes electric energy efficiency or conservation, the use of heat pumps, or more efficient management of electric energy loads.

EBA/Energy Balancing Account: an electrical corporation account for some or all components of the electrical corporation’s incurred actual power costs.

¹This section’s terms and acronyms sourced from *Utah Code*, the Utah Public Service Commission (<https://psc.utah.gov/>), Division of Public Utilities (<https://dpu.utah.gov/>), the U.S. Energy Information Administration (<https://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/?id=electricity>), and the U.S. Department of Energy (https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/12/f34/AMI%20Summary%20Report_09-26-16.pdf).

Energy Efficiency: Unlike conservation, which involves some reduction of service, energy efficiency provides energy reductions without sacrifice of service. May also refer to a program or the use of technology to reduce the energy needed for a given purpose or service.

EVSE: electric vehicle servicing/supply equipment or electric vehicle infrastructure

FERC: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

HEAL Utah/HEAL: Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah

MW (Megawatt): One million watts of electricity.

NERC: North American Electric Reliability Corporation

OCS: Utah Office of Consumer Services

Off-Peak: Period of relatively low system demand. These periods often occur in daily, weekly, and seasonal patterns, and differ among utilities.

PSAP: public safety answering point

Peak Demand: The maximum load during a specified time period.

PSC: Utah Public Service Commission

Ratemaking Authority/Rate Design: A utility commission's legal authority to fix, modify, approve, or disapprove rates as determined by the powers given the commission by a state or federal legislature.

RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates/Credits): a market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. Unless otherwise specified through a credit multiplier policy, RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy resource.

Regulatory Assessment Fee: A common mechanism used by state public utilities commissions to defray the costs of public utility regulation; in Utah, it is known as the Public Utilities Regulatory Fee (PURF).

RMP: Rocky Mountain Power

RPS or RES/Renewable Portfolio Standards or Renewable Electricity Standards: policies designed to increase the use of renewable energy sources for electricity generation. These policies require or encourage electricity suppliers to provide their customers with a stated minimum share of electricity from eligible renewable resources.

Step-up/Step-down Transformer: An electrical device for changing the voltage of alternating current; a transformer that increases the voltage from primary to secondary is called a *step-up* transformer. Conversely, a transformer designed to do just the opposite is called a *step-down* transformer.

Substation: Facility equipment that switches, changes, or regulates electric voltage.

Tariff/Rate Schedule: A published volume of rate schedules and general terms and conditions under which a product or service will be supplied, often to a designated class of customers (i.e. residential, commercial).

True-up: A general accounting term; regarding public utilities transactions, most often used when referring to a payment made either to the utility or to the utility customer after a closing date to adjust for any difference between the estimated purchase price (e.g. rates based upon forecasted financial metrics) and the actual purchase price, and usually performed through a balancing account or similar mechanism.

UAE: Utah Association of Energy Users

UAMPS: Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

UCA: Utah Communications Authority

UMPA: Utah Municipal Power Agency

URECA: Utah Rural Electric Cooperative Association

URTA: Utah Rural Telecom Association

WECC: Western Electric Coordinating Council

WRA: Western Resource Advocates

Technology²

AI: artificial intelligence

Authentication: The process of verifying the identity or other attributes of an entity (user, process, or device).

BIAS/Broadband Internet Access Service: A mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up Internet access service. This term also encompasses any service that the FCC finds to

²This section's terms and acronyms sourced from *Utah Code*, the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (<https://niccs.us-cert.gov/about-niccs/cybersecurity-glossary>), and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (<https://www.cisa.gov/>).

be providing a functional equivalent of the service described in the previous sentence, or that is used to evade the protections set forth in this part. (regulated by the FCC under 47 C.F.R. Sec. 8.2.)

Blockchain: an electronic method of storing data that is maintained by consensus of multiple unaffiliated parties; distributed across multiple locations; and mathematically verified.

Cloud Computing: A model for enabling on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing capabilities or resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction.

CIO: Chief Information Officer

CISA/Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency: CISA is the arm of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for protecting the nation's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats. This mission requires effective coordination and collaboration among a broad spectrum of government and private sector organizations.

Critical Infrastructure: The systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to society that the incapacity or destruction of such may have a debilitating impact on the security, economy, public health or safety, environment, or any combination of these matters.

CTO: Chief Technology Officer

Cybersecurity: The activity or process, ability or capability, or state whereby information and communications systems and the information contained therein are protected from and/or defended against damage, unauthorized use or modification, or exploitation.

DTS: Utah Department of Technology Services

FCC: Federal Communications Commission

ISP/Internet Service Provider: a person engaged in the business of providing broadband Internet access service, with the intent of making a profit, to consumers in Utah.

Malware: Software that compromises the operation of a system by performing an unauthorized function or process.

Single Sign-On Portal: means an Internet webpage that can be accessed by a person that enters the person's unique user information in order to access secure information and services in secure, centralized, and interconnected manner.

Utah AGRC: Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center



VoIP/Voice over Internet Protocol: any service that enables real time, two-way voice communication originating from or terminating at the user's location in Internet protocol or a successor protocol; uses a broadband connection from the user's location; and permits a user to receive a telephone call that originates on the public switched telephone network and to terminate a call to the public switched telephone network.