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## Resilient Energy Grids

With physical and cyber-threats on the rise, the need to enhance **resiliency of the energy sector and grid systems** is greater than ever. Events such as the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack of 2021 prompted the State of Utah to understand the need for dedicated professionals to address vulnerabilities. They accomplished this through the establishment of a **Grid Resilience Committee**.



Still in the organizational phase, the Committee will be advisory in nature and provide recommendations on ways to improve the state's level of resiliency. This will aid the state in evaluating the most effective way to provide all-hazards protection of their energy grid. Recommendations will be reported to the legislature annually, but thus far include providing matching funds to eligible entities to harden the state's electrical facilities, enable expeditious recoveries, leverage other federal funds, and minimize rate impacts of resilience efforts by using federal funds. The Legislature approved the funds in its most recent general session.

The impetus for the Committee came from the Governor's Energy Advisor who worked with the Division of Emergency Management in updating the Utah Energy Emergency Plan. That process identified the need for partners to gather regularly to coordinate and collaborate on energy resilience within the state. From there, the 2022 General Session of the Utah State Legislature enacted statute creating the Committee through [House Bill 418](#). The statute provided \$4,200 for administrative costs, assigned the **State Director of the Division of Public Utilities** as Chair, and specified other participants to include agencies like the **Office of Energy Development, Utah Army National Guard, and Utah Municipal Power Agency**.

The **Utah Division of Emergency Management** sees significant benefit in this effort. **Chris Parker, the Committee's chair** thinks, **"the committee creates a tidy clearinghouse of expertise that can help Utah anticipate needs and react to new developments. With legislative general sessions occurring only once a year for 45 days, keeping the committee engaged year-round is important part of Utah being responsive to new challenges."**

As threats to the energy sector continue to evolve and become more sophisticated, the need for resilience becomes paramount. Utah's establishment of a Grid Resilience Committee is a proactive step in addressing vulnerabilities and protecting the state's energy grid. By providing recommendations on ways to improve the state's level of resiliency, the Committee will aid in evaluating the most effective ways to provide all-hazards protection of energy facilities. The legislative approval of funds for hardening facilities, expediting recoveries, leveraging federal funds, and minimizing rate impacts of resilience efforts is a crucial step towards achieving this goal. As the Committee moves into its organizational phase, it is reassuring to see Utah taking such a proactive approach towards enhancing the resilience of its energy sector.

**Apollo 13** (1995)  
Ed Harris - Gene Kranz  
Loren Dean - John Aaron

**John Aaron, EECOM** : Power is everything.  
**Gene Kranz** : What do you mean?  
**John Aaron** : Without it, they don't talk to us, they don't correct their trajectory, they don't turn the heat shield around. We gotta turn everything off, now. They're not gonna make it to re-entry.  
**Gene Kranz** : What do you mean "everything"?  
**John Aaron** : With everything on, the LEM draws 60 amps. At that rate, in 16 hours, the batteries are dead, not 45. And so is the crew. We gotta get them down to twelve amps.  
**John Aaron** : We have to turn off the radars, cabin heater, instrument displays, the guidance computer, the whole smash.  
**Jerry Bostick - FIDO** : Whoa! Guidance computer. What... what if they need to do another burn? Gene, they won't even know which way they're pointed.  
**John Aaron** : The more time we talk down here, the more juice they waste up there. I've been looking at the data for the past hour.  
**Gene Kranz** : That's the deal?  
**John Aaron** : That's the deal.

If you have a state practice you'd like to highlight as part of this series, please contact [Jamie Logan](#).

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