



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Shana Duval (802) 770.6381

sduval@velco.com

VELCO Sponsors Leahy Breakfast Discussion on State's Smart Grid Initiative at the VT Business Expo

Burlington, VT – Electricity customers are invited to learn how Vermont's new Smart Grid initiative will impact their daily lives during the Vermont Business and Industry EXPO Leahy Business Breakfast being held Wednesday, May 26th at 8 a.m. at the Sheraton in Burlington.

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) is sponsoring the event to highlight how the \$69 million stimulus grant announced in October of 2009 by Sens. Patrick Leahy, Bernie Sanders and Congressman Peter Welch will change the way electricity consumers interact with the grid.

VELCO President and CEO Chris Dutton will present an overview of Vermont's Smart Grid project—eEnergy Vermont—that seeks to use information technology to create jobs, increase reliability and empower consumers to better manage their own energy choices.

"Thanks to the early and ongoing leadership provided by Senator Leahy and others, Vermont is in a unique position to build a statewide Smart Grid that can serve as a model for the nation" said Dutton. "VELCO sees this breakfast as a wonderful opportunity to better inform our state's business leaders."

"Many Vermonters have heard the term Smart Grid, but most have not had the chance to learn about what an enhanced electric grid could mean for them," said Leahy. "I thank VELCO and IBM for helping me to address part of this need."

IBM's global Smart Grid expert, Michael Valocchi, will deliver the event's keynote address about how small businesses will interact with the Smart Grid. Valocchi is currently the Global Energy and Utilities Industry Leader for IBM Global Business Services. He is responsible for the development and execution of the industry's strategy and project leadership that focus on some of the industry's key Smart Grid strategy and implementation issues.

To find more information or to register for the event, visit www.vtexpo.com. Registration costs \$35 and includes a buffet breakfast. Same day registration for the event will be available if space allows.

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