About the Utilities Technology Council

ABOUT UTC

The Utilities Technology Council (UTC) is the global association at the nexus of the energy, water and telecommunications industries. We represent critical energy and water providers to ensure they have access to vital telecommunications services. As energy and water providers repair, harden, secure and modernize their systems, these companies rely on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) networks. These networks are crucial as our members respond to emergencies, deploy new technologies, modernize their infrastructure, and monitor their critical assets.

UTC's members represent a cross-section of all energy providers. Our membership includes investor-owned electric utilities, publicly owned utilities, consumer-owned rural electric cooperative utilities, and public and private water and gas utilities. We provide our members with advocacy, education and collaboration. Our goal is to create a favorable business, regulatory and technological environment for energy and water companies that own, manage or utilize telecommunications systems in their delivery of safe, reliable and secure services.

These increasingly crucial ICT networks enable critical infrastructure providers like electric, gas and water utilities to enhance their efficiency and reliability.

WHY UTC

Founded in 1948, UTC was initially created to advocate for the allocation of additional radio spectrum for power utilities. Over the years, UTC has evolved into a dynamic organization representing electric, gas and water utilities, critical infrastructure companies and other industry stakeholders.

From its headquarters in the Washington area, UTC provides information, products and services that help members:

⇒ Manage their telecommunications and information technology more effectively and efficiently

⇒ Voice their concerns or support of policy proposals to legislators and regulators

⇒ Engage in peer-to-peer relationships with other telecom and IT professionals

⇒ Interface with manufacturers and tele communications carriers on issues like cybersecurity

SPECTRUM SERVICES

In addition to advocacy and other member services, UTC is also an authorized, certified "frequency coordinator" for the Private Land Mobile Radio Services below 512 MHz and

800-900 MHz frequencies. The radio portion of electromagnetic spectrum is needed to enable wireless applications for utilities, public safety and telecommunications providers, among others.

This radio spectrum is subdivided into various bands (measured by hertz) that have different properties. UTC is the sole frequency coordinator authorized to coordinate channels previously allocated exclusively to the Power Radio Service. In addition, UTC maintains the national Power Line Carrier (PLC) database for the coordination of PLC use with licensed government radio services in the 10-490 kHz band.

PRIORITIES

A seismic shift is taking place within the global utility and critical infrastructure industries. Energy and water providers are modernizing and hardening their systems while also deploying "smart" technologies that will transform how we use these critical services. Utilities have always needed access to strong, resilient communications networks to maintain and repair their infrastructure. But as critical infrastructure evolves, this need becomes even more urgent.

UTC is the bridge between the critical energy and water sectors and the telecommunications industry. On behalf of our energy and water core members, we represent them on issues ranging from spectrum access—necessary for routine, day-to-day operation of their systems—to resilience, cybersecurity, broadband expansion, and much more.

For electric utilities, the increasing use of distributed generation and the evolution of storage technology mean that the industry must use telecommunications and IT applications at a much more granular level than ever. The enhanced deployment of such technologies is essential to ensure reliable service and to meet customer demands.

Our members must deploy sophisticated security strategies in order to manage evolving cybersecurity risks. UTC is an effective advocate for these and many more issues. From government relations and advocacy to spectrum services and frequency coordination, UTC's dedicated staff continually monitor and share key infrastructure innovations.

HISTORY

UTC was founded in 1948, to advocate for the allocation of additional radio spectrum for power utilities. Since then, UTC has evolved into a dynamic organization that represents electric, gas and water utilities, as well as natural gas pipelines, critical infrastructure companies and other industry stakeholders.

UTC LEADERSHIP

- Joy Ditto, President and CEO
- Sharla Artz, Vice President, Government Affairs, Policy and Cybersecurity
- Sheryl Riggs, Vice President, Finance and Administration
- Bob Lockhart, Vice President, Cybersecurity, Technology and Research
- Brett Kilbourne, Vice President, Public Policy and General Counsel
- Karnel Thomas, Vice President, Membership and Meetings
- Klaus Bender, Vice President, Engineering, Training and Standards
- Rob Thormeyer, Director of Communications and Advocacy

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