NAATBatt Coalition Recommends Deployment of Distributed Energy Storage Systems

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A coalition of 13 leading industrial companies and electric utilities, including **General Motors Company, The Dow Chemical Company** and **Duke Energy**, issued a white paper recommending the installation of up to 300 GWh of distributed energy storage (DES) systems around the country by 2022. DES systems consist of small, stationary batteries installed in neighborhoods, buildings, homes and electricity substations, which can be networked together using "smart grid" communications technology. DES systems reduce blackouts and brownouts, permit greater use of variable, renewable energy resources such as wind and solar, and help reduce dependence upon imported petroleum. The coalition was assembled by the **National Alliance for Advanced Technology Batteries** (NAATBatt).

Barriers to DES System Deployment Although DES technology exists today, few such systems have been deployed and electric utilities have little experience dealing with complex DES systems on the grid. The white paper points out that the way that DES systems are paid for discourages their deployment. Because DES systems are installed on the distribution portion of the electricity grid -- in homes, communities and buildings -- local utility ratepayers must pay for all of the costs of DES deployment. But those same ratepayers receive only a portion of the benefits of local DES systems, since many of the benefits accrue to persons outside the local service territory.

SOURCE [1]

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