



**Utility Communications and
Their Criticality to Grid
Resilience**
UTC President & CEO Joy Ditto

About UTC

- Established in 1948 to assist electric utilities in acquiring radio spectrum for communications networks
 - Utility communications networks must work all the time—can't typically rely on commercial providers
- Membership expanded to include all utility services: gas, water, electricity, pipelines
 - Approximately 270 core utility members, 180 vendor associate members

Utilities' Communications Networks

- Utilities own, operate telecom networks for the following:
 - Day-to-day reliable service
 - Routine maintenance
 - Power restoration
 - Upgrading system
 - Increasingly, to provide interaction with consumers
- Networks must be reliable, robust
 - Must cover geographically diverse, multi-state service territories in some cases

Utility Communications 'Buckets'



Blue Sky



Grey Sky



Black Sky



Gold Sky



Utilities
Technology
Council™

utc.org

Policy Implications

- **Spectrum**
 - FERC-FCC Meetings
 - 6 GHz
 - 4.9 GHz
 - 406-420 MHz
- **Broadband Deployment**
- **Pole attachments**
- **Critical infrastructure protection and cybersecurity**

Questions?

Thank you!

Contact info: joy.ditto@utc.org / 202-833-6801