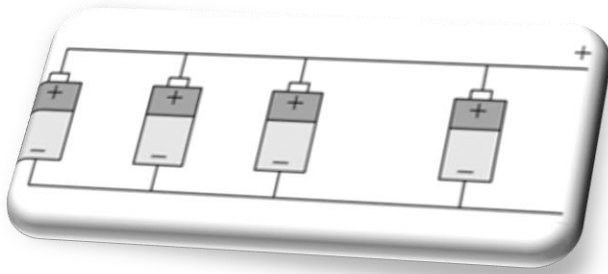


Parallel Cells



The second worst option is for the local government to run the local power company. The worst option is for an unregulated monopoly to run the local power company.

The best option is parallel cells!

This module is not about a way to hook up batteries. It is about a way in which a community can efficiently own a natural or location monopoly without involving the government.

Every [level-1 cell](#) (about 100 people) elects a representative to a [level-2 cellular council](#). Typically, this is the only office they will ever vote for, as level-2 representatives elect a representative to a level-3 council, and so on.

However, to maintain both community control and government independence of a power company, level 1 adults elect a representative (or [selector](#)) to a level-2 power company cell. This continues until the domain of the power company is reached. The power company district might consist of two [sibling](#) level-4 cells (about 300,000 people), with all 22 representatives at level 4 sitting on the [district council](#). They will elect a chair.

A 2/3 plurality of the district is required to establish a parallel cell. Once established, a 2/3 plurality is required to privatize, dissolve, or to initiate or return the function of the parallel cell to the governing [cellular democracy](#). Parallel cells are treated like [districts](#) in [cellular democracy mechanics](#).

In a purely representative parallel cell, it is the job of the high-level district council to hire and fire management, audit the books, and approve the business plan and any modifications to the business plan. Lower levels have access to the books and minutes of the district council, and are expected to comment on the business plan and submit their comments to the district council.

A selector model at lower levels allows paid company board members to be selected. This allows more independence for the company. As with the standard

governing cellular democracy, any representative or selected board member can be recalled back to their level at any time.

Thus, representatives will continuously seek the advice and consent of their constituents. Once a year, to coincide with the annual report, each level-2 cell (a population of 1,400 people) will hold an annual meeting for presentations and feedback. A quarterly report will be issued in the other three quarters.

In the selector model, selectors act once and are paid 1-month's salary of the selected board member. Representative salaries are low, set by charter, and increase with higher levels of dominion. There is no conflict of interest for representatives or even selectors to take paid positions with the company. All salaries come out of company profit.

While all constituents at level-1 are users of the generated power, many will also be employees of the power plant. Employees at the management level or above are not permitted to run for the regular governing cellular democracy's level-2 council.

Similar parallel cells might exist for natural gas, internet and public transit. The representative at level-2 of the governing cellular democracy shall be constitutionally prohibited from also holding office at level 2 of a parallel cellular democracy.

However, a single representative can hold office at multiple parallel level-2 cells, such as electric and internet. There might be a conflict of interest between serving at level 2 for both electric and gas. Whether a single representative can serve on both is a decision of the level-1 constituency.

Existing functions of the governing cellular democracy, such as water, sewage, public transit, or even police protection, can be split off into a parallel cell. Distributions will be reallocated, although Earth Dividend distributions cannot go to a non-community owned company if the business is [trebled](#).

There will be no constitutional limitation of parallel cells. If a community wishes to treble a local mountain for mining, it can do so through the vehicle of a parallel cell. Generally, profits will be distributed equally per capita, however negotiations over nuisances near the mining site (noise, odors), for instance, might result in higher percentages for those living near the mine.

Jurisdictional [covenants](#) are likely a necessity for public goods in a parallel cell. These create [access rights](#). While it is acceptable for the [trebler](#) to force privatization, destruction of the power grid is usually unacceptable. An exception would be a dominion that has dissolved, with former residents awaiting the proceeds on their unused power grid.