

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Pacific Gas & Electric
Company for Approval of the 2009-11 Low
Income Energy Efficiency Programs and
California Alternate Rates for Energy
Programs Budget (U39M).

And Related Matters

Application 08-05-022
Filed May 15, 2008)

Application 08-05-024
Application 08-05-025
Application 08-05-026

**COMMENTS BY SYNERGY COMPANIES ON THE PROPOSED
DECISION DENYING PETITION OF SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC
AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY TO MODIFY
DECISION 08-11-031**

14 October 2010

Steven R. Shallenberger
President
Synergy Companies
28436 Satellite Street
Hayward, CA 94545

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Synergy Companies respectfully submits these comments in reference to the Administrative Law Judge Kimberly H. Kim September 28, 2010 proposed decision denying the petition of San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company to modify decision 08-011-031.

1. Introduction

Synergy Companies applauds the work of the California Public Utilities Commission, the Administrative Law Judge, the IOU's, and the many stakeholders that contribute to a WORLD BEST of CLASS delivery system of energy efficiency services to its qualifying low income population. Much good is accomplished through these programs.

Synergy Companies, an energy services company that has operated in the State of California for 29 years and is an active member of NAESCO (National Association of Energy Service Companies), IHACI, the Insulation Contractors Association of California, EGIA, and is an Energy Star Partner, wishes to provide comments on the recent ruling denying a joint petition to modify Decision (D.) 08-11-031 filed by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Southern California Gas Company (SCG).

Synergy Companies specifically wishes to comment and ask the Commission to reconsider the following parts of the petition to change in the following areas:

3.3 Measures—To support the request to “include additional LIEE measures offered in certain climate zones” that do not affect the over-all LIEE budget.

3.4 Furnace Clean and Tune Measures---To support the request to acknowledge and set forth “Furnace Clean and Tune” as a separate measure.

In this crucial time as the LIEE programs are in mid cycle and picking up full momentum to hit demanding goals to serve the LIEE customers for the State of California, it would make complete sense to remove any obstacles, now and later, that could reasonably impede serving these customers that are so much in need of energy efficiency services.

The affect of not approving points 3.3 and 3.4 can seriously reduce the momentum of contractors who are working with customers throughout these service territories and their ability to reach the desired goals. These recommended refinements to the program allow the IOU, the contractors and associated stakeholders to expand and increase the net of service to customers, while we are in the neighborhoods now, on a more comprehensive basis.

Providing these measures now, versus waiting for a later implementation cycle, improves the opportunity to be as comprehensive as possible and thus the effectiveness of delivery systems and use of valuable program funding is optimized.

Specific Comments

3.3 Measures—Synergy supports the request to “include additional LIEE measures offered in certain climate zones” that do not affect the over-all LIEE budget.

The California Public Utilities Commission has consistently asked the IOU’s and other stakeholders to “tell us what is needed” to accomplish the goals set forth by the Commission.

This is a case where the IOU’s have positively identified measures that will not only help the IOU’s reach the goal but are within the scope and cost-effective levels of the decision in this proceeding and the Commission is denying the request.

This portion of the request would seem to be a natural and important refinement to program enhancement that would further allow realization of IOU and commission goals to progressively service LIEE customers now.

In addition, in early August, SDG&E and So Cal Gas filed a Notice of Ex Parte Communication with the Commission where they indicated there would be difficulty in reaching the goals set in this proceeding. The IOU's efforts in immediately suggesting ways to reach the goal seem proactive and appropriate. The decision to deny regarding additional measures seems contradictory to helping the IOU's and the Commission achieve their goals. If the Commission believes the IOU's should have included these "unintentionally" omitted measures, certainly it would be a benefit to all to now include such measures. As a matter of fact, the proposed decision should require the IOU's to immediately implement these missed measures, not telling them to wait until the next program cycle.

If the Commission is denying the request to have these measures in the program in the next program cycle when there are still many months of installs ahead of us in the current cycle, it appears the Commission may believe this change would be somewhat of a lengthy implementation process. These are "shovel ready" measures. That is, once the Commission approves the installation of these measures, the IOU's and their Contractors will be installing them immediately. These are measures that IOU's and the supporting contractors are prepared to install now so there will be no "ramp

up” or design and review period. This is a matter of these measures being “approved” and Contractors would be able to install them the same day.

3.4 Furnace Clean and Tune Measures---Synergy supports the request to acknowledge and set forth “Furnace Clean and Tune” as a separate measure.

Over the last 15-18 months the IOU’s and Low Income Contractors have worked diligently and have significantly stepped up their efforts to serve more LIEE customers with high quality service than at any previous period of time. We are digging deep and seeking every customer that qualifies.

Having an adequate number of measures that allows the customer to receive services is vital.

One of the key measures, where there is a great need and opportunity, that can make a difference in whether a low income customer can qualify (3 measure minimum) for the low income program is the “Furnace Clean and Tune”.

It is important to NOT categorize this separate measure under “furnaces” which eliminates the Contractor’s ability to install this as a separate measure. This is a very important distinction. We would recommend that this (tune & clean) “set apart” measure be considered as “Health, Safety and Comfort”

(just as furnaces) so that a broader market could be served, including not only single family dwellings, but multi-family dwellings and further the Contractor's ability to meet the 3 measure minimum.

The Furnace Clean and Tune is a proven EE measure and by including it in the program as a separate measure, it will help to energize the LIEE program momentum and service to customers on a more comprehensive basis.

2. Conclusion and Summary

The Commission is requiring the IOU's to reach substantial goals in this proceeding. To that end, the IOU's have filed a Petition to Modify what are relatively modest, by very important, changes that will help the IOU's to reach said goals and the proposed decision is denying that request. Synergy asks the Commission to reconsider this decision by adding measures and designating "Furnace and Clean" as a separate measure.

The IOU's have not asked for a budget change for these measures, are not asking for new measures to be evaluated which takes time, and are indicating that they will be able to complete more homes under the program for the same amount of approved budget.

As one of the contractors out on the streets and meeting with the customers every day, Synergy Companies asks the Commission to reconsider this issue

and approve the request to add additional measures and allow the Furnace Clean and Tune as a separate measure.

The result of this decision will allow the IOU's and Contractors to retain success in both enrolling eligible customers and in meeting the 3-Measure minimum rule. This important support will go a long ways in helping the IOU's and all related Stakeholders in California to achieve their goals and the goals of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Shallenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steven R. Shallenberger
President
Synergy Companies
28436 Satellite Street
Hayward, CA 94545

Date: 14 October 2010

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, I certify that I have this day served a true copy of the **COMMENTS BY SYNERGY COMPANIES ON THE PROPOSED DECISION DENYING PETITION OF SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY TO MODIFY DECISION 08-11-031**

By first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the Administrative Law Judge assigned to this proceeding, to the Assigned Commissioner, and to all parties listed with no e-mail address on the service list for A08-05-022, A08-05-024, A08-05-025, and A08-05-026

AND

By electronic mail to all parties providing an email address on the service list for A08-05-022, A08-05-024, A08-05-025, and A08-05-026

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Steven R. Shallenberger
President
Synergy Companies
28436 Satellite Street
Hayward, CA 94545

Date: 14 October 2010

LIEE Service List

Michael Lizarraga <mlizarraga@telacu.com>, catherine.mazzeo@swgas.com, holly.lloyd@swgas.com, emello@sppc.com, MThorp@semprautilities.com, Alex2 Sotomayor <alex2sot@aol.com>, social.forum@yahoo.com, Villasenor <richvilla4@hotmail.com>, luis@winegardenergy.com, Allan Rago <arago@qcsca.com>, montoyml@sce.com, monica.ghattas@sce.com, kswitzer@gswater.com, rkmoore@gswater.com, Don Wood <dwood8@cox.net>, Bruce Patton <bpatton_rancho@sbcglobal.net>, GBaker@semprautilities.com, KHassan@semprautilities.com, JYamagata@semprautilities.com, lflores@americaninsul.com, sundnr2@sbcglobal.net, Art Brice <abrice@rhainc.com>, pk@utilitycostmanagement.com, jmann@pmelaw.com, ben@renaissanceinc.net, Gregory Redican <gredican@caasm.org>, William Parker <wparker@baprc.com>, kwz@cpuc.ca.gov, "Rashid, Rashid A." <RHD@cpuc.ca.gov>, hayley@turn.org, dfc2@pge.com, jwwd@pge.com, irene@igc.org, cjn3@pge.com, ralf1241a@cs.com, davidclark@synergycompanies.org, julieenergyeff@aol.com, robertg@greenlining.org, Samuel Kang <samuelk@greenlining.org>, pucservice@dralegal.org, darmanino@co.marin.ca.us, Susan Brown <sebesq@comcast.net>, phofmn@aol.com, mike@alpinenaturalgas.com, steve.heim@mascoecs.com, Bill Julian <billjulian@sbcglobal.net>, carolyncox2@sbcglobal.net, glw@eslawfirm.com, westgas@aol.com, Louise Perez <lperez@cresource.org>, cristalfour@aol.com, sberg@shhip.org, michelle.mishoe@pacificorp.com, jnelson@psrec.coop, stephaniec@greenlining.org, tciardella@nvenergy.com, zfranklin@gridalternatives.org, GloriaB@anzaelectric.org, PVillegas@semprautilities.com, sesco@optonline.net, jmeyers@naima.org, dm@getwise.org, kristien.tary@swgas.com, chilen@sppc.com, tdillard@sppc.com, SDPatrick@semprautilities.com, Senpolanco22@aol.com, Ron Garcia <ron@reenergy.com>, Jose Hernandez <jose.atilio@gmail.com>, sheila.lee@sce.com, Wallis Winegar <wallis@winegardenergy.com>, pssed@adelphia.net, akbar.jazayeri@sce.com, Case.Admin@sce.com, parkhijf@sce.com, jeannie.harrell@sce.com, Jennifer.Shigekawa@sce.com, john.fasana@sce.com, larry.cope@sce.com, pete.zanzot@sce.com, roberto.delreal@sce.com, markmcnulty@sbcglobal.net, Yole Whiting <ywhiting@cox.net>, John Jensen <jjensen@rhainc.com>, CentralFiles@semprautilities.com, LSchavrien@semprautilities.com, Yvette Vazquez <yvazquez@semprautilities.com>, bautistafaith@yahoo.com, "Newcomb, John" <jnewc@capsbc.sbcounty.gov>, mjuarez@capriverside.org, bill.belansky@mascoecs.com, r-l-shaw@msn.com, jmcnamara@eocslo.org, eadams.assert@verizon.net, hhuerta@rhainc.com, Joe Williams <joe@rhainc.com>, Kristine Lucero <klucero@rhainc.com>, vtvgeneral@aol.com, mjwms@calwes.com, Ortensia Lopez <orl0sia@aol.com>, ann.kelly@sfgov.org, bruce.foster@sce.com, Donna Wagoner <dlw@cpuc.ca.gov>, jeanne.sole@sfgov.org, lettenson@nrdc.org, BVT2@pge.com, bjsv@pge.com, cmb3@pge.com, lcf2@pge.com, lhj2@pge.com, MEWR@pge.com, CPUCCases@pge.com, SRH1@pge.com, ttn7@pge.com, steven@sfpower.org, jscancarelli@crowell.com, cem@newsdata.com, bkc7@pge.com, regrelcpuccases@pge.com, mjob@pge.com, jldezell@yahoo.com, barbara <barbara@rhainc.com>, flt2@pge.com, rick_noger@praxair.com, zzeria@aol.com, sbeserra@sbcglobal.net, alex.kang@itron.com,

jody_london_consulting@earthlink.net, cpucdockets@keyesandfox.com,
knotsund@berkeley.edu, sara@solaralliance.org, michele@boggis.com,
mary.tucker@sanjoseca.gov, dwmoir@westernappliance.com,
stephanie.borba@mascoecs.com, tomk@mid.org, bobho@mid.org, joyw@mid.org,
rmccann@umich.edu, davidmorse9@gmail.com, wamer@kirkwood.com,
rbicker@caanet.org, bernardo@braunlegal.com, sheila@wma.org, deden@energy.state.ca.us,
jgg@eslawfirm.com, Jason Wimbley <jwimbley@csd.ca.gov>, dstephenson@amwater.com,
Jim Obannon <jim@rhainc.com>, pamela@rhainc.com, Dbjornskov@peci.org,
grover@portland.econw.com, Sami.Khawaja@cadmusgroup.com,
californiadockets@pacificorp.com, "marisa.decrisoforo"
<marisa.decrisoforo@pacificorp.com>, davesullivan_71@msn.com, michael@awish.net,
"Tisdale, Matthew" <MWT@cpuc.ca.gov>, TNF@cpuc.ca.gov, vsj@cpuc.ca.gov,
ayo@cpuc.ca.gov, atr@cpuc.ca.gov, hym@cpuc.ca.gov, hcf@cpuc.ca.gov, Joe Como
<joc@cpuc.ca.gov>, je3@cpuc.ca.gov, Kelly Hymes <khy@cpuc.ca.gov>, kk2@cpuc.ca.gov,
mcl@cpuc.ca.gov, mla@cpuc.ca.gov, mvc@cpuc.ca.gov, jpn@cpuc.ca.gov, "Hernandez,
Risa" <rh@cpuc.ca.gov>, Bob Kinosian <gig@cpuc.ca.gov>, leh <leh@cpuc.ca.gov>, Sarita
Sarvate <sbs@cpuc.ca.gov>, ssr@cpuc.ca.gov, tmr@cpuc.ca.gov, zca <zca@cpuc.ca.gov>,
kev@cpuc.ca.gov, "James L. Hodges" hodgesjl@surewest.net, davidclarkfamily@yahoo.com