



*Pacific Gas and
Electric Company™*

Chonda J. Nwamu

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 7442
San Francisco, CA 94120

Street/Courier Address
Law Department
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 973-6650
Fax: (415) 973-0516
Internet: CJN3@pge.com

April 21, 2006

HAND DELIVERY

Docket Clerk
Docket office
Public Utilities Commission
of the State of California
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2001
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: R.04-01-006 - Order Instituting Rulemaking on Commission's Proposed Policies
and Programs Governing Post-2003 Low-Income Assistance Programs

Dear Docket Clerk:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned matter are an original and five (5) copies of

**FIFTY-NINTH STATUS REPORT
OF PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (U 39 M)
ON THE RESULTS OF ITS LOW INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARE PROGRAM
EFFORTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERING PARAGRAPH
17 OF DECISION 01-05-033, ISSUED MAY 7, 2001**

Please file the original document, date-stamp a copy, and return the endorsed copy in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Chonda J. Nwamu

CJN/pak

cc: Steven A. Weissman, ALJ
Dian Grueneich, Commissioner
Susan E. Brown, LIF
Mariana C. Campbell, ORA
Hazlyn Fortune, ORA
Sarita Sarvate, ED
Donna L. Wagner, ED
All Parties on Official Service List for R.04-01-006

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's
Proposed Policies and Programs Governing Post-2003
Low-Income Assistance Programs.

Rulemaking 04-01-006
(Issued January 8, 2004)

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CHRISTOPHER J. WARNER
ANDREW L. NIVEN
CHONDA J. NWAMU
Law Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Post Office Box 7442
San Francisco, CA 94120
Telephone: (415) 973-6650
Fax: (415) 973-0516
e-mail: CJN3@pge.com

Attorneys for:
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Dated: April 21, 2006

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In accordance with Ordering Paragraph 17 of Decision 01-05-033, the direction of Administrative Law Judge Gottstein at the July 11 and 28, 2001, status conferences, and the agreements reached between the utilities and the Energy Division on the format and content of the tables, Pacific Gas and Electric Company submits its attached fifty-ninth monthly status report on the results of its Low Income Energy Efficiency and CARE Program efforts, showing results through March 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER J. WARNER
ANDREW L. NIVEN
CHONDA J. NWAMU

/s/

CHONDA J. NWAMU
Law Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Post Office Box 7442
San Francisco, CA 94120
Telephone: (415) 973-6650
Fax: (415) 973-0516
e-mail: CJN3@pge.com

Attorneys for:
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

April 21, 2006

PG&E Low Income Programs Monthly Report For March 2006

This Low Income Programs Monthly Report complies with Ordering Paragraphs 14 and 17 of Decision (D.) 01-05-033, requiring the utilities to comply with reporting and program evaluation requirements previously established for the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) programs, including the reporting of costs and effects from these programs on an annual basis using the Reporting Requirements Manual. Reporting categories are consistent with the definitions contained in the Reporting Requirements Manual filed on January 10, 2002. Additionally, utilities are required to file regular monthly status reports on the results of their Low Income Programs.

A complete listing of the Low Income Programs Reporting Tables is included in Attachment A to this report. The full report (including selected tables 1-30 and Leveraging Tables A-C) is required quarterly, in the months of February, May, August and November. The tables required monthly include Tables 1, 4, 6, 10, 11, 11A, 11B, and 16. An End-of-Year Report for the previous year is required in February.

Monthly Low Income Programs Reporting

This Low Income Programs Report includes actual LIEE and CARE results and expenditures for March 2006. *All results reported in this monthly report update and supersede data reported in previous reports.*

2006 Reporting. D.05-12-026 authorized PG&E's CARE and LIEE programs and budgets for 2006. CARE and LIEE 2006 budgets remain the same as the 2005 budgets, with the CARE administration cost being \$7.457 million and LIEE total program costs being \$56.530 million plus previous unspent carryover. In recognition of potential added costs for the Winter Initiative and increases to the number of qualifying customers eligible for the programs through D.05-10-044's income eligibility increase, the utilities are required to file a 2006 budget augmentation no later than April 14, 2006. There are no changes to the 2006 reporting tables.

PG&E is using the most recent measure energy savings by climate zone developed in the Joint Utility 2001 LIEE Program Evaluation and the Standardization Team's Cost Effectiveness Report.

Customer Eligibility. In March 2003, the Joint Utilities updated and revised the penetration rate calculation methodology in compliance with D.02-07-033 and Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (ACR) dated December 27, 2002, as described in previous reports.¹

¹ The *Joint Utility Methodology for Calculating CARE Penetration* (February 6, 2002) and the *Joint Utility CARE Eligibility Update* (February 21, 2003) can be found as Attachments A and B in PG&E's *Sixteenth Annual Progress Report to the California Public Utilities Commission on the California Alternate Rates*

The Joint Utilities updated their annual customer eligibility estimations as required in a June 24, 2004 Commission Scoping Memo and filed these new annual estimates of CARE-eligible customers on October 15, 2004. Revised estimates were filed on December 28, 2004. These estimates were being used by the Joint Utilities in their 2005 filings until D.05-10-044 directed that low income customer eligibility be increased for both CARE and LIEE.

D.05-10-044 mandated that eligibility criteria for CARE and LIEE be changed from 175 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) (and 200 percent for LIEE seniors and disabled) to 200 percent of FPG for all residential customers. This became effective immediately. When D.05-10-044 was adopted on October 27, 2005, PG&E updated its reporting tables to reflect this change in the December 21, 2005 report for November 2005 results. As a result of this demographic adjustment, the estimated CARE and LIEE-eligible populations in PG&E's service area have both increased. PG&E's CARE and LIEE penetration rates have decreased and are thus not comparable to penetration rates reported before November 2005.

Low Income Winter Initiatives. On October 27, 2005, D.05-10-044 approved various emergency program changes in light of anticipated high natural gas prices in the winter of 2005-2006. For the low income programs, these winter initiatives:

1. Revised LIEE and CARE income eligibility criteria to 200 percent of FPG for all customers,
2. Held harmless from repayment any customer receiving LIEE or CARE program benefits even if the customer is later found to not qualify based on income,
3. Replaced central gas forced air furnaces to renters and homeowners as part of a whole-house effort where an existing furnace has an AFUE of 65 or lower,
4. Performed necessary duct work when installing a new furnace,
5. Replaced leaky water heaters,
6. Increased new refrigerator replacements through go-backs and other initiatives,
7. Implemented telephone enrollment for CARE, and
8. Suspended the dropping of CARE customers for recertification or post-enrollment verification failures.

These activities are tracked on the current reporting tables in this report. Refrigerators, furnaces and water heaters are already broken out as line items for LIEE measure reporting tables, and readers will notice an increased level of activity for these measures over the winter months. For example:

for Energy (CARE) Program, January 1, 2004-December 31, 2004, submitted May 2, 2005.

- PG&E treated 23,789 customer homes between November 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006 compared to 16,455 customer homes treated during the same period last winter.
- 674 inefficient furnaces have been replaced since November 1 and another 614 have been identified for replacement; 79 leaky water heaters have been replaced since November 1 and another 45 have been identified for replacement; and 15,055 refrigerators have been replaced since November 1 and 10,492 more have been identified for replacement.

Greater public awareness of the CARE program brought about by intensive media coverage of the high winter gas prices is already contributing to increased enrollment. 180,019 new CARE customers were enrolled between November 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. This marks a net increase of 79,129 customers from the same time frame the previous year. PG&E also is launching outreach initiatives specifically directed to newly eligible customers.

Low Income Program Highlights

CARE Automatic Enrollment. In October and November 2003, PG&E began to exchange data regarding low income qualified customers with the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts (TID and MID). PG&E provides natural gas in the TID and MID electric service areas. PG&E automatically enrolls qualified low income customers served by the two irrigation districts into CARE. PG&E also provides CARE customer data on shared customers to TID and MID so that these customers can be enrolled in their programs.

PG&E is currently in discussion with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) about exchanging data to automatically enroll low income qualifying SMUD customers that receive gas service from PG&E. PG&E currently exchanges data with Southern California Edison Company and Southern California Gas Company to automatically enroll their CARE customers who also receive PG&E service.

On May 5, 2004 the ACR on Automatic Enrollment authorized that Automatic Enrollment between the utilities and Consumer Services Department (CSD) be implemented. A total of 3,261 CSD customers were automatically enrolled in PG&E's CARE program in 2005. To date, PG&E has received no CSD files from Energy Division in 2006.

D.05-04-052 ordered the utilities to create a new application for migrant farm worker housing centers (MFHCs) and to use their best efforts to begin enrolling all residents of these California Office of Migrant Services (OMS) and other nonprofit managed migrant centers into the CARE program in compliance with Assembly Bill 868. PG&E has worked with the other utilities to consistently revise its agricultural housing CARE applications and has filed its new MFHC and revised agricultural housing applications by advice letter with the California Public Utilities Commission. PG&E has already automatically enrolled the 22 OMS centers in its service area with the new MFHC

application. Additionally, PG&E is working in the community to seek and enroll any other qualifying nonprofit MFHCs.

LIEE Leveraging. Currently, PG&E has contracts with LIHEAP agencies that are not working in PG&E's LIEE program. PG&E is coordinating with these LIHEAP agencies to install PG&E ENERGY STAR[®] refrigerators in PG&E electric homes where the LIHEAP contractors have installed all other measures under the State Weatherization Program.

PG&E provides a list of all residential customers to the contractors. From this list, the contractors can tell if the customer is on the CARE rate and if they have received LIEE services in the past. With this information, the contractors are better able to market to the community, e.g., contacting only those customers who have not received LIEE services in the past.

On a daily basis, contractors are provided information about customers who have requested LIEE services (referrals). Each home that receives LIEE services where the customer is not on the CARE rate is then signed up for the CARE discount. This month 560 LIEE participants were enrolled in CARE.

LIEE program materials are provided in seven languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian, Korean, and Hmong.

In addition, PG&E continues to combine its LIEE and CARE outreach activities in order to leverage low income outreach efforts and provide PG&E low income customers with the knowledge and tools to access all of PG&E's free energy services.

Attachment A
Rapid Deployment Monthly Reporting Tables

Table 1 – LIEE Program Expenses

Table 4 – LIEE Measure Installations

Table 6 – CARE Program Expenses

Table 10 – CARE Enrollment, Recertification and Attrition

Table 11 – CARE Standard Random Verification Results

Table 11A – CARE Random Verification Results for Capitation

Table 11B – Combined CARE Standard Random Verification Results

Table 16 – CARE Participation – Combined Rural and Urban

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

I, the undersigned, state that I am a citizen of the United States and am employed in the City and County of San Francisco; that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within cause; and that my business address is 77 Beale Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

I am readily familiar with the business practice of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. In the ordinary course of business, correspondence is deposited with the United States Postal Service the same day it is submitted for mailing.

On 21st April, 2006, I served a true copy of:

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- [XX] By Electronic Mail – serving the enclosed via e-mail transmission to all parties on the official service list for CPUC Docket R. 04-01-006 that have provided e-mail addresses.
- [XX] By First Class Mail – serving the enclosed via US mail on all parties on the official service list for CPUC Docket R. 04-01-006 where electronic service cannot be effectuated.

I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 21st April, 2006

_____/s/_____
PATRICIA A. KOKASON