

Pennsylvania PUC Expedited Review Process

OVERVIEW

- In 2011, the Pennsylvania PUC concluded that review of applications to approve minor changes to energy efficiency programs could take more than 4 months to complete, regardless of the magnitude of the changes requested.
- PUC believed that such delays could increase administrative cost and cause utilities and their customers to miss opportunities to timely and cost-effectively implement EE measures. The PUC stated that benefits of expedited review include: reducing the time it takes to end under-performing programs; implementing or expanding more effective programs; and assisting with utilities' efforts to meet energy reduction goals.
- To address this issue, the PUC issued an expedited process for comment, of which several parties provided feedback: utilities; energy consumer groups; small business advocates; and other industrial and consumer interest intervenors.
- Full Order available at Docket No. M-2008-2069887.

MAIN ELEMENTS

- Qualifying “minor changes” include:
 - Elimination of under-performing measures, or that are no longer viable (because of cost-effectiveness, lack of market penetration), or have met their budgeted funding, participation, or amount of savings.
 - Transfer of funds from one measure to another within same customer class.
 - Changing eligibility requirements, technical description, rebate structure or amount, projected savings, participants, or other conditions as long as doesn't increase costs to that customer class
- The adopted Expedited Procedure is as follows:
 - Utilities file the proposed changes, and serve them on specified advocates. Sufficient supporting documentation must be included (i.e., redlined version, explanation of how changes will affect previously approved plan).
 - Utility must file redline version of plan on website for public inspection.
 - All interested parties' comments are due within 15 days after changes filed.
 - All reply comments are due within 25 days after changes filed.
 - Within 35 days after changes filed, Commission either approves, or transfers to Admin Law Judge for hearings. Staff has a discretionary 10 day extension period.
 - Any appeals are due within 10 days after Commission staff filing above.
- All other changes sought must be filed according to the normal request to rescind and amend previously approved plans.