

Arkansas Quick Start Process, Facts

OVERVIEW

- In 2007, the Arkansas PSC opened a docket requiring utilities to implement Quick Start programs.
- The PSC ran a stakeholder process to develop the Quick Start procedure and program elements, that included 100 participants representing the PSC, AG's office, Utilities (IOU and co-op), community action agencies, commercial retailers, EPA, and other interested parties and individuals (e.g. green energy equipment companies).
- Definition of Quick Start – Limited in nature; shown to have a high probability of ratepayer benefits in other jurisdictions; exempt from cost-effectiveness showings; still required to file program costs and explicit EM&V; requirement that costs be reasonable and prudent.
- Education programs were exempt from Quick Start EM&V requirement.

MAIN ELEMENTS

- Collaborative developed list of 7 program categories that have shown high probability of ratepayer benefits. Utilities were then allowed to select which programs to implement in their service areas. The Quick Start programs included:
 1. Education
 2. Energy Audits/Evaluations
 3. Inspection and tune up of heating and a/c systems
 4. Lighting
 5. Increased deployment of demand response programs
 6. Weatherization
 7. Commercial and Industrial process improvement
- All utilities implemented some form of weatherization and education during Quick Start.
- The Quick Start period concluded at the end of 2009, at which point utilities had the option to expand program offerings.
- Once the Quick Start period ended, the PSC required cost-effectiveness tests for continued program implementation. Also, utilities were only allowed to recover program costs during the Quick Start period. At program expansion, utilities were then allowed to receive a lost revenue adjustment.
- The PSC encouraged education of customers through existing delivery channels.