



California Public Utilities Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

Docket #: R.08-12-009

CPUC OPENS ACCESS TO ENERGY UTILITY DATA WHILE PROTECTING PRIVACY TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1, 2014 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today opened access to energy usage data to university researchers, local governments, and others, while protecting customer privacy, in order help create more innovative and effective energy programs and enable the evaluation of current policies.

“Our decision today is a game changer. It breaks the duopoly on energy data held by government and utilities in ways that will hold both accountable,” said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey, the Commissioner assigned to the proceeding. “Our decision allows researchers to propose new and more effective programs to assist the state in its efforts to utilize energy efficiency and demand response as preferred energy resources.”

Specifics of the decision include:

- Allows access to energy consumption and related data to universities for public purpose research, with specified requirements to safeguard customer privacy, such as signing nondisclosure agreements;
- Directs utilities to post every quarter the monthly sum and average customer electricity and natural gas usage as well as the number of customers, by zip code (when the zip code aggregation meets specified standards), and by customer class (i.e., residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural);
- Directs utilities to make available to local governments monthly aggregate and anonymous usage and usage-related data when requested;
- Directs utilities to provide energy data to government entities to fulfill statutory obligations,



such as the California Department of Community Services and Development; and,

- Directs the formation of an Energy Data Access Committee to advise the utilities on process improvements and best practices related to data access and help mediate disagreements between the utilities and data requesters.

The proposal voted on is available at

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M090/K597/90597208.PDF>.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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