



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: R.07-04-015

**CPUC ADDRESSES BACKUP POWER SUPPLY FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND NOTIFICATION  
TO THE PUBLIC OF EMERGENCIES**

SAN FRANCISCO, September 4, 2008 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today adopted a decision that evaluates emergency backup power and notification systems and sets forth a plan to examine California's potential needs for performance standards that would enhance the reliability of our telecommunications network and its ability to notify the public in case of emergencies.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2393 required the CPUC to consider the need for performance reliability standards for backup power systems installed on a residential or small commercial customer's premises by a facilities-based telecommunications service provider, and to develop and implement them if the benefits of the standards exceed the costs.

Today's decision is one of several critical steps toward meeting the requirements of AB 2393 to ensure the safety of California residents. From a public safety perspective, the CPUC determined that it is important that customers have the ability to make necessary phone calls and to receive emergency notifications for a reasonable period of time during extended power outages. The CPUC will design and develop a consumer education and outreach plan with a goal of informing customers about backup power considerations for various telecommunications services on their premises. The CPUC will also address the current best practices of service providers in notifying consumers about battery backup power capabilities in a power outage and how these practices could be enhanced.



AB 2393 also required that the CPUC, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of General Services, to determine the need for backup power systems, other than those located on the customer's premises, and to determine performance criteria. The CPUC was also to determine whether the Best Practices for backup power systems recommended by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Network Reliability and Interoperability Council in December 2005 have been implemented by service providers. The FCC has ordered that local exchange carriers and commercial mobile radio service providers have 24 hours of emergency backup power for central offices and eight hours for cell sites, remote switches and digital loop carrier system remote terminals. The order provides exemptions for smaller providers.

Lastly, AB 2393 required the CPUC, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of General Services, to determine whether there should be design and operation standards for notification systems used by entities, such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, that are authorized to use automatic dialing devices to notify the public in the event of local emergencies. The CPUC will therefore explore whether and to what extent these standards are needed in order to maintain safe and reliable service levels in the final phase of this proceeding.

“Californians deserve the highest standards of emergency notification systems and backup power capabilities. Our proceeding will ensure that public safety remains our highest priority,” said Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon.

“With this decision, the CPUC takes a critical step in improving emergency preparedness in California by ensuring that customers will be informed of backup power considerations for various telecommunications services on their premises,” said Commissioner John Bohn. “This decision also gives the CPUC the essential tools to determine whether rules for battery backup power at customer premises and for informing customers about backup power are necessary.”

For more information on communications issues, please visit [www.CalPhoneInfo.com](http://www.CalPhoneInfo.com).



For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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