
Energy Efficiency Program Proposal

Low-Income Assistance Program

Program Overview

Background

A low-income weatherization program, allocating \$250,000 annually to weatherize the residences of low-income Questar Gas customers, was proposed for the first time and approved by the Utah Public Service Commission (Commission) in Docket No. 99-057-20. Customer funding of the program was found to be in the public interest. The approved funds, recovered in general rates, supplement efforts of the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Housing and Community Development Division (HCD). The Commission concluded that the funds would reduce the energy burden of participants, promote cost-effective energy conservation, help mitigate health and safety issues related to the participants' natural gas usage, and leverage federal funds.

In the stipulation in Docket No. 05-057-T01, approved by the Commission on October 5, 2006, the parties agreed to an additional funding of \$250,000 to be utilized by the state's Low Income Assistance Program. The stipulation provides that least \$250,000, subject to Commission approval, of the amount spent on energy efficiency in the first year of the Pilot Program will be allocated to the Low-Income Program that the Company currently funds or other low-income energy-efficiency programs. These costs would be recorded in the deferred energy efficiency account 182400 and collected in rates through amortization of that account.

Based on the recommendation of the Questar Gas DSM Advisory Group in 2009, the Company sought and received approval from the Commission (Docket No. 08-057-22) to increase low-income funding to \$500,000 annually. The Company proposes to continue funding the Low-Income Assistance Program in 2014 at the level of \$500,000 and to disburse these funds in increments of \$250,000 every six months, with the first disbursement of these energy efficiency funds to occur in January and the second to occur in July.

The Company has implemented the Commission approved exemption for the Low-Income Program to allow for a simplified rebate application process and to allow payments directly to the State agency administering the Low-Income Assistance Program (Utah Department of Community and Culture). The Low-Income Assistance Program must comply with all other aspects of the Company's tariff to qualify for ThermWise® rebates it requests.

Projected Participants & Savings Measure Tool

Projected participation in the Low-Income simplified rebate application process is projected to be 1,978 with a total annual savings of 20,912 annually .