

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

In re: Weatherization Training Public Meeting held January 14, 2010
C-0001

Joint Motion of Commissioner Wayne E. Gardner and
Commissioner Kim Pizzingrilli

Governor Edward Rendell signed Act 129 of 2008 into law on October 15, 2008. Among other things, the Act mandates that Pennsylvania's large electric distribution companies (EDCs) – those with at least 100,000 customers – implement energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs¹ with the intent of reducing annual weather-normalized electric consumption by at least one percent (1%) by May 31, 2011 and three percent (3%) by May 31, 2013. Also, by May 31, 2013, energy consumption during the 100 highest hours of “peak” demand is to be reduced by a minimum of four-and-a-half percent (4.5%). The EDCs' EE&C plans contain a variety of weatherization measures.

In August 2009, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) issued Pennsylvania's Weatherization Plan pursuant to The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Pennsylvania received \$252.8 million for Pennsylvania's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in addition to the normal WAP budget of \$37.9 Million. WAP is designed to help low-income households decrease energy consumption and costs. These resources will enable the Commonwealth to achieve greater energy independence and help vulnerable residents by reducing their energy bills. As a result of these ARRA weatherization funds, Pennsylvania will:

- Reduce energy usage by the equivalent of powering about 7,000 homes a year; and
- Weatherize at least an additional 29,700 housing units over the next two to three years.

Under new requirements developed jointly by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and DCED, all workers participating in the federally funded WAP must be certified. According to the DCED, in order to become a certified weatherization worker, individuals must be trained by a Pennsylvania Certified

¹ Pennsylvania Public Utility Code at Sections 2806.1 and 2806.2, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 2806.1 and 2806.2.

Weatherization Instructor. There are three certifications available for workers, installer, crew chief and auditor.

In addition to the WAP program, each of our large jurisdictional electric and gas utilities has a Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP) (or similar program), which helps low-income residential customers lower the amount of electricity or natural gas used each month. Typically, the company will install energy saving features in the home to help reduce bills.

Proper weatherization of a residence is a proven way to reduce energy consumption and in turn keep utility bills under control. The weatherization installation workers and auditors currently working in Pennsylvania have a variety of training levels and skill sets. Given the expansion of the above programs, Pennsylvania will need to train additional weatherization installation workers and auditors. It would be ideal if all of the auditors and installers in Pennsylvania were trained to meet a uniform minimum standard so that customers could be assured of effective treatment of their homes. A uniform set of standards to qualify energy efficiency and retrofit workers would establish the foundation of consumer confidence that work will be completed correctly and produce the expected energy savings and benefits.

The Pennsylvania ARRA WAP budget includes adequate funding to establish a training program for WAP agencies and for other public and private-sector weatherization providers. To implement this training, the Department of Labor and Industry is now supporting seven geographically dispersed training centers across the Commonwealth to provide weatherization training to students learning to become weatherization installers, crew chiefs and auditors. These centers will train and certify workers to complete high-quality energy reduction, conservation and weatherization activities in single- and multi-family homes across the state.

While workers participating in WAP funded projects will be required to complete specific training, we are interested in exploring whether utilities conducting similar type weatherization audits would benefit from the same training certifications. Therefore, we seek comments on the current training required by the electric and gas utility companies of their employees and contractors who conduct weatherization installations and audits as well as the impact on companies' existing LIURP programs. In addition, we seek comments on the impact, both cost and programmatic, of any such change in the training certification on the previously approved Act 129 plans of the electric distribution companies.

Therefore, We move that:

1. The Law Bureau prepare an Order consistent with this Motion.

2. The Order be served on all interested parties for comment.
3. That Comments should be filed within thirty (30) days of entry of the Order.

Commissioner Wayne E. Gardner

Commissioner Kim Pizzingrilli

Dated: January 14, 2010