To the Secretary PA PUC - RE: Training Certifications for Weatherization Installations and Audits



Docket No. M-2010-2152691 MAR 8 0 2010

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S BUREAU

I am not able to put into Adobe so there are no pics at this time.

Please refer to Docket Number M-2008-2069887 PUC of PA as well------whatever happened to that??? Eh, Mr. Mick? First- as background-(written in 2008)

I was in over 1,400 houses from Jan 2006 to Oct 2007—I made over \$63,000.00 in 2007 in 9 months working for one contractor under PPL and Met Ed and walked away ---someone at the PUC and the PA Attorney General's Office should ask why.

Utilities, partnering with agencies and contractors are wasting customer/federal/state money in low income and private weatherization programs through a lack of monitoring, training, accountability, and the PUC and DCED are helping this waste and fraud by the lack of oversight and a lack of training on their own part. The Federal Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development should be made aware of these 'shortcomings' and the noted waste, fraud and lack of monitoring.

Work is not being done to specs, not being inspected, not being accounted for, and being paid for without being finished. False PR is generated such as "Energy Efficient" versus "More Efficient than what the customer has" with regard to Refrigerator Replacement. The refrigerators were labeled as "Least Efficient" on the "ENERGY GUIDE" but PPL would not say that.

Invoices were paid for jobs that failed inspection and were never fixed. People were fired for noting this and eventually the top person was fired, shortly after they fired the former top person.

INCLUDED - pages from PA Aud Gen Report August 2007 on Weatherization. -Pics from local agency work, and pages on Refrigerators see attached files

Customers who are not low income routinely are admitted to the program. Non residential customers are also admitted, as are 'customers' not *residing* at the site, such as a family member not living in an apt. but whose name is on the bill.

Agencies that have contracts for work in these programs have managers who abuse employees, threatening them on a daily basis with dismissal for poor work when they were never trained, committing the same mistakes over and over again, month after month, year after year. This is documented by the thousands of pictures taken by Inspectors over the years. All were available to the PUC.

These same agencies allowed the use and sale of drugs on their property, as evidenced by the many pipes, razor blades, drying rack and scales found in Lancaster. The office there had a person holding PPL contracts under his name for Audits, and he did those Audits in a full time salaried position with CAP.

He is still doing the Energy Audits but no one is allowed to talk to him! So the workers have no avenue to communicate with the person drawing up the work orders.

ECA in Philadelphia was written up in the August 2007 Auditor General's Report on Weatherization, but this document has never made it into any official record at PUC even though it was given to PUC staff. ECA has commented on this Order Docket Number M-2010-2152691 and those comments should be taken in the context of that damning surface analysis by the Auditor General.

PUC has not acted on any of this and it has been over a year (now 2) since it has had the information to do so. PUC did not allow me to file a complaint because of an "Investigation" supposedly being conducted by Kriss Brown during 2008.

For this ORDER, I would like to submit all the photos given to Mr. Farley, and all the documents given to Mr. Brown along with the Auditor General's Report of August 2007 on Weatherization, since you already have them.

Small businesses of one person who have been subcontractors in the Residential Energy field are being left behind. A handful of contractors get free training and free equipment from public utilities. They then use this equipment in competition against private sector contractors.

Agencies get free training and free equipment also. PA Home Energy, PSD Consulting, West Penn Power, PPL and BPI and Penn State, and the State of PA are forcing small companies on the edge of survival to go bankrupt by requiring new "certifications" and expensive training to get these certificates.

So, for example, if you have been doing Energy Audits, teaching it, training people in it at a state funded college for over 20 years, you can't get a customer a better interest rate on an Energy improvement loan, but someone who was a used car salesman who sat in a room for 4 days and passed a test, can. They get reduced pricing on equipment, and they get listed on the power company's website as a preferred provider of services because they pay into a monopoly scheme of certification.

BPI headquarters....they "certify "you ...We were told to hurry and register for testing, - 'hurry up and pay on the phone 'now' before all the spaces are taken'—and when we got to this run down cabin in the woods in upstate NY we were the only two taking the test—so what was the pressure about? MONEY.

The contractors who get free equipment from the utilities for low-income programs use that equipment in competition against other contractors in the private sector market. WHY is this allowed and supported by taxpayer funded programs? And now even more money is going into that pipeline....Where is the program to help those already experienced, or is the State saying, "go get in the unemployment line-oops you never paid UC because you were a subcontractor...guess you'll starve then, sorry!"

The federal DOE can not monitor dollars under the protocols presently in place. The DOE's point man in PA in the Pittsburgh office does not know what a blower is!

So how could anyone explain TREAT or REMRATE to him (or to the lawyers at the PUC) and explain how software is being marketed as a required component to these programs such as the one West Penn Power has with PA HOME ENERGY, which has also commented here.

Who is going to explain to the PA PUC or any other govt. entity, the relationship between PSD Consulting (and Penn State) and PA HOME ENERGY?

Who are RESNET and BPI and why should they be allowed to have a monopoly here in PA or in any state? We should do this because ACI wants a 'national certification training standard'? (And if you don't know what ACI is then there is a grave problem and I hope you do some homework to look into the history of BPI, RESNET AND ACI.

Pa Home Energy / West Penn Power / PSD Consulting / BPI / RESNET / PPL and others are creating a monopoly in PA and across the country where contractors will be forced to pay to play.

If you don't pay them, you can't play. If you are on the Power Utility's list you can offer lower interest rates on Energy measures installed, and offer rebates too. So a person with 20 years experience and who teaches at Penn College and has no certification can't do this and someone with ONE WEEK of training and paid for certification can go out and run a Blower Door test and try to sell a furnace or solar panels all at reduced rates! I have seen this.

They have set up a process whereby they decide who is fit to work. And who are they, what are their credentials? What are their ethics? Only that they have marketed themselves as THE gate keepers of training and testing and certification for Home Performance.

AND you must buy their software and no one else's? And you must take their training and no one else's?

Please reconsider forcing this on the people of PA. These folks mentioned above have worked very hard to corner every aspect of Energy Audits in PA and elsewhere. There were no rules or monitoring in place before. Now there will be 'rules', but still no monitoring.

Now that the Federal Green Jobs initiative is coming, the potential for waste beyond the normal hundreds of thousand of dollars going into the millions is a frightening reality.

This is written from a PA perspective, with noted implications nationally and hopefully the Federal Government will act along with the State of PA to come up with a better scenario for training and some form of 'credentialization'.

To be sure, if 7 out of 11 workers are not allowed to drive, you have a problem when you move the Weatherization Center out of town and nowhere near a bus line.

You have a problem when jewelry goes missing or when WRAP program participants state that the men were drinking their beer on their front porch.

You have a problem when PPL pays persons from out of state to fly to Austin, Texas and puts them up at the Hilton for a week and they don't have anything to do with PPL's programs. Now the rate payers who do pay their bills every month paid for this. But you at the PUC will not do anything about this.

Nor will you fix the way applicants are processed over the phone, or how houses are fixed up for deadbeat landlords who rotate tenants in and out and get free services on their property because the program runs on whose name the bill is in.

I can buy a house with little or no insulation, put a relative in there, and get an old refrigerator and stick it in the kitchen, throw a few old ACs in there too and hook up an old water heater and get free insulation have all of those appliances replaced. Recently I could have had a new washer and dryer and bed too if I had put a water bed in there as well.

The Weatherization Program is a program without controls. But these folks don't want to put controls on this program. They want to make money off of it. So they will get you to believe that they are "Non-Profits" and they are somehow interested in improving the housing stock. Well, if they were serious about that, they would have come up with monitoring protocols a long time ago.

I hope the State of PA and the PA PUC and DCED will finally take a deeper look at what has been going on and really look into the history of these events so as to come up with a truly efficient program that works for benefit of consumers and contractors.

Thomas Harrison, Millersville PA, former Energy Auditor/Inspector for PPL WRAP and Met Ed WARM

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