

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT :
2017 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM : **DOCKET NO. 4663**

COMMISSION DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO
PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT
November 7, 2016

COMM 1-1 Last year, the Commission inquired as to whether the System Benefit Charge of \$0.002 was too high, too low, or just right. Part of Pascoag Utility District's (Pascoag or District) response was that it would reevaluate the charge in 2017. Has Pascoag done this and if so, has the answer to the question that the charge is just right changed?

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

We did evaluate whether we thought the System Benefit Charge should change and we continue to believe that as of right now, the charge is just right. We are satisfied with the level of funding in the budget which allows us to have a robust energy efficiency program. We rarely have to turn away customers who turn in an application for an Energy Star Rebate. This level of funding also allows us to create new programs when opportunities arise and gives us the ability to reallocate funds with approval, to programs that have been more successful than anticipated. It seems that the use of the different programs by our customers is cyclical so this level of funding provides us with the flexibility we need to incentivize our customers based on their current needs.

COMM 1-2 Please provide the cost of the Spring Education Institute and identify the other training opportunities and associated costs.

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

The cost of the Spring Education Institute is \$2,200, with hotel, airfare and meals estimated to be \$2,000. The remaining \$1,734 of the budget was dedicated to any Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP), URI Outreach Center or American Public Power workshops/conferences that would be held in 2017. The remaining amount would also be used for mileage and any materials needed.

COMM 1-3 Please explain why Pascoag wishes to reduce the number of home energy audits it offers from fifteen to ten.

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

As of October we had only spent about half of what we had budgeted for energy audits. We decided to reduce the number of audits to ten and if the need was greater, seek permission to reallocate funding from a less successful program.

COMM 1-4 Schedule B indicates that the LED streetlight program qualified for a DSM rebate of \$116,999 in 2016. However, the approved 2016 budget and proposed 2017 budget are \$10,000. Will the remaining incentive be carried on the books of Pascoag as a receivable from the DSM program until such time as there are DSM funds available to pay the incentive?

Answered by Harle Round:

Yes, the District would like to carry the remaining incentive on the books as a receivable from DSM until such time as there are funds available to pay the incentive. The District uses the rebate funds to purchase more energy efficient LED Streetlights and install the devices on our system.

COMM 1-5 Pascoag's filing states that the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate program did not perform as well as expected in 2016. Does Pascoag know or is it able to speculate why the program did not perform as well as expected?

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

We believe that the way our customers use the different programs is cyclical. We have had many years where the Energy Efficient Appliance Program was depleted and we needed to reallocate funds to it. This year we're seeing an uptick in central air conditioning rebates. As we become aware of which programs aren't performing as well as expected, we try to advertise those programs to our customers more. We do this by notifying Customer Service of what programs they can remind customers about, advertising the programs in our local Bargain Buyer and using billing inserts. We also put together welcome packets for new customers when they come in to sign up for their account. Each customer receives a folder detailing our Energy Efficiency programs and how they can apply for them.

COMM 1-6 Of the eleven central air conditioning rebates processed in 2016 did the District track whether the rebates are for replacing existing central air systems or displacing window units?

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

We did not track that information but we can include that question in the new application for 2017.

COMM 1-7 Page 6 of Schedule B explains that for the first time under the Change-a-Light Campaign, all rebates processed in 2016 were for LED lights. Page 16 of Schedule C explains that the District will offer incentives for both CFL and LED lights in 2017. Why does the District propose to continue to incentivize the purchase of CFLs?

Answered by Desarae Dolan:

We would like to continue to give our customers the option to purchase CFLs as long as they are ENERGY STAR rated. We feel that CFLs still reduce energy consumption and are very inexpensive to purchase. We would like to incentivize it because it's still a step in the right direction of reducing energy consumption. Additionally, Pascoag has many low income customers and the CFL may be the cheaper option for them.