

MEMORANDUM

TO: ELECTRIC UTILITY COMMISSION

FROM: Carol Biedrzycki

DATE: December 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Suggested Process to Respond to Council Action on Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force Recommendations

City Council Action

At its regular meeting on December 10, 2015 the Austin City Council passed three resolutions in regard to the recommendations of the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force. The third resolution asks both the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission to review the recommendations with particular emphasis on those recommendations the Utility does not support and/or about which there was not consensus among the Task Force members, and to forward any additional comments to the Council.

Coordination with the RMC

As the chair of this task force which ended on October 1, 2015 I have talked to Cyrus Reed, another former task force member and a member of the Resource Management Commission (RMC). While either Commission is welcome to comment on any and all of the recommendations we thought it might be helpful to list the recommendations that do not have everyone's support and have the commissions try to come to some consensus on these. We have identified six. Please note that we did not include the items for future consideration as those are not task force recommendations. We are assuming the commissions' time would be better spent reviewing the recommendations that are directly at issue.

Review of Recommendations without Consensus

The city council appears to be looking for another opinion where the task force members did not reach a consensus agreement and Austin Energy is not taking the recommendation under consideration. I hope the EUC and RMC can serve the purpose of providing an opinion to the city council.

A list of the six outstanding recommendations is attached to this memo. It contains a very brief description of the recommendation, a page reference to the task force report and a recommendation number reference on the matrix of

recommendations prepared by Austin Energy and posted on the Electric Utility Commission website for the December 14, 2015 meeting.

How to Proceed?

I have been in touch with Austin Energy staff and we have agreed to talk about some of the recommendations in the hope that additional clarification of what the recommendations entail will help in moving them to the list of recommendations that are under consideration.

For each of the six recommendations not being considered by Austin Energy, all commission members can review the information provided by the majority and minority task force reports and by Austin Energy. At the January 24, 2016 meeting comments can be voiced or submitted in writing to the commission members. At this point we should have comments to provide to council which could include recommend approval, recommend disapproval, and/or recommend additional study.

I will take responsibility for setting up a meeting with Austin Energy prior to the next EUC meeting and will be happy to chair a working group if the commission decides a working group would facilitate the review and the Commission's response to City Council.

Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED THAT ARE NOT BEING
CONSIDERED BY AUSTIN ENERGY AND/OR
ARE OPPOSED IN THE MINORITY REPORT

Prepared by Carol Biedrzycki
December 14, 2015

1. Establish an annual minimum energy savings target of one percent of total energy sales. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 15 and Austin Energy item number 22.)
2. Set an annual demand savings goal for programs targeting low and low-moderate income customers of no less than 5% of the utility's peak demand savings and raise the demand goal by 1% per year up to 10%. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 17 and Austin Energy item number 23.)
3. Spend a minimum of 25% of the Energy Efficiency Services budget on programs that help low and low moderate income residential customers, with at least 10% of the Energy Efficiency Services budget dedicated to the free weatherization program. Furthermore, at least 15% of the total distributed solar budget for new projects should be dedicated to projects that benefit low and low moderate income customers. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 18 and Austin Energy item numbers 12 and 13.)
4. Make Energy Star window unit air conditioners the standard air conditioning application in the low income weatherization program and include under limited circumstances, repair and replacement of central air conditioners and expand income eligibility to low income customers whose household incomes are 250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or less as qualified by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 36 and Austin Energy item numbers 14 and 15.)
5. Condition an applicant's financial approval from Austin Housing Finance Corporation with seeking energy efficiency services from Austin Energy including solar for new and/or substantial rehabilitation construction. Higher rebates should be considered for these applicants. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 52 and Austin Energy item number 21.)
6. Develop a plan for fully enforcing the entire ECAD ordinance, especially for those multi-family facilities whose electric cost is 150% of average electrical cost, and present that plan to the Electric Utility Commission, the Resource Management Commission and the City Council for approval. Austin Energy should include funding for full enforcement of ECAD, according to the approved plan in its FY 2017 budget proposal. (See Task Force Final Report at p. 51 and Austin Energy item number 18.)