(text box: 1)BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PACIFICORP DBA UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO DISCON-TINUE ITS RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM. | )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO. UPL-E-96-6  ORDER NO.  26747 |

On October 23, 1996, PacifiCorp, dba Utah Power & Light Company, filed an Application for authority to discontinue its existing residential weatherization program set forth in the Company’s Schedule 21.  This program provides a home energy audit and assistance in the form of a 70% grant on the cost effective amount for qualifying energy efficiency measures not to exceed 70% of the actual cost of the weatherization work.  The Company requests to discontinue this program due to low participation.  Only eight customers took  advantage of the program in 1994 and seven customers in 1995.  Three households have completed the program this year through September 30, 1996.  The average rebate to UP&L customers during the period January 1, 1994 through September 30, 1996, was $561.

UP&L states that the weatherization program costs are high.  The administration and field work which includes the audit, analysis and inspection after the weatherization work has been completed, are estimated to be approximately $440 per home.  Based on the program’s low participation rate, along with its cost inefficiency, UP&L is requesting to discontinue this service to existing residential customers.  On November 7, 1996, the Commission issued a Notice of Modified Procedure soliciting comments in response to the Company’s Application.  Comments were received from the Commission Staff and the State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare.

Commission Staff

Staff supports the Company’s request to terminate the Residential Weatherization Program.  Staff believes that the declining participation in the program reflects a saturation of the market and does not expect that participation would increase under any terms that would be considered cost effective in today’s energy market.  Staff believes that those customers who are likely to participate in the program, have already done so.  Staff concludes that to require the Company to maintain the infrastructure necessary for continued program operation at the low levels of participation that are expected is not reasonable.  In addition, Staff notes that the Idaho Department of Water Resources’ low interest loan program (currently 3%) is still available for those homes that may require additional weatherization.  Staff encourages the Company to ensure that its customer service representatives are familiar with this program and can refer any interested customers to it.

Department of Health and Welfare

On November 13, 1996, the Department of Health and Welfare (H&W) filed comments objecting to the Company’s request to terminate the Weatherization Program.  In those initial comments, H&W asserted that the Company had overstated the costs incurred in operating the program and understated the number of customers who participated in the program.

On December 2, 1996, H&W filed revised comments in which it recognized that it was previously unaware that there is more than one weatherization program contained in the Company’s Schedule 21 and that the program PacifiCorp proposes to discontinue is not the “energy conservation services to low-income customers” program that H&W is concerned about.  Consequently, H&W has no objection to the Company’s request.

F I N D I N G S

Apart from the misunderstanding involving the Department of Health and Welfare, no party objected to the termination of Utah Power’s Residential Weatherization Program.  It would appear that, as Staff surmises, the market for the Company’s program has been saturated.  It would not be cost effective nor warranted to require Utah Power to expend effort and capital in order to maintain the infrastructure for a program that is apparently no longer of much value to the Company’s customers.  We find, therefore, that it would be reasonable to allow Utah Power to terminate the program.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Application of PacifiCorp dba Utah Power & Light Company, for authority to terminate its residential weatherization program (Schedule 21) is approved effective as of the date of this Order.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.  Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No.  UPL-E-96-6 may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. UPL-E-96-6.  Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration.  See Idaho Code § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this                  day of December 1996.

                                                                                                                                      RALPH NELSON, PRESIDENT

                                                                                           MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

vld/O:UPL-E-96-6.bp3

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

January 2, 1997