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**Utility Sounding Board (USB) Gathering**  
**March 9, 2011 (8:30 – 3:30 a.m. PST)**  
***BPA Headquarters***

**USB in the Post 2011 World**

Discussion – USB & Andrew Miller

- Post 2011 regional framework will change how the region will pursue conservation activities.
- Is the USB an appropriate vehicle to receive and share information?
- Does the current USB structure address broad based utility representation across a wide range of activities?
- Publish information – need improvement in the use of existing communication tools. Improved coordination and follow through on issues in a timely and satisfactory way. Need closer coordination with other BPA feedback groups.
  
- Need a return to the foundational values of the USB.
- Is there a regional need for the USB?
- Do utilities still want to participate in the USB?
  
- Conduit pilot use – USB pilot participation can influence regional adoption. It is a great resource for utilities and regional stakeholders.

**EE Central**

Update – Rasa Keanini

- System development requirements completed - 9/30/10.
- Specifications and development Phase 2 price lower than expected Nexant Inc., started work in January after revisiting functional requirements/ specification documents.
- Nextant Inc. started designing the software in February.
- Need testers to reflect regional needs/ usage patterns on core functionality. Core functionality is defined to be, the ability to receive and record EE project information from utilities and a way for BPA to pay utilities. *Action: Need prototype testers*
  - 5 prototypes for core functionality -
    - 1) Deemed measure management flow
    - 2) Custom Project management flow
    - 3) COTR functionality,
    - 4) Miscellaneous work flow
    - 5) General reporting.
  
- Testing schedule –BPA will email USB members testing schedule. Current, PTR data migration is scheduled to commence in August.

**PTCS Users Group**

Discussion – USB, utility representatives, Sarah Moore

**A. PTCS Duct Sealing Spec Impacts**

- Not a positive or negative change – depends on climate zone. Old vs. new spec – Old spec is more of a “how to”, training and an authentic specification. The new spec is strictly a spec – no background information or how to do the work.
- Main differences – new spec calls for the sealing of all the ducts in order to meet guideline for reimbursement. **Question/Issue** - Pre-leakage levels meet specification and you do an (*existing*) HP change out, does the contractor need to do the ducts? In reality, Heat Pump and duct sealing are two separate programs under one PTCS umbrella. The door is open for the next six months to receive feedback on specification implementation throughout the region.

## **B. Contractor Participation Form**

### **NEW Document**

- Powerful tool for compliance. When people signed something, they are more inclined to follow through on the action they are agreeing to participate.
- The participation form also sets the groundwork for better management of PTCS contractors – it sets performance/business relationship expectations. If needed, the form allows utility to put in place an “action plan” for corrective action.
- This document would reside with the program administrator (currently, ECOs).
- The form can give the contractor and overview of what the ideal PTCS process/contractor participation looks like. A roadmap. Utilities retain the option to be more stringent in participation procedures.
- The Participation Form is for the technician. It is not an agreement between a technician and QA inspector.

## **C. QA Procedures**

The procedures should reference language in the QA agreement. Ideally, program participants (utilities) receive an overview of how the QA process is evolving with a quarterly report that summarizes QA issues and recommendations for improvement. This type of information will improve utility line of sight on what is going on in the field and what is/might be on the horizon.

## **D. Consideration of Charging Contractors a fee when they fail to install required CO monitor**

- CAZ testing - Tracking QA process, QA inspector noticing that the monitor is not installed.
- The failure rate is not high, but the issue is completely avoidable. Proposed penalty - \$250 and will be levied when a contractor fails to install CO2 monitor when the monitor is required. Required when a combustion appliance (gas water heater, wood stove, and fireplace) is on the home. Paperwork needed to ensure that CO monitor was left behind.
- **Question/Issue:** What if the homeowner removes monitor...?

USB is not comfortable with potential penalty as the issue can be addressed differently. Can a contractor be removed from the program for not installing monitor? How many times? Etc.

## **EE Utility Summit**

Update – Maggie Bagan & David Moody

[2011 Energy Efficiency Utility Summit – Efficiency Matters](#)

## EE Summit continued

- Preliminary agenda handout (walk through) Building codes session – Residential, Commercial or both...? Collaborating with Ag Market Partners – Irrigation focus...?
- Social Media – E Source presenter – best practices, different from '10.
- **Question:** Have you estimated attendance per session to organize the sessions for accuracy and session balance?
- General request for better information around the [Energy Smart Utility Efficiency](#) program and the business case for Demand Response. Most conservation staff needs access to better information on these two areas to fully understand all possibilities for improved utility engagement.

## RTF Report

Update – Danielle Gidding

- Measure guideline development to inform the region on how to get measures deemed.
- The handout indicates the “*measure buckets*” that have been defined to date.
- The guidelines have raised the bar for what it takes for a measure to become deemed.
- **If a measure is not deemed** – Measure needs a research plan in order to move forward with the RTF.
- RTF is a central body that the entire region utilizes and the guidelines need the advance the work that is being done i.e., small saver, pilot, provisional, deemed.
- The RTF are reviewing the guidelines for potential revisions.
- **Request:** A BPA prioritization list on measure research plans. Post 2011 question – Is this research part of infrastructure costs? Is there a trade off (give up a 3<sup>rd</sup> party program)?
- See attached handout.

## Retail Allocation Methodology

Inform – Sarah F. Moore

- How are savings from the Retail Markdown ([Simple Steps Smart Savings](#)) option allocated in areas served by multiple utilities?
- For example, larger utilities run their promotions independently – who gets credit for bulb sales at a big box store that attracts shoppers from multiple utility service districts?
- A new methodology (tool) is being developed based on more refined consumer behavior assumptions and the objective is to more accurately credit savings to servicing utility.

## USB Use of Conduit

Discuss – Summer Goodwin

Abbreviated demonstration of Conduit

[www.conduitnw.org](http://www.conduitnw.org)

## T8 Marketing Materials

Inform – Sarah Gabel

For Discussion Purposes Only

An overview of 3/9/11 T8 Marketing Materials brownbag was presented. Additional information can be found on BPA's web site on the [T8 Lighting Project](#) web page.

**RBSA**

Inform – Carrie Cob

- NEEA's Residential Building Stock Assessment Phone survey review/discussion.
- See attached handout.

**Open Forum**

Discussion – All

-End at 3:30pm-

Please contact your [EER](#) for additional information