

Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources
CEUD Workgroup Materials for January 10, 2014

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Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) – Regulatory Process with Examples

Table 1. Types of CIP Items

Item	Timing	Purpose
CIP Plan	3-year cycle	establishes budgets, energy savings goals, participation goals, programs/projects and their measures, and approved energy savings for each measure
CIP Status Report	annually	Report of actual performance for the past year in comparison to budgets and goals established in the CIP Plan
Program Modification	as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addition of a new program (within a 3-year cycle) • changes to an existing program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ changes to budget ○ addition or removal of measures ○ updates to energy savings estimates ○ substantial program design changes (combining programs)
Program Termination	as appropriate	Complete removal of a program
Alternative CIP program	anytime	Provision in statute allows a party other than a utility to offer energy efficiency opportunities to customers

Table 2. Sequential Regulatory Steps

Filing	Who	Purpose
Initial Filing (proposal)	Utility	Either required by statute or needed to improve a program or portfolio
Comments	Any interested stakeholders	To provide insights about the proposal for DER Staff to include in their analysis
Information Requests (IR)	DER Staff	To request additional relevant information about item under considerations. DER Staff may file IRs at any time in the process but typically near the beginning during the comment and reply comment period.
Reply Comments (to Comments)	Utility	To respond to Comments that have been made by interested stakeholders; occasional interested stakeholders file additional comments at this time
Staff Proposed Decision (PD)	DER Staff	A recommendation to the Deputy Commissioner about how to proceed with the proposal (whether to approve as proposed, recommended changes to the proposal). A PD is not required by statute for Status Reports and is filed at the discretion of DER Staff.

Reply Comments (to PD)	Utility	To respond to Staff's PD. Utility often agree with Staff's recommendation(s) or present an argument to support their disagreement, or propose a compromise; occasional interested stakeholders file additional comments at this time
Deputy Commissioner Decision	Deputy Commissioner	Final decision regarding the proposal. Final approval of the content of all filings listed in Table 1 rests with Commerce Commissioner, delegated to DER Deputy Commissioner. There is a provision where a utility could appeal a decision to the PUC but this has never happened to date.

The CIP Statues do not contain provisions for:

- Establishing Intervener status
- Granting access to trade secret data
- Conducting discovery requests and signing associated non-disclosure agreements

Note: The types of requests being discussed are for data sets or data queries that typically have not yet been created and/or compiled, and that are not typically generated as part of a CIP plan or program review.

Table 3. Components of a CIP Plan

Component	Description	Example
Plan/Portfolio	An entire CIP Plan	CenterPoint Energy's 2013-2015 CIP Plan
Program/Project	A CIP Plan is made up of multiple programs/projects	CenterPoint Energy's Heating System Rebate project
Measure	A CIP project/program often contains multiple measures.	Heating System Rebate project contains 10 measures. The measures are associated with different types of heating equipment (i.e. 92-93.9% AFUE), applications of that equipment (new construction vs. retrofit, or other activities (programmable thermostat installations, boiler tune-ups). The methodology for deriving energy savings is established during the CIP Plan review process.