

**Response of  
Interstate Power and Light Company  
to  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
Data Request No. 105**

Docket Number: EEP-08-1  
Date of Request: July 10, 2008  
Response Due: July 17, 2008  
Information Requested By: Jennifer Easler  
Date Responded: July 17, 2008  
Author: Lisa Pucelik  
Author's Title: Product Manager  
Author's Telephone No.: (319) 786-4283  
Subject: New Home Construction  
Reference: Interstate Proposed Energy Efficiency Plan, page 72

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The New Home Construction program goal is “to produce a permanent improvement in ‘standard’ design and construction practices. . .” and IPL “intends to explore opportunities for enhancing market potentials and improving energy-savings potentials in this program by promoting a more comprehensive residential new construction concept.”

- A. Please provide specific details on how IPL intends to achieve a permanent improvement in “standard” design.
- B. Please provide specific details of the “comprehensive residential new construction concept.”
- C. Please explain how IPL intends to reach out to and involve architects in the design assistance process.

**Response**

- A. There is already evidence that programs offered by IPL and other Iowa utilities are changing the way builders approach new residential homes. In 2006, Iowa achieved the third largest percentage of homes being built to ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> standards in the nation. See IPL’s response to OCA Data Request No. 45 for more details. In addition to providing builders with an incentive to build homes that are more efficient than state code requires, IPL hopes that this program will

educate builders about energy efficiency and change the standard practice. Though IPL believes rebates are still necessary to continue this high level of energy-efficient building practices, it will continue to monitor the new construction market to determine if this market has been sufficiently transformed to a point where incentives are no longer necessary to ensure homes are built to ENERGY STAR standards.

- B. With the trend among progressive homebuilders and consumers toward sustainable or “green” homes, IPL will explore the role of the utility in this movement. There are several nationally recognized green building options that IPL will research including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and National Association of Home Builders Green Home Building Guidelines. Specific details about a more comprehensive residential new construction concept are not available, pending the results of this research.
- C. The New Home Construction program does not provide design assistance. However, the Commercial New Construction (CNC) program offers design assistance and, when appropriate, information on the residential new construction program is included at trade shows and in the promotion of the CNC program to builders and architects.