

**Response of
Interstate Power and Light Company
to
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
Data Request No. 106**

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Response Due: July 17, 2008
Information Requested By: Jennifer Easler
Date Responded: July 17, 2008
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Subject: Residential Programs

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- A. Please identify and explain all steps taken by Interstate to focus on strengthening the infrastructure necessary to support the development of a comprehensive "building performance" contractor market. Has Interstate considered a contractor certification initiative which could help increase the marketability and name recognition of the energy efficiency program to improve validity, trust, and participation? If not, why not?
- B. Identify, list, and explain all steps considered by Interstate to provide advanced diagnostic training, technical assistance, financing and other support to enable contractors to purchase diagnostic equipment such as blower doors and duct blasters. Conversely, if Interstate does not believe that this would be beneficial to the energy efficiency program, specifically state the reasons underlying that belief.

Response

- A. IPL has long supported the contractor, dealer and trade ally network as crucial participants when educating customers on the benefits of energy efficiency. IPL will rely on this network to form the basis of a comprehensive building performance contractor market. Contractor training will be the first step in the creation of the network to ensure there are skilled contractors to help deliver programs such as Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®] (HPwES).

The investor owned utilities (IOUs) are working with the Iowa Energy Center to establish training guidelines for quality installation and HPwES. One of options being considered is a training program that would culminate in "utility approved" contractor status.

- B. IPL strongly encourages and supports training opportunities for dealers and contractors. In addition to reimbursing participating dealers for training, IPL regularly promotes and funds training opportunities throughout the service territory.

Funding the purchase of home performance testing equipment has not been explored by IPL. It is IPL's belief that funding the purchase of equipment for contractors is not prudent use of ratepayer dollars. If IPL utilized DSM funds to purchase equipment it could only be utilized in homes of IPL customers. Although diagnostic equipment such as blower doors and duct blasters are necessary components of home performance testing, they are ultimately contractor expenses necessary for conducting business.