

DRAM

DEMAND RESPONSE *and* ADVANCED METERING Coalition

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Demand Response Group Applauds California Approval of Smart Meters

Coalition Says Move Will Put Technology in Place to Help Manage Electricity Demand during Peak Periods

(Washington, DC July 20, 2006) The Demand Response and Advanced Metering Coalition (DRAM), the trade association for provider of products and services for managing the nation's peak electricity situation, praised today the action of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve the installation of a smart metering system at a major California electric utility. As a result of the approval, all 5 Million electricity customers of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company will soon have a smart meter and be enabled to participate in time-based pricing and other demand response programs that help reduce peak electricity use.

Dan Delurey, DRAM Executive Director, said the order sends the right signal at the right time to policy makers, utilities and other stakeholders. "In recent days, all across the nation, we have seen our electricity system strained to near its limits as electricity usage on peak has soared", said Delurey. "Yet without the ability to measure electricity use at the particular time that it is used – which is what technologies like smart meters do – it is difficult to provide price signals that will serve as incentives to customers to manage their electricity use more efficiently and in ways which not only can reduce their bill but the overall cost to produce and deliver electricity during peak periods. With last year's federal energy bill asking each State to consider implementing demand response and advanced metering, the CPUC Decision and the information supporting may help other states learn more about broad scale deployment of advanced metering and the ways that it can provide value to both the utility and the customer.

The approval of the Smart Meter installation not only recognizes the ability of the meters to enable customers to practice demand response but the other benefits that they bring to a utility and its customers. "Many of the benefits of the installation that was approved for PG&E come in improvements to the core operations of the utility," said Delurey. "The new metering system will allow new capabilities in the area of outage management and restoration, customer service and data management among others".

The DRAM Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information on demand response and its enabling technologies. Its members include: eMeter, Echelon, Landis + Gyr, ESCO Technologies, Elster Electricity, SmartSynch, Silver Spring Networks, Hunt Technologies, Comverge, EnerNOC, Cellnet, Itron, Energy Solve and Sensus Metering. More information on DRAM is available at www.dramcoalition.org.

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