

Staff Briefing Papers

Meeting Date	August 16, 2018	Agenda Item *4
Company	CenterPoint Energy Xcel Energy Great Plains Natural Gas Co.	
Docket Nos.	G-008/M-16-486 G-002/M-16-493 G-004/M-16-495 In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Evaluation of its 2016 Gas Affordability Program In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Evaluation of its 2016 Gas Affordability Program In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s Evaluation of its 2016 Gas Affordability Program	
Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Should the Commission accept the Gas Affordability Program Stakeholders' report? 2) Should the Commission adopt the Stakeholder Group's streamlined method of reporting? 3) Is CenterPoint Energy able to provide the information in the format as recommended by the Department? 	
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Relevant Documents

Date

Commission - *Order Approving Periodic Gas Affordability Program Evaluations And Requiring Further Action*

May 22, 2017

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The attached materials are work papers of the Commission Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

 **Relevant Documents**

Date

Utility Stakeholder Group - Report & Attachment A

May 22, 2018

I. Statement of the Issues

- 1) Should the Commission accept the Gas Affordability Program (GAP) Stakeholders' Report?
- 2) Should the Commission adopt the Stakeholder Group's streamlined method of reporting?
- 3) Is CenterPoint Energy able to provide the information in the format as recommended by the Department?

II. Background

May 22, 2017: The Commission issued its *Order Approving Periodic Gas Affordability Program Evaluations and Requiring Further Action* accepting the GAP evaluation reports and requiring a stakeholder workgroup of the utilities that offer a GAP, third party GAP administrators, and the Department, to discuss if changes should be made to the GAPs. Members of the Utility Stakeholder Group met in May 2017, September 2017, October 2017 and January 2018.

May 22, 2018: The Utility Stakeholder Group submitted its report in which it discussed four major areas related to the GAPs:

- Reporting;
- Spending Cap;
- Enrollment/Application; and
- Miscellaneous.

The Group concluded that the appropriate framework is in place for ongoing evaluation of the Programs and determined that no changes to the GAPs are warranted at this time. The Group stated that the spending-cap and enrollment issues discussed within the report should be revisited at the time the utilities' file their next evaluation reports. The Group is also recommending a move to streamline the format the utilities use when filing the annual report.

A copy of the five page stakeholder report and Attachment A is included in this briefing paper.

III. Decision Options

The Commission will need to make three decisions in this docket:

1. Should the Commission accept the Utility Stakeholder Report as filed?
 - a. Accept, or
 - b. Do not accept.

2. Should the Commission adopt the Utility Stakeholder Group's streamlined method of reporting?
 - a. Adopt the streamlined reporting format as presented in Attachment A to the Utility Stakeholder Report, or
 - b. Do not adopt the streamlined reporting format.

3. Determine if CenterPoint Energy is able to provide the information in the streamlined format recommended by the Group, and if not; what method should the Commission require CenterPoint Energy to use to meet its annual reporting requirement?
 - a. Require CenterPoint Energy to submit a compliance filing once it determines whether it can provide "impact on payment frequency" information for its non-LIHEAP residential customers, or
 - b. Do not require CenterPoint Energy to submit a compliance filing.