

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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June 16, 2011

**HERS Industry Update on the Status of the CHEERS Certification for Newly Constructed Buildings for the 2008 Building Energy Efficiency Standards**

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on the status of the California Home Energy Efficiency Rating Services' (CHEERS) submittal and the California Energy Commission's review of the CHEERS Newly Constructed Buildings registry and database.

On October 15, 2010 CHEERS agreed that its registry and database did not meet the requirements set forth in the HERS Regulations and the Standards, and stopped accepting new projects into its registry.

In a letter on January 31, 2011, I pledged that "my staff will work with CHEERS to complete the testing and review process as soon as possible." I also reiterated that "the timeframe for CHEERS to receive certification for Newly Constructed Buildings depends upon the quality of CHEERS' submittal and the responsiveness of CHEERS to registry and database programming improvements identified as necessary to be in compliance with the law." Since then, my staff have continued reviewing and testing CHEERS' submittals as they were provided. At the request of Commissioner Douglas, CHEERS provided an in-person demonstration of its registry and database to Energy Commission staff, management and Commissioners' advisors on April 29, 2011. At the demonstration significant deficiencies were found in the form validation processes and in the database search capabilities. CHEERS' representatives acknowledged that its system was deficient and not in compliance with the Regulations.

CHEERS submitted a revised database and registry on May 26, 2011. Staff immediately began reviewing and testing the submittal, and were pleased to find that significant improvements have been made in many areas; however, some deficiencies remain—particularly with respect to the forms and search capabilities. The remaining deficiencies continue to compromise both the Commission's and CHEERS' ability to provide adequate quality assurance and oversight for CHEERS-Certified Raters.

We are committed to working with CHEERS to resolve these outstanding issues; it is our goal that CHEERS achieve certification at the earliest possible opportunity. In addition, both of the certified HERS Providers, CalCERTS and CBPCA, are offering challenge tests to CHEERS Raters so they can continue providing Title 24 field verification ratings for Newly Constructed Buildings.

At this time, CHEERS has provided information to the Energy Commission only for certification as a HERS Provider for Newly Constructed Buildings. CHEERS has not provided the Energy Commission with an anticipated date for delivery of the certification

review information for Alterations, the New Solar Homes Partnership Program, or for HERS Whole-House Home Energy Ratings (HERS II). Therefore, CHEERS is not authorized to provide certification for Raters to perform these functions.

Recently, the Energy Commission has received communications from a number of Raters concerned about CHEERS certification, and is responding to each with updated information. We welcome your questions and suggestions for dealing with this difficult situation, as we continue to hold the performance of HERS Providers and the integrity of the HERS industry as top priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Panama Bartholomy', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

PANAMA BARTHOLOMY, Deputy Director  
Efficiency and Renewable Energy Division