

Subscription to Lippman Consulting, Inc. for Web-based Natural Gas Databases

Contact: Ruben Tavares (4-5171)

Time Needed: 5 minutes

Action Requested: Staff will be asking the full Energy Commission for approval to renew the \$50,000 subscription to Lippman Consulting natural gas pipeline and production databases.

Business Meeting Date: November 2, 2011

Background: Staff is requesting a one-year subscription to Lippman Consulting, Inc. for their web-based databases. Staff has been using the pipeline database and the production database as sources of data to perform research and assessments of natural gas supply. During the *2011 IEPR* cycle, staff used the databases to develop tables and graphs for the reports presented during the workshops.

Lippman Consulting is currently offering a suite of products that include:

Pipeline Database, Production Database, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Database, Storage Database, Supply & Consumption Database, Gas Power Plant Database, Gas Processing Plant Database, Gas Supply Forecast Model, and the Pipeline Forecast Loading Model.

In previous years, staff has only subscribed to the first two products (Pipeline and Production Databases). Staff reviewed and used, on a trial basis, the additional databases that Lippman is now offering to staff again, but found that most of the additional information in the databases is already contained in Pipe Ranger, Envoy, the Energy Information Agency's (EIA's) public data bases, and Bentek. However, the Pipeline and Production Database are unique and useful. Therefore, staff recommends that we continue to subscribe to the Pipeline and Production Databases for an additional year.

The cost of the subscription for a year is \$50,000.

Justification for Action Requested: The databases are unique and include pipeline and field production data of natural gas from North America that is not contained anywhere else.

Pros and Cons:

Pros: Access to these databases will allow staff to use data to estimate current supply of natural gas from different basins, including shale for the 2012 *IEPR* natural gas work. Although all the data is publicly available, it is scattered in numerous places and individual databases.

Cons: The databases are getting expensive. The cost for the two databases increased 24 percent from last year (from 40,500 in 2010-2011 to \$50,000 for 2011-2012.) Staff will be looking for alternatives over the next year.

What Happens Next: This item will move forward to the November 2, 2011, Business Meeting for full Energy Commission approval.