



DIVISION OF RATEPAYER ADVOCATES

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

**Briefing Material for
California Energy Commission (CEC)
Load Management Standards Workshop on AMI
May 27, 2008**

The Voice of Consumers, Making a Difference!



DRA Participation in AMI Deployment Applications

- Stipulation with PG&E in its 2005 AMI Full Deployment application. (A.05-06-028)
- Full settlements with SCE and SDG&E in their pre-deployment and full deployment applications. (A.05-03-015, A.06-12-026, A.07-07-026)
- Cost-effectiveness review of the current PG&E AMI Upgrade. (A.07-12-009)



DRA's Objectives in Reviewing AMI Applications

- AMI and AMI-enabled demand response programs must be cost-effective from the ratepayer perspective.
- AMI communication should be based on a non-proprietary standard, and be interoperable with future smart grid technology.
- AMI-enabled demand response programs should be coupled with customer enabling technology.



Concerns from the Ratepayer Perspective – Lessons Learned from SCE AMI Deployment

- Benefits realization – benefits should flow to ratepayers as meters are deployed.
- Risk sharing as incentive against cost-overruns.
- Network sharing with non-electric utilities.
- Interoperable energy management technology.
- Costs should be allocated in a way that is consistent with how benefits will flow to each customer class.
- Minimization of free-ridership in AMI-enabled price-based demand response programs.

4



Emerging Standards in AMI Communication Protocols

- AMI communication standards can potentially occur at various levels:
 - Between advanced meter and the home.
 - Between advanced meter and utility data management systems
 - Between advanced meter, or utility data management systems, and the grid operator.
- DRA supports Zigbee, a standardized communication gateway between the meter and the home.



Conclusion

- AMI deployment must be cost-effective and lead to actual ratepayer benefits.

