

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Nicole Biggart [nwbiggart@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 11:05 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: Docker No. 12-EPIC-01: Comment on EPIC Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan



To the California Energy Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed triennial investment plan. In general, we feel that you have done a great job bringing together disparate issues, objectives, and perspectives to create an excellent plan within a very short time frame. In the spirit of making the plan a bit more comprehensive and cohesive, we have two comments for your consideration.

Our first comment addresses the treatment of education in the plan. The investment plan does a good job addressing workforce development in the Market Facilitation chapter, but the focus seems to be limited to training the workers who will execute energy efficiency projects. This is laudable, but does not seem to take into consideration the importance of training the entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers needed to spawn the next generation of energy efficiency developments. As such, we recommend that Chapter 5's treatment of workforce development be expanded to include specific objectives supporting university educational programs (research training, seminars, courses, etc.) that will develop future scientists and foster the business expertise needed for future energy efficiency innovation.

Our second comment focuses on clarity. Chapters 1 and 2 (particularly page 8) reference the plan's mandatory guiding principle and its complementary guiding principles, all of which are relatively specific. However, when the document proceeds to describing the energy innovation pipeline (chapters 3 through 5), despite numerous references to the CA Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan, explicit linkages back to the investment plan's guiding principles appear to be missing. It seems to us that the EPIC investment plan and the Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan should be complementary, mutually-reinforcing documents. As such, we recommend that achieving or working toward the specific goals of the CA Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan should be explicitly cited in the triennial investment plan in Chapters 3 through 5.

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