



In the matter of:)	Docket No. 13-ATTCP-01
)	
Acceptance and Training Certification)	Notice of Availability
)	Staff Report on the NEBB ATTCP
_____)	Application

Notice of Availability

Staff Report on the National Environmental Balancing Bureau, Inc. application to be approved as an Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider for Nonresidential Mechanical Systems.

California Energy Commission staff has made available for public comment the Staff Report on the National Environmental Balancing Bureau, Inc. application to be approved as an Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider for Nonresidential Mechanical Systems as provided for under Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, §10-103-B(c).

This application will be considered for approval by the Commission during the January 13, 2016, Business Meeting.

Background

The purpose of the Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider (ATTCP) program is to provide training, certification, and oversight of Acceptance Test Technicians¹ (ATTs) who perform the acceptance tests required by the 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Standards). ATTCPs are professional organizations required to provide training curriculum for technicians and their employers, certification procedures, complaint resolution (including disciplinary procedures), quality assurance, and accountability measures. Acceptance testing ensures that installed equipment, controls, and systems operate as required by the Energy Standards. The National Environmental Balancing Bureau, Inc. (NEBB) submitted its application to the California Energy Commission for approval as a Nonresidential Mechanical ATTCP on June 16, 2014.

Staff completed the evaluation of NEBB's application pursuant to Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, §10-103-B(f), which requires review of ATTCP applications according to the

¹ Acceptance Test Technician is a Field Technician as defined in §10-102 who is certified by an authorized Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider pursuant to the requirements of §10-103-A or §10-103-B.

criteria and procedures set forth in Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, §10-103-B(c). Staff summarized the relevant sections from NEBB's application as they pertain to Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, §10-103-B(c)1 through §10-103-B(c)3. Furthermore, staff assessed and determined whether the NEBB application meets each corresponding requirement.

NEBB proposes to launch a Nonresidential ATTCP program allowing each technician to certify on each individual acceptance test. The intent of this modular strategy is to be sensitive to the needs of the small heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) commercial contractor, who will not benefit from additional training that they will not use nor require. Small HVAC commercial contractors who do not possess or require the experience in complex systems such as hydronics, chillers, thermal storage systems, or energy management systems, generally perform the majority of the light (small) commercial work, which is a large share of the available work in California. The NEBB association is primarily composed of these small HVAC commercial contractors.

NEBB will rely on an online data registry that will be operated by the ESCO Group. The registry, which is not to be confused with the Nonresidential Data Registry, will monitor technicians and employers and restrict them to only those acceptance tests for which they possess certification. Certification will require all technicians who apply to pass an entrance exam, complete the necessary training, and pass an exit exam for both classroom and laboratory material. The registry is a critical component of the application, as it will serve many purposes, which include:

- Application portal.
- Document archive.
- Mechanism for filing complaints.
- Verification tool of certification status.
- A repository for all the required information for which acceptance providers, local building departments, and Energy Commission staff may request.

NEBB will use the registry to perform continuous checks on the efficacy of the forms in process to compare like forms and forms completed by individual certified technicians. Any abnormalities flagged by the automated system will initiate an investigation. Audits will occur on a scheduled and unscheduled basis to ensure consistency. NEBB's standing Oversight and Accountability Committee will review any audit findings to make any determinations on disciplinary actions. NEBB will select auditors to perform these investigations who are not in competition with the ATT in the same local market. These auditors will have a minimum of five years of field experience and possess an ATT certification in the appropriate acceptance test.

Another aspect of NEBB's proposal is that NEBB does not directly control the appropriate training facilities in California with the capability to perform all necessary mechanical systems acceptance tests required by 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (§120.5). NEBB's application includes a draft memorandum of understanding requiring signatures by the PG&E Training Center, the Brownson Technical School, and

the North American Training Center to provide accommodations for the hands-on training required for approval. NEBB will develop curriculum, training, procedures, and certification tests for use at these facilities. The facilities will provide appropriate training equipment, qualified instructors, and if required, examiners who meet or exceed the requirements set forth by NEBB, and approved by the Energy Commission. Staff has visited these facilities and concurs with NEBB that they would be acceptable for the training and test requirements described in the application.

Recommendation for Conditions of Approval:

Staff recommends four conditions of approval for the NEBB application. If NEBB is found to be in violation of these conditions, the Energy Commission may immediately suspend the NEBB ATTCP program approval.

1. In order to implement its proposed ATTCP program, NEBB must implement the registry. Without this registry the proposed program cannot operate.
2. Since NEBB does not own training centers, they must demonstrate that they have access to adequate training facilities for all of the acceptance tests. Staff recommends that NEBB file with the Energy Commission a signed memorandum of understanding with each facility that they are partnering with and identify what acceptance tests will be taught at each of those facilities.
3. To ensure that these training facilities are capable of providing the training that NEBB requires, staff recommends that NEBB representatives provide affidavits to the Energy Commission in verification of the facility's capabilities.
4. In the event that these training facilities become unavailable to NEBB, staff recommends that NEBB be required to notify the Energy Commission within a reasonable time frame of the event (10 working days) and be given a reasonable time frame to remedy the issue (90 days).

Public Comment

Oral comments. Staff will accept oral comments during the regularly scheduled Business Meeting on January 13, 2016. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any comments may become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Written comments. Written comments should be submitted to the Dockets Unit by **4:00 p.m. on December 30, 2015**. Written comments will be also accepted up to and during aforementioned Business Meeting, however, the Energy Commission may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the meeting. For additional information, see Standing Order re: Proceedings and Confidentiality Procedural Requirements for Filing, Service, and Docketing Documents with the Energy Commission, available at: www.energy.ca.gov/commission/chief_counsel/docket.html.

Additionally, written comments may be posted to the Energy Commission's website for the proceeding. Please note that your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. This information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and any organization name. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please include the docket number 13-ATTCP-01 and indicate Acceptance and Training Certification in the subject line. Send comments to:

docket@energy.ca.gov

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 13-ATTCP-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact Alana Mathews, the Public Adviser, by email at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact Joe Loyer at Joe.Loyer@energy.ca.gov or 916-654-4811.

Remote Attendance

You may participate in Business Meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

To join a meeting:

Specific instructions for joining the Energy Commission Business Meeting are posted on the Energy Commission website:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/calendar/index.php?d=2015-12-09&m=1>.

Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/attcp/>.

December 18, 2015

Dave Ashuckian, P.E.
Deputy Director
Efficiency Division

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