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Docket Number:	15-IEPR-05
Project Title:	Energy Efficiency
TN #:	204097
Document Title:	Presentation - Innovative Approaches to Inform Data Driven Decision Making
Description:	04-07-15 Workshop
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Organization:	PG&E
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
Submission Date:	4/9/2015 8:06:35 AM
Docketed Date:	4/9/2015



Innovative Approaches to Inform Data Driven Decision Making

Existing Buildings Energy Efficiency Action Plan Workshop
California Energy Commission - April 7, 2015

Market Challenges & Initiative Drivers

Market Challenges

- Energy modeling software tool availability and functionality
- Accuracy of energy savings predictions and impacts to customer decision-making
- Availability of usage data, but time consuming calibration

Initiative Drivers

- Participating contractors concerned about complexity of software, requested simpler tools that facilitate the job sales process
- CPUC directed IOUs to broaden allowable software under Energy Upgrade California (OP 61 D12-05-015)

CalTEST

Improves the accuracy of software while decreasing costs and allowing innovative sales processes

About CalTEST:

- Screening tool to determine a minimum level of accuracy of software based on actual CA homes
- Predictions are compared to weather normalized actual savings to determine realization rate and variance of the tool
- Software must pass average and site accuracy thresholds

Project Status:

- First CalTEST review was performed in Fall 2014, leading to the adoption of four new software models
- Established a nationally consistent output language format (CA HPXML)
- Open source tools developed, such as CZ 2010 weather files, to assist interested vendors to improve model accuracy

CalTRACK

Data-Driven Tracking & Feedback System

- Operationalizes the analysis of project performance data to provide ongoing feedback on gross savings, realization rates, and other performance metrics
- CalTRACK creates a cycle in which good results can be reported and rewarded
- Ongoing measurement and verification enables improved estimation of savings to aid regulated utilities and private market financiers to invest in energy efficiency



Combined Benefits and Opportunities

Benefits:

- Reduced modeling time, improved sales tools and better customer experience
- Software more accurately predicts savings
- Ability to track and provide contractor performance results

Opportunities:

- Opens the door for innovative incentive models
- More timely measurement to allow for data-driven improvements
- Better environment for private capital and industry investment

