

BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of, )  
 ) Docket No. 10-BSTD-01  
Workshop on Proposals for )  
Certification of Acceptance )  
Testing Field Technicians )

<b>DOCKET</b> 10-BSTD-1
DATE <b>FEB 27 2012</b>
REC <b>MAR 23 2012</b>

**Lead Commissioner Workshop on Proposals for Certification  
of Acceptance Testing Field Technicians  
For Mechanical Systems and Lighting Controls**

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

HEARING ROOM A

1516 NINTH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

1:07 P.M.

Reported by:  
Peter Petty

 ORIGINAL

Commission Staff Present:

Karen Douglas  
David Hungerford

Staff Present

Martha Brook  
Mazi Shirakh  
Pippin Brehler  
Ryan Ware  
Ron Yasny

Also Present (\*on phone/WebEx):

*Stakeholders*

Scott Wetch, IBEW  
Erik Emblem, Western States Council  
Mark Hydeman, Taylor Engineering, LLC  
Thomas Enslow, Adams, Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo  
Cesar Diaz, State Building Trades Council  
Dan Magyar, Magyar Electric  
Brian Jacoway, Valley Pacific Electric  
Tom Meredith, IBEW Local 340  
Ron Mitchell, Bay Area SMACNA  
Mark Paavola, Northern California SMWTC  
Tom Meyer, NEBB  
Chris Ruch, Final Air Balance Co., Inc.  
Art De Leon, Final Air Balance, Co., Inc  
Gary Andis, TABB  
Jim Taylor, AABC  
Michael Siminovitch, Cal LTNG Technology  
Bernie Kotlier, CALCTP  
Ellen Avis, UC Berkeley Donald Vial Center on Employment  
in the Green Economy  
Josh Allen, Allen Electrical Contracting  
Dave Dias, SMW Local 104  
James Page, International Training Institute  
Robert Helbing, Air Tro  
Mark Ouellette, ICF International  
Dale Gustavson, Better Buildings, Inc.  
Chris Walker, CAL SMACNA  
Bob Wiseman, Institute of Heating & Air Conditioning  
Industries  
Mike Outerbridge, Outerbridge Electric  
Keith Dias, SMW Local 104  
Randy Young, SMW, Local 162  
Lisa Hoyos, Blue Green Alliance

**Also Present (cont'd):**

Charles Knuffke, WattStopper  
Darlene Besst, NECA  
Eddie Bernacchi, NECA  
Richard Markuson, WECA, PHCC & ACTA  
Richard Garbrick, Schetter Electric  
Dennis Morrin, JATC  
Victoria Rome, NRDC  
Patrick Splitt, App-Tech  
Jon McHugh, McHugh Energy Consultants  
Patrick Pico, Advantage Construction Services  
Matt Tyler, PECI  
\*George Nesbitt, CalHERS

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P R O C E E D I N G S

FEBRUARY 27, 2012 1:07 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Good to see quite a few people here interested in talking about the proposal that we're here to discuss this afternoon.

I'd like to welcome everyone to coming and thank you for coming to this workshop to discuss potential Certification of Acceptance Testing Field Technicians for Mechanical Systems and Light Controls.

Since 2005, Title 24 has required acceptance testing of lighting and mechanical systems in new buildings, major renovations and equipment change-outs. Acceptance testing is a mechanism for ensuring HVAC and lighting systems are installed and calibrated so that they're in conformance with applicable codes as specified in the building design, and also contribute to meeting the State's energy policy goals, energy efficiency goals.

Compliance with the testing requirement is enforced by local governments. Last September the California Commissioning Collaborative published a report evaluating the efficacy of acceptance testing under Title 24 and the report identified a number of deficiencies with current acceptance testing methodologies, including a lack of clarity as to who is the responsible party, issues with lack of resources for enforcing the requirements of

1 building departments, difficulty in interpreting the  
2 acceptance test requirements and so on. And around the  
3 same time the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan  
4 was released. And this report indicates the amount of  
5 energy use consumed by commercial buildings which consume  
6 more electricity than any other end-use sector in  
7 California, represent about 5 billion square feet and  
8 about 38 percent of the electricity and 25 percent of the  
9 natural gas use in the state. So it's a pretty  
10 significant sector.

11           The Strategic Plan called out the issue of  
12 improper installation of mechanical systems as a barrier  
13 to achieving the efficiency goals that we're trying to  
14 achieve in the state and so that's another area where this  
15 issue has been identified.

16           And so today's Workshop is the first step of a  
17 proceeding in which we're trying to clarify our own  
18 understanding of these deficiencies with the current  
19 acceptance testing methodologies and identify potential  
20 solutions, including the possible adoption of appropriate  
21 criteria to ensure that individuals performing acceptance  
22 tests are properly trained and qualified. Our intention  
23 is to develop a proposed regulation for the Building  
24 Standards Commission on this topic essentially by the end  
25 of the year if we are able to do so. And our ability to

1 do so depends quite a lot on the ability of stakeholders  
2 to come forward and help us really understand both your  
3 views on the nature of the problem, the extended standing  
4 scope and significance of the problem and the ability of  
5 the proposed solution to help us address the concern.

6           So I appreciate your interest in this important  
7 matter, look forward to working with you and let me, at  
8 this time, ask the staff from the Building Standards to  
9 identify themselves and, I guess, you might want to  
10 provide your own basic introduction and the usual  
11 logistics that we go over. And, I guess, then you'll have  
12 a presentation?

13           MS. BROOK: Yeah. This is Martha Brook and that  
14 was not an emergency signal so we do not have to exit the  
15 building.

16           I'm Martha Brook. I'm a Senior Mechanical  
17 Engineer and I'm one of the program leads for the 2013  
18 update of Title 24 Part 6. Mazi?

19           MR. SHIRAKH: I'm Mazi Shirakh. Martha and I  
20 are the leads for this round of standards.

21           MR. BREHLER: Pippin Brehler, Senior Staff  
22 Counsel for the Energy Commission and I've been advising  
23 staff on the development of the Building Standards.

24           MS. BROOK: So I'm just going to go through the  
25 slide deck which is basically just an overview of what we

1 had in the Notice as far as background information and  
2 then it will introduce the questions that we also had in  
3 the Notice. And then what we're going to do is basically  
4 spend the whole Workshop getting your comments and what  
5 we're going to ask you to do is try to address the  
6 questions to the best that you can because we really think  
7 that's going to be the most help for the Commission as we  
8 go forward to consider where we are now and where we need  
9 to be.

10 So going forward we had our introduction from  
11 Karen Douglas and I'm just going to overview the  
12 background and the questions like I said and then we'll  
13 conclude at the end of the day.

14 Just correct me if I'm wrong, Commissioner  
15 Douglas, but we're anticipating that you're going to call  
16 people up one at a time using those blue cards?

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: That's correct. I'll  
18 call people up. We have a stack of blue cards and we'll  
19 definitely be happy to take more so if anyone didn't get  
20 around to filling out a blue card please do so.

21 MS. BROOK: Right. And another thing we want to  
22 do is make sure we have time for the WebEx callers to also  
23 chime in at some point during the afternoon.

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay.

25 MS. BROOK: So this will all be review if you



1 read our Notice. Basically where we're starting with  
2 background here is that in the 2005 update to the Building  
3 Energy Efficiency Standards we included nonresidential  
4 acceptance tests. And then it was really an attempt to  
5 include construction inspections and functional testing  
6 components of Building Commissioning at standard  
7 requirements. So we're really looking at the whole body  
8 of Building Commissioning and trying to figure out what we  
9 could take of that Building Commissioning process and  
10 include in as standard requirements and so that's where we  
11 started.

12           And in the evaluation of these acceptance test  
13 requirements, how they're enforced and how effective they  
14 are, was completed by the California Commissioning  
15 Collaborative and the final report was published in  
16 September 2011. It included 31 interviews of building  
17 officials, testing contractors, design engineers and  
18 building owners.

19           So basically, the findings from this study is  
20 that building departments, testing contractors, design  
21 engineers and building owners really need an approved  
22 understanding of the test requirements, the procedures,  
23 the forms that need to be completed and the methods for  
24 reviewing and approving the acceptance test once they are  
25 completed. The responsible party that's named in the

1 standards is often not specified on the forms and this  
2 makes it unclear about who is actually responsible for  
3 completing the forms and this leads to and contributes to  
4 the admission of the test actually getting completed.

5 Another finding is that only contractors who  
6 typically perform duct leakage tests have easy access to  
7 the equipment needed for the test that includes airflow  
8 measurements and that also that mechanical contractors  
9 that are most familiar with the mechanical acceptance  
10 tests that were studied in this review were those who  
11 performed test and balance tasks regularly.

12 Another aspect of the background we're trying to  
13 present is that the California Workforce Education and  
14 Training Needs Assessment that was done by UC Berkeley for  
15 the California Public Utility Commission in 2011 actually  
16 identified the California Advanced Lighting Controls  
17 Training Program as a nationally recognized model for  
18 improving work quality of already highly trained  
19 contractors who need training in specific energy  
20 efficiency applications.

21 This needs assessment reviewed CALCTP and found  
22 that the training is widely available throughout the  
23 state. It's available through the IBEW 23 joint  
24 apprenticeship and training centers, Community College  
25 Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Campuses are

1 providing this training as well as some of the investor-  
2 owned utility's energy training centers.

3 Another aspect that Karen mentioned of the  
4 relevant background is our Strategic Plan and the Lighting  
5 Action Plan that the Public Utility Commission has  
6 published that really supports training efforts such as  
7 CALCTP to train and certify licensed electrical  
8 contractors and state certified general electricians in  
9 the proper design, installation and commissioning of  
10 advanced lighting control systems.

11 And then in the fall of 2011 there were  
12 proposals to the Energy Commission from IBEW and the Sheet  
13 Metal Workers that advocate that only individuals that are  
14 trained and certified by specific certification programs  
15 should be allowed to perform these acceptance tests. The  
16 California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program  
17 certified contractors should be the only ones that can  
18 complete the lighting control tests and the testing,  
19 adjusting and balancing technicians. Three different  
20 certifications, AABC, NEBB and TABB certified  
21 professionals, would be appropriate for completing the  
22 HVAC acceptance tests.

23 So onto the questions that we included in the  
24 Workshop Notice, and this is really – these were drafted  
25 by Commission staff so that we could really get to

1 potentially developing a set of criteria that would be  
2 appropriate for approving industry certifications for  
3 acceptance tests, or even if such criteria is necessary.  
4 So I'm just going to read these 18 questions and then  
5 we'll be ready for Public Comment.

6           The first question is should the standards  
7 require Field Technicians who perform acceptance testing  
8 to meet specific training and certification requirements?

9           2. Would current Field Technicians who perform  
10 acceptance testing be disadvantaged by training and  
11 certification requirements? If they would be  
12 disadvantaged, how should training and certification  
13 requirements be designed to provide a reasonable path for  
14 these professionals to become qualified?

15           3. How would training and certification  
16 requirements for Field Technicians who perform acceptance  
17 testing help to address concerns related to any lack of  
18 enforcement by building departments of the acceptance  
19 requirements?

20           4. Are certified general electricians, who are  
21 also certified by the CALCTP program and who are  
22 performing work while employed by a California contractor  
23 who holds a CALCTP contractor certification, uniquely  
24 qualified to serve as acceptance testing Field Technicians  
25 for lighting controls?

1           5. Should electricians who are not certified  
2 general electricians - for example, C-10 licensed  
3 electrical contractors, or electricians working for school  
4 districts or plants, which are not required by state law  
5 to be certified general electricians - be allowed to serve  
6 as acceptance testing Field Technicians for lighting  
7 controls?

8           6. Should licensed engineers or contractors who  
9 are not CALCTP certified be allowed to serve as acceptance  
10 testing Field Technicians for lighting controls?

11           7. Should CALCTP certified general electricians,  
12 who are not employed by CALCTP certified-lighting  
13 contractors, be allowed to serve as acceptance testing  
14 Field Technicians for lighting controls?

15           8. Are TAB contractors uniquely qualified to  
16 serve as acceptance testing Field Technicians for HVAC  
17 equipment and controls?

18           9. Should licensed mechanical contractors, who  
19 are installing contractors, start-up contractors, or  
20 service contractors, that are not certified TAB  
21 contractors, be allowed to serve as acceptance testing  
22 Field Technicians for HVAC equipment and controls?

23           10. Should licensed mechanical engineers be  
24 allowed to serve as acceptance testing Field Technicians  
25 for HVAC equipment and controls?

1           11. Should building commissioning providers be  
2 allowed to serve as acceptance testing Field Technicians  
3 for HVAC equipment and controls and for lighting controls?

4           12. If additional persons other than those that  
5 are proposed by IBEW or the Sheet Metal Workers are  
6 allowed to serve as acceptance testing Field Technicians,  
7 should they be certified for professional qualifications?  
8 If so, what certifications would be appropriate for the  
9 additional persons (for example, licensed contractors,  
10 engineers, or building commissioning providers)?

11           13. Related to the proposal from IBEW, what are  
12 the existing requirements or prerequisites for certified  
13 general electricians and CALCTP certification, in terms of  
14 Training and Education; Professional experience;  
15 Registration, certification or licensing fees;  
16 Professional licensing or certification; Continuing  
17 education; Renewal; Other key qualification requirements  
18 and Eligibility to waive or fulfill any of the above  
19 requirements with other licenses, degrees or  
20 qualification.

21           14. Related to the proposal from the Sheet Metal  
22 Workers, what are the existing requirements or  
23 prerequisites for certification by AABC, by NEBB, and by  
24 TABB in terms of the same - Training and Education;  
25 Professional experience; Registration, certification or

1 licensing fees; Professional licensing or certification;  
2 Continuing education; Renewal; Other key qualification  
3 requirements and the Eligibility to waive or fulfill any  
4 of the above requirements with other licenses, degrees or  
5 qualification.

6           15. If TAB certification is required for  
7 acceptance testing by a Field Technician, should that be  
8 limited to acceptance testing related to airflow testing?

9           16. If CALCTP certification is required for  
10 acceptance testing by a Field Technician, should that be  
11 limited to the acceptance testing related to advanced  
12 controls that are the subject of CALCTP training?

13           17. What is the number, location and coverage of  
14 persons meeting the certification requirements advocated  
15 by IBEW and the Sheet Metal Workers? Specifically the  
16 number of certified professionals statewide, in what  
17 cities are the certified persons located? What locations  
18 of the state do not have certified persons within 50  
19 miles? What locations of the state have only a limited  
20 number of certified persons to cover the expected demand  
21 for acceptance testing?

22           And finally, 18. Should the Energy Commission  
23 adopt criteria for approval of industry certification  
24 programs? If so, what should the criteria be? What  
25 qualifications of current certification programs should be

1 included? Should the criteria include the following:

2 a. Approval by the Energy Commission of the  
3 curriculum for the certification program to include  
4 training in the acceptance testing requirements that are  
5 applicable to that program,

6 b. Demonstration of the trainee's mastery of the  
7 acceptance testing requirements in the field,

8 c. Quality assurance to ensure ongoing quality  
9 performance in completing the acceptance testing,

10 d. Complaint resolution to address concerns  
11 regarding certified Field Technician performance, and

12 e. Documented evidence of actions by the  
13 certification program to correct improper performance,  
14 provide remedial training, provide coaching or mentoring,  
15 provide penalties or decertification of certified persons  
16 who repeatedly fail to provide quality acceptance testing.

17 Oh, I'm not done yet.

18 To continue, should the criteria for  
19 certification include field experience prior to  
20 certification; field experience required to be under the  
21 supervision of a certified person,

22 g. Certification open to both union and non-  
23 union technicians Certification program administered by  
24 non-profit organization which encourages wide  
25 participation and is certified by ANSI, ISO or other



1 appropriate accreditation body,

2 i. Certification program free of conflicts of  
3 interests and maintains code of ethics,

4 j. Certification actively works with local  
5 building departments to promote compliance and enforcement  
6 of acceptance requirements and provides acceptance  
7 requirement training free of cost to local building  
8 department personnel in conjunction with training to  
9 technicians,

10 Or any other recommended criteria that you would  
11 like us to consider.

12 Okay. Now, Karen, you can go ahead and do your  
13 –

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. So before we  
15 get started with the list of people who are here to  
16 comment I just wanted to see if we have representatives  
17 from all of the certification agencies that we're talking  
18 about today in the room. I see that we have a  
19 representative from – Tom Meyer, Technical Director of  
20 NEBB. Good, okay. And Gary Andis, Director of TABB. T-  
21 A-B-B. Good. Representing the California Advanced  
22 Lighting Controls Program. Okay. Are you Bernie Kotlier?  
23 Kotlier? Kotlier. Good. And is there anybody here from  
24 AABC? Okay, good. So you haven't filled out a blue card  
25 but it's just good for me to know that you're here. So I

1 will – as questions come up that pertain to the  
2 certification programs that you offer it would be great if  
3 you remember when it's your time to come up to answer them  
4 and hopefully I will remember to ask them. But I just  
5 wanted to make sure that we had somebody in the room.

6           Could the representative of AABC, could you tell  
7 me your name just so that I – Jim Taylor. Okay, good.  
8 All right. So with that let me ask Scott Wetch if you  
9 could help us kick this off. Representing IBEW and the  
10 Pipe Trades.

11           MR. WETCH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Actually,  
12 Scott Wetch. I'm representing today the State Association  
13 of Electrical Workers, the California Coalition of Utility  
14 Employees and the California State Pipe Trades Council.  
15 And we have many witnesses today that can speak to many of  
16 the very specific questions and technical questions that  
17 you've raised.

18           I'd just like to sort of provide the 30,000 foot  
19 view on why we brought the proposal before the Commission.  
20 You already cited the more recent Commissioning study but  
21 in addition, as you're well aware, in 2008 the CEC study  
22 on HVAC installation and performance for residential and  
23 small commercial found that 90 percent of installations  
24 did not meet Title 24 code requirements or manufacturer  
25 specifications. And that the study attributed increased

1 energy use in just HVAC systems alone to 20-30 percent  
2 greater use of energy because of improper installation and  
3 commissioning.

4           So it's the – the study further found that in  
5 2010, for 2010, that's the equivalent of the largest two  
6 fossil fuel power plants built in California.

7           So collectively the State Association of  
8 Electrical Workers and the California State Pipe Trades  
9 Council and the Coalition of Utility Employees and the  
10 Western State Council of Sheet Metal Workers brought  
11 forward this proposal because we believe it's completely  
12 consistent with where the Commission has gone in the most  
13 recent version of Title 24 and is a very, very modest  
14 step; and one that the industry could meet with very  
15 little capital investment.

16           As you know, for the last three years, the Title  
17 24 has listed as a recommendation that, to the extent  
18 possible, the industry provide installers and technical  
19 personnel who meet these various requirements on the HVAC  
20 side, TABB, NEBB or AABC. We feel that taking the next  
21 step toward requiring the acceptance testing be performed  
22 by similarly certified personnel is the logical next step.  
23 And I want to make a couple of points very clear. We're  
24 not talking about a contractor having to have an entire  
25 workforce that meets this certification. We're talking

1 about each contractor, be it a five person shop or be it a  
2 200 person shop, have one certified person who is  
3 qualified to do this acceptance testing. In our minds  
4 eye, it's completely inconsistent that the Commission  
5 would require that there be certified, qualified personnel  
6 performing testing on very small residential systems under  
7 the HERS system but not advance the state's interests  
8 similarly in large commercial settings.

9 I'd like to make it clear as well that this is  
10 simply not, although some have tried to portray it as,  
11 this is not a union or a non-union issue. All of the -  
12 two of the three certifications that we are recommending  
13 that are the nationally recognized certifications for  
14 heating and air conditioning text are open and regularly  
15 certify both non-union and unionized technicians.

16 CALCTP who, as you know, is a collaborative that  
17 includes the state's utilities, the University of  
18 California, the community colleges, this very Energy  
19 Commission, is open to and continues to certify both non-  
20 union and union contractors as well as non-union and union  
21 personnel.

22 So we believe that this is a very logical next  
23 step and one that can be achieved very modestly with very  
24 little capital impacts as I stated. In one of the  
25 questions that was cited in the Staff Report was, well,

1 should contractors themselves, licensed contractors, C20  
2 or C10 contractors, be allowed to do the acceptance  
3 testing without additional certifications. Certainly  
4 there are plenty of contractors out there in C20 and C10  
5 categories that are more than qualified to be able to do  
6 the acceptance testing but that doesn't mean that they all  
7 are. As you can imagine we have tens of thousands of  
8 contractors in those various classifications and all of  
9 them have various specialties so to suggest simply having  
10 a C10 or a C20 qualifies someone to do the acceptance  
11 testing is simply not the case. There's varied  
12 contractors that specialize in certain areas and if, in  
13 fact, they do have the technical expertise we don't see  
14 that being a huge obstacle to gaining the appropriate  
15 certifications.

16           We do have folks from all four of the  
17 certifications to answer technical questions. I'll be  
18 here as well to answer any as you get into the specific  
19 questions.

20           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

21           MR. SHIRAKH: Can I ask a question? You  
22 mentioned, like, in a shop of maybe 20 technicians only  
23 one needs to be certified. How does that – can you  
24 elaborate?

25           MR. WETCH: Yeah, I'll elaborate. What we often

1 find is that at the end of a job the person who gets  
2 assigned to the acceptance testing is the same either  
3 superintendent or foreman who is responsible with doing  
4 the final punch list and more often than not we found the  
5 – just the motivations are that they're trying to get the  
6 project closed out and so too often it's rushed through or  
7 it's assigned to a subordinate who simply isn't qualified  
8 to perform that acceptance testing. I think that it's  
9 been born out by both the Commission studies.

10           So each contractor who performs in this  
11 particular capacity needs to have one person on their  
12 staff because, remember, the acceptance test is only being  
13 done at the conclusion of the project so, again, if you're  
14 a small shop or if you're a large shop, you have one  
15 dedicated personnel who's qualified who's gone through the  
16 certification then you'd be more than prepared to address  
17 this need.

18           MR. SHIRAKH: The tests are done by the  
19 certified technician. It's not like a non-certified can  
20 do the test and the responsible person can be –

21           MR. WETCH: It's our intent that the person who  
22 is signing under penalty of perjury on the 300 pages of  
23 acceptance forms be the person who is actually doing the  
24 testing, the calibrating and the balancing.

25           MR. SHIRAKH: All right. Thank you.

1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Thank you.  
2 Excuse me. Erik Emblem with the Western State's Council  
3 Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy.

4                   MR. EMBLEM: Good afternoon, Commissioner  
5 Douglas. Appreciate the opportunity to speak to you again  
6 today, and to talk a little bit about our proposal.

7                   Before I get started I'd like to commend the  
8 Commission and the staff and Mazi and Martha and Bill on  
9 the great work that they do. I've enjoyed working with  
10 them for the five years that I've been in California now  
11 after leaving DC and they're a great staff; they do a lot  
12 of great work. They need to be complimented on their  
13 diligence.

14                   As we've pointed out, you know, we've identified  
15 problems in meeting the objective of installing HVAC  
16 systems consistently with quality and obtaining the energy  
17 saving objectives with those savings and meeting the  
18 requirements of Title 24. The essence of our proposal is  
19 to try to meet this problem with a reasonable solution.  
20 As Scott pointed out, in the residential sector it was  
21 determined it was necessary to create the whole industry  
22 to do third-party verification of HVAC systems in  
23 residential and other building systems in the HERS Rating  
24 systems.

25                   Conversely, in the nonresidential commercial

1 section we have been doing this for years and has been  
2 industry supported and put together within our own  
3 industry. And the three programs that we put forth as a  
4 suggestion and we feel is a solution of certification that  
5 being the Associated Air Balance Council, the National  
6 Environmental Balancing Bureau and the Testing, Adjusting  
7 and Balancing Bureau, have been around for many, many  
8 years. They are industry supported. They have created  
9 organizations that have developed knowledgebases and  
10 certification processes at the technician level and the  
11 supervisor level and the engineer level. And along with  
12 that have created code of ethics and customer satisfaction  
13 policies and warranties to back them up.

14 They're readily accessible and used throughout  
15 the industry day in and day out across the United States,  
16 around the world, for that matter. So we're saying that  
17 you don't need to recreate the wheel here. We have the  
18 system. It's been determined by the industry itself, by  
19 architects, by engineers, by specifiers, by the Department  
20 of Defense, by the Corps of Engineers, by the GSA and by  
21 MASTERSPEC of the NIA, that these three entities deliver a  
22 quality process consistently day in and day out. So we  
23 feel that by bringing this to California it's a natural  
24 extension. Again it's been determined to be cost  
25 effective in the commercial, nonresidential sector even



1 today. In the building we're in today. We're doing a  
2 retrofit of this building today. And in order to do those  
3 services in this building today, the retrofit, you've got  
4 to be certified by one of those three entities. Through  
5 the Energy Commission, to be exact, and the GSA in  
6 California.

7           So we're just saying it's a natural succession  
8 to say let's take this down now and let's look at  
9 commissioning reports and let's look at acceptance reports  
10 as part of the commissioning process and say the person  
11 performing the test needs to have a great grounding and  
12 understanding and knowledgebase of the system he's  
13 testing. And we're not talking residential. We're  
14 talking very complicated built up systems in  
15 nonresidential applications. So it's not – it's apples  
16 and oranges compared to residential. So when we start  
17 talking about the person performing that test not only do  
18 they have to understand the theory and the process and the  
19 system that they're testing they have to understand the  
20 necessary instruments and the process for recording the  
21 data.

22           Let's face it. The bottom line is what we want  
23 to do with this report is gather data and assurance that  
24 those systems are working properly but also to gather data  
25 to assure that the requirements itself is cost effective

1 for future generations of the code cycle.

2           So that data is crucial. If the data is flawed,  
3 if it's not accurate and if the motivation behind the data  
4 is, "Let's just get this project finished," then the  
5 people may or may not collect the forms anyway, that's why  
6 we have what we have today. So we're saying the status  
7 quo is unacceptable. Let's move forward. Let's start  
8 reviewing the objectives of the energy policy of the State  
9 of California and let's start matching practices to the  
10 skills of the people doing them.

11           One thing that I'd like to clarify when it comes  
12 to the three certification entities, I have a little bit  
13 of institutional background with them. They are not anti-  
14 engineering professionals. All three certifications have  
15 been built off of engineers and engineering principles.  
16 All three of the certifications certify engineers and  
17 supervisors within their own certifications themselves.  
18 And some have higher requirements than others as far as  
19 what that process that engineer has in the process. So we  
20 may not have been clear in our proposal but I want to be  
21 clear today that the intention is not to preclude  
22 engineers from doing acceptance testing. What we're  
23 asking is that the people who perform the test be  
24 certified that they have the background, the knowledge and  
25 the expertise to perform the test. All three of these

1 entities certify engineers day in and day out within their  
2 normal book of business.

3 Today in the room we have supporters for this  
4 for many of the contractor bases and many of the Air  
5 Balance people. We're going to have technical expertise  
6 to answer technical questions that may be leveled from the  
7 audience or from staff that I may or may not be – probably  
8 won't be able to address but we have people in the room  
9 that can address it.

10 So to me, again, I've worked with many of the  
11 people in this room. Most of the people in this room I  
12 consider friends and we work with on various committees  
13 around the state whether it be the HVAC Performance  
14 Alliance, the California Commissioning Collaborative or  
15 the Energy Commission itself. And the objective has  
16 always been the same: how do we do quality work, quality  
17 maintenance on a consistent basis in the HVAC industry?  
18 And we don't want to vary from that.

19 I think that's my proposal today. I'd be happy  
20 to answer any questions.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Mazi?

22 MR. SHIRAKH: Erik, so if there is a  
23 professional mechanical engineers are performing this test  
24 what does he need to do in order to get certified by one  
25 of these three organizations?

1           MR. EMBLEM: Well each of the three  
2 organizations has basic knowledgebase and criteria for  
3 professionals to become certified. They're all a little  
4 bit different but most of them would require that they  
5 provide evidence of their professional certification with  
6 the entity they're at and have a period of experience in  
7 HVAC design or installation along with it and sit for a  
8 test.

9           MR. SHIRAKH: And that test is just a one day  
10 test or is it a -

11           MR. EMBLEM: Depends on the organization but  
12 most of them are less than a day. A lot of times it's  
13 online. It depends on the organization so I'll let each  
14 of them come up and answer to their specific organization  
15 on how they do their process for that.

16           MR. SHIRAKH: Thank you.

17           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. That is going  
18 to be one of the questions that we'll ask of the  
19 certification agencies.

20           MR. EMBLEM: Thank you.

21           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

22           All right. So let me ask, speaking of  
23 professional engineers, maybe Mark Hydeman with Taylor  
24 Engineering if you are here.

25           MR. HYDEMAN: I thank you for giving me a moment

1 to share my thoughts on this issue. Just a little bit of  
2 background, if I could, just to make sure that everybody  
3 understands where I'm coming from.

4 I'm a Principal at Taylor Engineering. We're a  
5 relatively small firm, about 24 engineers. My partners  
6 include a past officer of Cal ACCA and several gentlemen  
7 who worked as design build contractors so we're a little  
8 different than most consulting engineering firms. I have  
9 extensive, along with my partners, extensive industry  
10 education experience including the UC Berkeley HVAC R-  
11 Certificate Program, which I sat on and Steve Taylor sat  
12 on as advisors and have taught for almost 20 years. And  
13 we are teaching TAB contractors, engineers, commissioning  
14 agents and others.

15 We also have extensive experience at ASHRAE and  
16 also at the IOUs, PG&E and SMUD and others, teaching  
17 everyone about energy efficiency methodologies and  
18 techniques.

19 I was one of the primary authors of the  
20 Acceptance Tests including the 2005, 2008 and the proposed  
21 changes to the test in 2013. I and my partners are all  
22 very active in ASHRAE. I'm a past Vice-Chair of 90.1.  
23 I've received the distinguished service and had the honor  
24 of being named an ASHRAE fellow.

25 I support what we've heard here today which is

1 let's button these tests up and let's get the word out to  
2 the building departments so that people are looking for  
3 the acceptance test forms and know what needs to be on  
4 them.

5           When we were in the 2005 standard process and we  
6 first talked about the test we spent a lot of time asking  
7 questions to staff and amongst ourselves and reaching out  
8 to the industry. Who is it that we want forming these  
9 tests? And as it stood in 2005 and my sense is it still  
10 stands the same way in this industry and that is the  
11 people that are qualified to do these tests come from a  
12 variety of backgrounds. They're not just test and balance  
13 contractors. They're not just commissioning agents.  
14 They're not engineers. They're individuals that have a  
15 very broad understanding – and I can only speak to the  
16 HVAC side. I'm not going to address anything on the  
17 electrical or lighting side. But there are people that  
18 have broad training, that understand the systems being  
19 tested. That understand the control systems and this is  
20 key for the acceptance test in California. They are  
21 almost all testing the control systems. So you need to  
22 understand how control systems work and you need to  
23 understand how to override control systems to do most of  
24 these tests.

25           But it's a small pool of people out there. We

1 are now seven years beyond 2005 and we still, even with  
2 all the activity at the testing and balancing agencies and  
3 ASHRAE and other organizations, there really are very few  
4 people that are competent in doing this sort of work. So  
5 I support some level of certification. I support some  
6 level of training and outreach to the building departments  
7 and I think, really, the problem is that they're just so  
8 strapped. They have the same funding problems everybody  
9 else has and they have the same training problems.

10 But I'd be willing to, on my nickel, to go out  
11 and talk to building department about these things and I'd  
12 be willing to work with agencies and organizations to come  
13 up with good criteria for certification for the California  
14 Title 24 Acceptance Test. Those tests are very different  
15 and are only a subset of the commissioning activities. I  
16 don't think a general commissioning certification is  
17 appropriate. The forms that we have in California are  
18 unlike any other forms. And we have some items in these  
19 acceptance tests, things that were custom built to get the  
20 biggest bang for the buck, built on pure research done by  
21 AEC and others to address problems that we've found in the  
22 field, particularly with economizers. And one of those  
23 items was that the air handling unit manufacturers that  
24 train carriers of the world could factory install and in  
25 the factory test and certify operational the economizers

1 and that would be sufficient. And we had discussions that  
2 included ACCA and others where everyone agreed that that  
3 probably would have taken care of it, Pete Jacobs from  
4 AEC, would have taken care of most of the problems we had  
5 seen in the field. John Proctor. That was another person  
6 we had reached out to.

7           So I think that when we think about what the  
8 solution is – I think we can all agree what the problems  
9 are but when we think about the solution we should do it  
10 in a collaborative method. It should be done in Workshops  
11 here at the CEC and not through a legislative action. And  
12 I am open to talking to all of you that are here about how  
13 to solve the problem but I don't think that it is one  
14 agency that should be doing this and I don't think it's  
15 one group of people. We need to think very specifically  
16 with how to tailor these certifications to the needs of  
17 the California acceptance tests and together with that we  
18 need outreach to the building departments.

19           So I'll conclude my comments with that.

20           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I have a question for  
21 you, Mark. One of our questions is actually – has to do  
22 with should existing certification programs – should the  
23 Commission require certifications that pass our, you know,  
24 criteria to actually train specifically to the acceptance  
25 test?



1 MR. HYDEMAN: I think they should.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay.

3 MR. HYDEMAN: I think you really need to  
4 because, again, if you look at what all the commissioning  
5 activities are. If you read Guideline 0, Guideline 1. If  
6 you read, you know, any of the commissioning manuals that  
7 are out there. There's a lot of stuff that we don't  
8 include. We are focused on functional tests and  
9 calibration checks on key sensors. And that was done on  
10 purpose, you know, that was done because we were looking  
11 for those few areas where we could really focus in on and  
12 get a lot of bang for the buck. Because if we asked  
13 everybody to do all the commissioning it wouldn't get  
14 done.

15 MS. BROOK: Right. Thank you.

16 MR. HYDEMAN: That was a consensus.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And let me ask a couple  
18 of questions as well. I heard you say pretty clearly that  
19 your comments are on the HVAC mechanical side of this not  
20 the lighting side.

21 MR. HYDEMAN: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Is it your view that, you  
23 know, that possibly none of the certifications that we're  
24 looking at, whether it's TABB, AABC, NEBB, are  
25 appropriately focused right now on the California

1 acceptance test? I mean I'm trying to understand. Are  
2 you – do you think those three are under inclusive of the  
3 pool of qualified people or do you think we're better  
4 served with something different?

5 MR. HYDEMAN: Well, there are two issues here.  
6 One is that I didn't have the opportunity between when I  
7 learned about these proposals and being here today, so  
8 less than two weeks, to research what the intention was as  
9 Erik mentioned. But I did, in fact, read the papers that  
10 came along with it. There was a statement from Christine  
11 Kehoe and another one from Assemblyman Fuentes. And both  
12 of those clearly read not just certification by NEBB, AABC  
13 or TABB. It said TAB technicians who are certified to  
14 those things. So it was looking at a very limited pool as  
15 stated. Okay. So I assume that what was written by the  
16 State Senator and State Assemblyperson was language that  
17 was proposed directly to them. I don't have the paper  
18 trail so I can't tell you but if you were to use those  
19 words it would exclude commissioning agents, design  
20 professionals, operators of buildings. I mean there's a  
21 much wider pool of people that should be included and able  
22 to do these tests because there are people within all  
23 those other disciplines that are qualified to do this  
24 testing. So whatever we certify needs to be broad enough  
25 to include the big house because, again, when you look at

1 all of the professions in the building science of those  
2 maybe 10 percent or less are qualified to do these tests  
3 so we're getting subpool of a subpool.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: You mentioned a UC  
5 Berkeley HVAC certification. What was that certification?

6 MR. HYDEMAN: It basically is a certification  
7 program for HVAC and control system design.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: So it's a design -

9 MR. HYDEMAN: It is at the design level. We  
10 have not - we have elements in those classes on  
11 commissioning but it's not a commissioning certification.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. All right. Well,  
13 you know, I'm definitely interested in your thoughts on  
14 whether there are other certifications that make sense for  
15 us to consider in addition to the ones that we're  
16 considering, whether, you know - and we'll be asking  
17 questions of the certification as we go forward. So how  
18 much of a hurdle would there be for a professional  
19 engineer who is imminently qualified in this field to  
20 obtain a certification? Is it a matter of showing your  
21 experience and, you know, education in this area? Or is  
22 it much more than that? So we'll ask those questions and  
23 we'll look forward to your written comments and your  
24 participation.

25 MR. HYDEMAN: And, as I said, I'd be happy to

1 work with any of these agencies. I mean, ASHRAE has got  
2 certifications. The TAB agencies have certifications.  
3 But to help them look at the subset of activities so that  
4 we can have a specific California type of certification.

5 The other thing is that we should make sure that  
6 it is something that is open to a wide variety of  
7 disciplines but also that it not too expensive.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right.

9 MR. HYDEMAN: Because if there's a burden in  
10 terms of cost, then again, you may be excluding part of a  
11 poll.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Let me just ask one more  
13 question. I inferred from your comments that you're in  
14 agreement, essentially, on the problem statement. That,  
15 you know, we do have a problem of installation being  
16 suboptimal in HVAC systems and it's really kind of a  
17 matter of trying to understand what the right solution or  
18 set of solutions is?

19 MR. HYDEMAN: I agree with that.

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. All right. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. HYDEMAN: And that's the whole reason the  
23 commissioning field came up.

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right.

25 MR. HYDEMAN: Is that hopefully, you know, in

1 the future people will actually design buildings and test  
2 them on their own but it's not happening.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right. Well, thank you  
4 very much for being here.

5 MR. HYDEMAN: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: How about Thomas Enslow?

7 MR. ENSLOW: Good afternoon. My name is Tom  
8 Enslow. I'm with the law firms Adams, Broadwell Joseph &  
9 Cardozo. I'm actually speaking today on behalf of two  
10 different clients, I gave you two cards but I'll just  
11 speak on behalf of both of them now if that works for you.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah. Please do.

13 MR. ENSLOW: First of all I'm here today on  
14 behalf of IAPMO which is the publisher of the Uniform  
15 Plumbing Code and Uniform Mechanical Code which are the  
16 model codes that serve as the basis for the California  
17 Mechanical Code and Plumbing Codes.

18 IAPMO has long recognized that quality control  
19 of installations is critical to ensuring that HVAC systems  
20 function as intended under the code. Study after study  
21 has shown that in some cases 85-90 percent of HVAC  
22 installations do not meet that building code  
23 specifications after installation. And, for that reason,  
24 IAPMO supports requiring acceptance testing to obtain  
25 acceptance testing certification from accredited agencies.

1 And it's certification that's specific to testing,  
2 adjusting and balancing training such as that offered by  
3 AABC, TABB or NEBB or some equivalent of that.

4           These certifications ensure that quality HVAC  
5 installations actually meet the intent under the code.  
6 The key, and as mentioned by Mark Hydeman, is not just in  
7 the training to the test but also understanding the  
8 balancing, the adjusting, understanding the system  
9 controls and being able to modify those and understanding  
10 how the whole system works. That is what is key for any  
11 certification that would work.

12           For this reason, IAPMO supports the adoption of  
13 such requirements to ensure compliance with their codes  
14 and they encourage California Energy Commission to adapt  
15 such requirements.

16           I'm also speaking on behalf of the United  
17 Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters. They also  
18 strongly support the proposal to require certification of  
19 HVAC acceptance testers to TABB, NEBB or AABC and also  
20 support the electrical system acceptance testing  
21 certification via CALCTP.

22           Strictly on the HVAC side, they don't see this  
23 as a radical proposal. Currently commercial buildings are  
24 already required to balance their HVAC systems in  
25 accordance with TABB, AABC or NEBB procedures under the

1 mandatory provisions of CALGreen as part of Title 11,  
2 Title 24 in Section 5.410.4.3. In addition, OSHPD also  
3 requires hospitals and healthcare facilities to balance  
4 their systems in accordance with TABB, AABC or NEBB. And,  
5 in fact, in the past in the 2001 California Energy Code  
6 that required balancing of systems in accordance with AABC  
7 and NEBB standards.

8           So currently most contractors who currently  
9 install, test and balance HVAC systems in commercial  
10 buildings should already either have their TABB, AABC or  
11 NEBB certification or be familiar enough with these  
12 procedures and experienced enough with these procedures  
13 that certification should not be that difficult.

14           Furthermore, our clients feel that it wouldn't  
15 be fair to create a new certification that's watered down  
16 to take the place of these TABB, NEBB, AABC  
17 certifications. Right now you've got these good adopters  
18 who are early adopters of these additional certifications,  
19 ensuring that they're putting these installations in  
20 correctly and ensuring the quality control that's  
21 necessary and to create some new certification requirement  
22 really disincentives industry from creating their own,  
23 self policing, creating their own programs like this and  
24 so it really punishes early adopters by going in a  
25 completely different direction.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

3 MR. SHIRAKH: Can I –

4 MS. BROOK: Hold on.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, I'm sorry. A couple  
6 of questions for you.

7 MS. BROOK: Just a couple of questions for you.

8 MR. SHIRAKH: I don't know if you're the right  
9 person to answer this but I'm going to put it out there  
10 sometime today. Hydeman mentioned that doing acceptance  
11 testing requires intimate knowledge of the control  
12 systems, the energy management control system, you  
13 simulate a certain condition, control system will respond,  
14 you monitor the response. My concern is the certification  
15 programs with actually getting into that level of detail  
16 when it comes to control systems and the algorithms if  
17 there's someone here that I can see –

18 MR. ENSLOW: That would be something that TABB,  
19 AABC and NEBB should address. Although that is my  
20 understanding that that is exactly what they teach their  
21 technicians is – because they're not just teaching testing  
22 they're teaching balancing and adjusting and in order to  
23 do that you need to know how these systems work. But  
24 they'd be more qualified to answer that.

25 MR. SHIRAKH: Okay.



1 MS. BROOK: I just wanted to clarify that  
2 California also – because California Mechanical Code is by  
3 and large the Uniform Mechanical Code. It also has  
4 requirements for tests and balancing.

5 We don't think our acceptance tests are tests  
6 and balance tests. We think that they're control system  
7 tests and clearly different than tests and balance  
8 requirements. And we're glad that they're in the  
9 Mechanical Code. That's really not what we're talking  
10 about here.

11 MR. ENSLOW: Right. My understanding is that  
12 they're – that it's all kind of a subset. A different  
13 side of the coin but again I think that TABB and NEBB and  
14 AABC can address why their certifications kind of  
15 encompass but you guys have to ask them.

16 MS. BROOK: Okay. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Thank you.  
18 Let's see here. How about Cesar Diaz, Legislative  
19 Director of the State Building Trades Council?

20 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Commissioner Douglas.  
21 Cesar Diaz with the State Building and Construction Trades  
22 Council.

23 We are very supportive of the acceptance testing  
24 and certification proposals that are in front of you. Of  
25 course we understand that the improper installation

1 nullifies much of the investment that California is  
2 putting into energy efficiency.

3           Acceptance testing requirements augments  
4 standards for performance and basically maximizes the  
5 energy savings and reduces the costs, both to CALCTP and  
6 the proposals by the sheet metal workers can accomplish  
7 that. These programs and training programs are widespread  
8 throughout California and there are points in the  
9 investment that goes into training individuals that go  
10 through these programs goes into the millions. In fact  
11 jointly, if you look at statewide, apprenticeship system  
12 is over \$100 million in investment to help get the next  
13 generation of construction workers trained in the new  
14 codes and so forth. So these programs are readily  
15 adapting to these things that can be readily accessible to  
16 actually address some of the concerns that were raised by  
17 staff here.

18           And I just wanted to point out that the UC  
19 Berkeley study pointed out a couple of different sections  
20 here that were relevant. It's the poor quality  
21 installation of energy efficient equipment that is  
22 undermining the achievement of energy efficiency goals and  
23 is directly linked to low wage labor markets which do not  
24 reward workers or businesses for investments in training.

25           Furthermore the study states that "California

1 has over 1,000 training programs in these occupations but  
2 the lack of widespread industry recognized certifications  
3 leads to confusion and lack of coordination in the  
4 workforce system."

5 So as far as preparing the training, what's out  
6 there and actually preparing the training curriculum  
7 towards that. They also recommend that full enforcement  
8 of codes with strong quality standards for contractors and  
9 setting high quality certification standards for  
10 installers and workers.

11 So we believe strongly that these proposals here  
12 achieve those goals and address those recommendations.  
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Dan Magyar.  
15 Magyar Electric.

16 MR. MAGYAR: Thank you. It's Magyar, actually.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh. Sorry about that.  
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MAGYAR: Dear Commissioners and interested  
20 public. I have - my name is Dan Magyar, owner of Magyar  
21 Electric. I've been in business as an electrical  
22 contractor for 8 years. I'm also currently 41 years in  
23 the electrical trade.

24 I wanted to support the value of the CALCTP  
25 proficiency. I'm currently an advanced lighting control

1 certified contractor. During my 40 some years in the  
2 electrical trade I've encountered very many different  
3 lighting control schemes. Of those many, these new  
4 advanced lighting controls are certainly the most  
5 sophisticated systems out there.

6 With the Commission adopting the proposed  
7 utilization of only certified CALCTP advanced lighting  
8 control individuals I feel confident that indeed these  
9 savings projected by the advanced lighting controls can be  
10 achieved.

11 Thank you very much for your time.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
13 being here.

14 Let's see. Brian Jacoway, Valley Pacific  
15 Electric.

16 MR. JACOWAY: Madam Commissioner, afternoon.  
17 Ladies and gentlemen. I too would like to reiterate what  
18 Mr. Magyar said about the CALCTP Program. I'm currently  
19 five years in business as an electrical contractor here in  
20 California.

21 My experience in the trade goes just shy of 20  
22 years. In my experience I've seen a lot of these  
23 installations of so-called advanced lighting controls not  
24 go so well because there hasn't been proper installation  
25 and there hasn't been proper acceptance of the installed

1 system.

2           Having gone through and been certified as an  
3 installing contractor I feel confident that anybody  
4 working has a certified technician could install the  
5 system properly. I also think that as far as a contractor  
6 is concerned the assurance of a properly installed system  
7 will mitigate his liability later on down the road when it  
8 is found out that the system was not properly installed.

9           So, therefore, I would like to speak in favor of  
10 recommendations.

11           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
12 being here.

13           MR. JACOWAY: Thank you.

14           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Tom Meredith, IBEW Local  
15 340.

16           MR. MEREDITH: Thank you, Commissioner. My name  
17 is Tom Meredith. I'm the President of IBEW Local 340,  
18 Sacramento, California. We represent 1,500 certified  
19 electricians in Northern California and I'm here to speak  
20 in favor of the CALCTP certification and also the making  
21 sure that you're having the same kind of qualifications to  
22 do the commissioning.

23           Again, you can have the best product in the  
24 world but if it's not installed and maintained properly  
25 you're not getting your money's worth out of it. And

1 we're seeking to see that California get their best bang  
2 for their buck.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

5 Ron Mitchell, Bay Area SMACNA.

6 MR. MITCHELL: Afternoon. Ron Mitchell with Bay  
7 Area SMACNA.

8 So I'm speaking to a regulation providing the  
9 Title 24 acceptance, testing forms for commercial HVAC  
10 buildings be signed off by AABC, NEBB and TABB certified  
11 technicians.

12 Bay Area SMACNA objects to this restrictive  
13 policy because there are a number of other very qualified  
14 parties that should also be authorized by the regulation  
15 to sign off on these forms. Degreed engineers,  
16 professional engineers, project managers, commissioning  
17 agents and owners of mechanical contracting firms are all  
18 imminently qualified and should be included as the signees  
19 on these acceptance forms.

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. I just have  
21 one question, maybe. I think one of the issues that we're  
22 trying to grapple with here is that there probably are  
23 people coming in from a number of different perspectives  
24 that could be qualified to sign off on the acceptance  
25 forms but it would also be really beneficial if we could

1 identify a way of reducing the rate of improper  
2 installations by, you know, in short – I guess I’m asking  
3 when you talk about the different areas that people could  
4 come from, whether they’re professional engineers or the  
5 commissioning background or so on, are you aware of  
6 certifications that we may want to look at? Or other ways  
7 to try and address the concern?

8 MR. MITCHELL: Well, other than their  
9 experiences as professional engineers and their  
10 experience, we’re definitely in favor of education – and  
11 at this time I can’t speak to anything about another  
12 certification.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Well, thank  
14 you. I really appreciate you being here. I think Mazi  
15 has a question for you.

16 MR. SHIRAKH: So we heard for a professional  
17 engineer that’s been practicing the only requirement is  
18 that they actually take the test that’s less than a day.  
19 Do you think that’s an unreasonable burden on an engineer  
20 to go through that process?

21 MR. MITCHELL: I’m sorry. I didn’t understand  
22 what –

23 MR. SHIRAKH: Well, we heard that, from earlier  
24 testimony, if there a professional engineer who is out  
25 there performing his duties under this proposal all they

1 have to do is basically take a test to become certified.  
2 And this is a test that takes less than a day to complete.  
3 My question is is that an unreasonable requirement?

4 MR. MITCHELL: I think that for some firms that  
5 would be unreasonable. I can't speak to all the  
6 contractors that I represent but there would be, I'm sure,  
7 instances where it wouldn't be reasonable.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Well, we  
9 appreciate you being here. Thank you.

10 Let's see. I'm just hesitating because  
11 sometimes I have trouble reading a name so sometimes I  
12 have to stare at it for a minute. Mark Paavola,  
13 Administrator, Northern California Valley, SMWTC. Did I  
14 get that - was I in the ballpark?

15 MR. PAAVOLA: You had some of the letters  
16 correct, yes.

17 [LAUGHTER.]

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I'm glad to hear that.

19 MR. PAAVOLA: My name is Mark Paavola. I'm the  
20 Administrator for the Sheet Metal Workers Training Center  
21 here in Sacramento. Appreciate you taking the time out to  
22 listen to this.

23 I and my organization, we firmly believe that  
24 there should be some sort of certification and we believe  
25 that this is the correct matter to do that.



1           My background has been – I was a field service  
2 technician for 30-some odd years doing exactly what you're  
3 talking about. Where I worked, I've done a lot of the  
4 testing as it were, the start up as it were to the  
5 equipment to make it work as it was supposed to. And,  
6 ultimately, we know that throughout the course of history  
7 that it's very rare that it works as advertised and we run  
8 into that quite a bit.

9           Well, you're asking the question about whether a  
10 professional engineer or who else could do the testing.  
11 There needs to be some measure that you use to determine  
12 whether they're qualified or not. Do they have the field  
13 experience necessary? They may have the book experience  
14 necessary but do they have the field experience necessary?

15           We're discussing now using some of the various  
16 testing organizations – TABB, NEBB and AABC – as being  
17 qualified to do that. They have the training; they have  
18 the field experience necessary to do this type of work.  
19 In our training center our TAB technicians not only train  
20 on the TAB side but they also train the service side. So  
21 that encompasses all the areas that you need to know to be  
22 able to perform these start up and verification routines  
23 as needed. All of our TAB technicians give the education  
24 that they need.

25           I would like to address some of the questions

1 you've asked on your thing here, on your list here. For  
2 example, on 3 you want to know training and certification  
3 requirements for acceptance testing to help address the  
4 concerns.

5           We know that there's lack of enforcement right  
6 now. We've had classes at our training center with the  
7 building inspectors to try and get them up to speed on  
8 Title 24. They don't have the manpower to do that so they  
9 file the paperwork. They have no idea what the paperwork  
10 says. If we bring in some third-party organization that  
11 gives a level that that person is not only responsible to  
12 the company they're working for but they're responsible to  
13 that third-party organization to make sure that you fill  
14 out those reports correctly. They're not just doing it in  
15 the office. So that you have a third-party now that's  
16 watching out now for that individual that's doing that  
17 test. We know that the building department inspectors are  
18 overloaded right now so they can't do that type of work.  
19 So you get a lot of value from having that third-party  
20 organization overseeing these people who are doing the  
21 testing at that point.

22           I can't comment on a lot of these things because  
23 they're in regard to lighting and so forth and there's  
24 other people who can cover some of these other areas.

25           Number 8, for example, they want to know that -

1 how are they uniquely qualified for type of thing? Well,  
2 again, the training that they receive. Everybody talks  
3 about a TAB technician. They think they're just walking  
4 around with an airflow hood measuring things. That's not  
5 true because there was a question about the controls,  
6 having intimate knowledge of the controls. There's nobody  
7 that knows every control that they walk into because  
8 there's 20-30-40 different manufacturers of controls. But  
9 they are qualified to know how to use that control in the  
10 sense that they need to be able to start that equipment  
11 up. That's what the TAB technician has to know. Knowing  
12 that they can then start up that equipment. They can  
13 check the performance of that equipment. That's what  
14 we're discussing right now. They have the training and  
15 the education. Are they complete? They're the most  
16 complete out there. Let's put it that way. What you're  
17 dealing with right now.

18           You're alluding to how do we verify that the  
19 professional engineers and some of the superintendents,  
20 how do we qualify them? That's a tough one to do. That's  
21 where the certification comes into play. Where you have  
22 the certification. That they have to have that piece of  
23 paper that shows that they've at least got this  
24 qualification. Because how do you superintendent? You  
25 say all superintendents can do the testing. How do you

1 know that superintendent is qualified?

2 Those are issues that you're going to encounter.

3 Specifically on 9, again, you're talking about if they're  
4 not certified how do you know that they have the skillset?

5 What does it take to be an HVAC contractor in the State of  
6 California? Passing the contractor's exam. Does that  
7 qualify them do to this type of testing? Absolutely not.

8 I received a contractor's license when I was about 30  
9 years old. Could I have done this work? Absolutely not.

10 I passed the test. That didn't qualify me to do this type  
11 of work.

12 Again, licensing a mechanical engineer. They  
13 designed the equipment. Do they have the field experience  
14 necessary to be able to go out and turn on that piece of  
15 equipment? Maybe. Maybe not. How do we verify that?  
16 That would be through this testing whether it's AABC, TABB  
17 or NEBB type of organization.

18 This is how we - we get the start in this  
19 because we know there's been a tremendous history in the  
20 State of California. That was mentioned earlier, about  
21 the economizers not working. Why don't we fix this?

22 Let's start with a program that we start to fix this and  
23 build from there? We're not going to fix this issue in  
24 one meeting or one organization but let's start with a  
25 base that actually works and then we can build from there.

1 We can't get the whole state, make the whole state happy.  
2 That's not going to happen but if we start with one area,  
3 make it work, show that it works correctly and show that  
4 we can actually prove that it improved, that we got the  
5 efficiency that we got out of it, then we can build from  
6 there.

7 If we start small with what we're proposing  
8 today I think would be a benefit for everybody. I could  
9 go on and on but I don't want to take up your guys' time.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, thank you. I don't  
11 have any questions but -

12 MS. BROOK: I have a question.

13 MR. PAAVOLA: Yes.

14 MS. BROOK: Two things. One, do you know if the  
15 current TABB certifications actually train on our Title 24  
16 Acceptance Test and the second question is do you think  
17 that they ought to?

18 MR. PAAVOLA: In our training center we do. I  
19 can't speak to all the training centers but in our  
20 training center we do. And I believe most of them do  
21 cover that. I know that in our training center we cover  
22 that with both our service and TAB testing. Our TAB  
23 training. Both of them cover Title 24.

24 MS. BROOK: So it's part of the certification.

25 MR. PAAVOLA: It's not part of the

1 certification. It's part of the training.

2 MS. BROOK: Okay.

3 MR. PAAVOLA: But as far as the certification  
4 there's other individuals here that can speak quite deeper  
5 into the certification question.

6 MS. BROOK: Okay. So actually I think that's a  
7 really important clarification and I think we need to  
8 understand that. That you're talking about training your  
9 professional groups –

10 MR. PAAVOLA: Right.

11 MS. BROOK: To specifically perform our – and  
12 that's what we want. I mean and I think that's what Mark  
13 was talking about –

14 MR. PAAVOLA: Absolutely.

15 MS. BROOK: Whether you're an engineer or a  
16 commissioning provider or a TAB technician, we want you to  
17 be trained on our test. How do we make that happen?

18 MR. PAAVOLA: Correct.

19 MS. BROOK: I think that –

20 MR. PAAVOLA: I would agree.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Actually, Martha, you – I  
22 think at this point it would be helpful – I'll call up the  
23 different certification agencies and we can ask some  
24 questions directly of them. I was going to do that at the  
25 beginning and then I thought well maybe I'll do that later

1 but I think now's the time. Anyway, thank you for your  
2 comments.

3 MR. PAAVOLA: You're welcome.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Let me ask Tom Meyer with  
5 NEBB, if you're here, and obviously if any of these people  
6 stepped out of the room we'll catch them later. But maybe  
7 you can help us and give us some background in the NEBB  
8 certification, the extent to which it teaches to Title 24,  
9 who tends to come into it, that sort of thing.

10 MR. MEYER: Okay. I'm Tom Meyer. I am the  
11 brand new, this is my first working day, and I'm serious,  
12 as the Technical Director. But it's not my first day in  
13 this industry and because I'm the new fish I should  
14 probably explain my credentials so you know where I'm  
15 coming from.

16 I'm the Secretary and in-coming Vice Chair of  
17 the Consultative Council under the National Institute of  
18 Building Sciences, also known as NIBS, who will provide  
19 reports and technical support to Capitol Hill and the  
20 White House. I am the Vice Chair of Guideline 0 which is  
21 the commissioning process for ASHRAE. I sit on ASHRAE  
22 90.2. I have for three years. That is the residential  
23 building standard. My colleague was on 90.1 which is  
24 commercial. And that's significant. We'll get to that in  
25 a second.

1           I was six years as the ASHRAE liaison to USGVC  
2 so I kind of have the technical and lead mix and  
3 experience in that. I'm the Chair of Standard 134 and  
4 TC7.4, currently. I co-wrote the building code for Kuwait  
5 which was accepted into law in 2011. I co-wrote an 800  
6 contact residential energy audit reports for the  
7 Department of the Interior. I wrote the sustainability  
8 policy for the Turkish Government. I'm on an ASHRAE panel  
9 writing the Best Practices for Commercial Buildings which  
10 includes energy auditing and testing. So, Level 1 and  
11 Level 2 and Level 3. I was on a panel put together by  
12 NREL for KSAs for commercial energy auditors. I am the  
13 current chair of the Educational sub-committee for WHPA.  
14 So that sort of lets you know that my backgrounds in this  
15 general direction even though this is my first day.

16           So, if I have to refer some questions to the  
17 experts over here – there's a fellow, a young fellow, with  
18 a laptop that's got a lot of the answers. He's, you know,  
19 the old story is – is that my brother and I know  
20 everything. Well, meet my brother.

21           NEBB is for this proposal because it makes  
22 sense. Why certify? And there's been some very good  
23 discussion over who's qualified, who isn't qualified,  
24 what's the track record been up to this point?

25           Madam Commissioner, I think what we're looking



1 for is the end result. We don't care how we get there we  
2 just want to get there and that's efficient buildings that  
3 run correctly and how do we get there? Well, that's what  
4 the question we're trying to answer is is maybe having  
5 people that do the testing would be useful. The question  
6 is why certify? It's not your knowledge. It's the  
7 consistency of the process. Okay. You can have  
8 experience skill and education but that doesn't guarantee  
9 consistent and desired results. People who learn,  
10 followed the son, the older guy, the younger guy,  
11 sometimes they form bad habits. Okay. Also,  
12 traditionalism isn't always the best way because anybody  
13 in our business knows you go to sleep one night and the  
14 next night everything's changed because we're moving at  
15 the speed of green right now, and it's 90 miles an hour  
16 with your hair on fire.

17           The next thing is that certification leads to  
18 accountability. NEBB has two different types of testing.  
19 We test and certify professionals and we test and certify  
20 technicians. So we make a distinction between them. The  
21 other point I want to make before I start answering  
22 specific questions is my credentials are both in  
23 commercial and residential. I said this would lead up to  
24 something. Both commercial and residential systems.  
25 Buildings are systems. We have to think of them in terms

1 of systems not just buildings. They're not components.  
2 They work together as a system. We have to have system  
3 specialists. Residential systems and commercial systems  
4 are completely different. ASHRAE recognizes that when  
5 they distinguish between 90.1 that my colleague sits on  
6 which is commercial buildings, 90.2 which I sit on which  
7 is residential. We recognize the complete disparity  
8 between skillsets and design technique. Now, there's some  
9 residences that we call mini-palaces that qualify as  
10 commercial buildings but those are the exception. Just as  
11 the fellow from Taylor Engineering has great credentials  
12 but he's an exception. We're talking about the bulk  
13 that's out there. How do we control the bulk? Not the  
14 exceptions.

15           And I believe that putting unqualified or  
16 underqualified people puts them in a horrible position.  
17 If they have minimalist training and they run into a  
18 system that they don't understand or they run into reports  
19 or findings that they don't understand they're in a  
20 horrible position. They either have to sign the building  
21 off and hope nobody catches them or they have to go to  
22 their boss and say we're not going to get paid. Or go to  
23 the building owner and say this building is not  
24 acceptable. Nobody wants to – in our industry we believe  
25 in killing the messenger. Trust me.

1           So if they "pencil whip it" we're defeating the  
2 whole purpose that we're here. So we need to have  
3 qualified people. We need to have the engineers and the  
4 technicians and everybody else prove that they understand  
5 the process and anybody that's in the room that's Lead AP  
6 qualified understands that the LEAD AP doesn't mean that  
7 you know how to design green buildings. It means that you  
8 understand the process of designing green buildings. And  
9 that's what I want us to focus on. Is we're looking at  
10 the process to get to the end result which is a properly  
11 built and maintained building. I'm sorry, I didn't mean  
12 to get off on my soapbox but I'm passionate about this as  
13 everybody else in the room is.

14           There were some questions that you had, ma'am.  
15 Specifically.

16           MS. BROOK: Well, we were interested to  
17 understand if your NEBB certification actually trains  
18 people on how to perform the Title 24 acceptance test?

19           MR. MEYER: Okay. NEBB is broken into 25  
20 chapters and of course the California chapters would be  
21 the ones to adapt local conditions because every  
22 geographical area has its own needs and practices, okay.  
23 Now our standardized national test is not geographically  
24 oriented. Can we come up with one that would meet the  
25 Title 24 requirements and put for California use? Like we

1 used to see when we were kids on the cars, you know,  
2 stamped on the engine. Ford sale in California. Sure.  
3 We can do that. That's not a problem because you have  
4 certain needs. But I want to caution you that although  
5 California has Title 24 California has some very  
6 interesting geographic and climatic issues that doesn't  
7 really lend itself to, you know, simple answers. For  
8 example, microclimates. I teach a lot and microclimates -  
9 I use LA as an example and I'm not sure that we can really  
10 come up with a cookie cutter that can be perfect even if  
11 we address Title 24. Did that answer your question,  
12 ma'am?

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I had a couple of  
14 questions -

15 MR. MEYER: Yes, ma'am.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: For you or your brother  
17 with the laptop.

18 [LAUGHTER.]

19 MR. MEYER: Oh, by the way it's Chris that's  
20 over there with the laptop.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Hi Chris. Can you tell  
22 me who is eligible to get a certification from NEBB?

23 MR. RUCH: [Indiscernible]

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: If you could come to the  
25 microphone. To get a certification that would allow

1 somebody to do an acceptance test.

2 MR. RUCH: Thanks. Chris Ruch. I'm the  
3 Operations Manager with Final Air Balance.

4 I had been working on a matrix that shows all  
5 three organizations on the same page and going to each  
6 organization and talking to them. Pretty much  
7 specifically for this so that way after hearing the  
8 different organizations if you wanted to kind of hear them  
9 all at once and what the numbers are I could give them to  
10 you. So did you want to know specifically for NEBB the  
11 technician?

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah. That'd be great.

13 MR. RUCH: Okay. So for NEBB for the technician  
14 you have a couple of different options. You have 4 years  
15 of TAB fieldwork or 2 years of TAB fieldwork and a  
16 completion of a NEBB home study TAB technician course or  
17 completion of an equivalent TAB technician program.

18 For the supervisor you would be looking at an  
19 engineering degree and 2 years of supervisory experience  
20 in TAB or an associate degree in engineering technology  
21 and 4 years of supervisory experience in TAB or 4 years of  
22 experience in TAB and 4 years as supervisory.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: When you say experience  
24 in TAB do you mean experience as a TAB-certified  
25 contractor or do you mean -

1           MR. RUCH: For me you'd really have to ask that  
2 directly to the agencies -

3           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I'll ask that.

4           MR. RUCH: But from my own experience of working  
5 with engineering firms that I've worked for as an in-house  
6 balancer they were looking at it as 4 years directly  
7 working with the TAB technicians.

8           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. All right. Can  
9 you tell me how many times, just going back to NEBB,  
10 trainings are offered? I heard something about online but  
11 what locations, how hard or easy it is to get certified?

12          MR. RUCH: Yeah. I can speak directly to that.  
13 For NEBB specifically a test can be scheduled at any time.  
14 It is an online test so usually for my guys I send them to  
15 one office in the Bay Area. They'll go down there and sit  
16 with a proctor and take the test.

17          COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: What does it cost to take  
18 a test?

19          MR. RUCH: Sure. For the NEBB test it has a  
20 \$250 testing fee and then it should also be mentioned that  
21 there is an ongoing requirement which is important. It's  
22 \$25 a year plus the chapter fee.

23          COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. \$25 a year is  
24 pretty reasonable. Is the chapter fee in that range of is  
25 the chapter fee -

1 MR. RUCH: I believe the chapter fee is more  
2 substantial so the chapter fee – you'd have to ask for  
3 specifics on that.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. How many NEBB  
5 trained people are there in California?

6 MR. RUCH: Sure. For number of certified  
7 technicians – do you want me to read them all out for all  
8 three certifications right here for these numbers? If  
9 that would be easier.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: That would be great.  
11 That'd be easier.

12 MR. RUCH: Okay. For TABB, your TABB, you're  
13 looking at 705. For NEBB, you're looking at 80. And for  
14 AABC, 74.

15 And if we go to the Supervisor. For TABB,  
16 you're looking at 186. For NEBB, 84. And 24, TBE. I  
17 apologize for the blanket use of Supervisor. Each one has  
18 their own name for Supervisor.

19 And then as contractors. Number of certified  
20 contractors for TABB in California, 34. NEBB, 38. And  
21 AABC would be 11 companies but keep in mind that's also 15  
22 offices. So.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. So I guess I'd be  
24 interested in knowing that if I'm in Redding trying to  
25 build a building and, you know, can I find someone in the

1 Yellow Pages. Do I have to fly somebody in from the Bay  
2 Area? And can you give us a sense of how many locations  
3 in California would have access to people with these  
4 certifications?

5 MR. RUCH: I can speak to my own company -

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay.

7 MR. RUCH: That I work for. We service anywhere  
8 in California. We just did a job at Sutter Coast, which  
9 is a 7 hour drive, Sutter Coast Hospital. Redding. Any  
10 remote area of California we go to frequently.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. I think those  
12 are my questions.

13 MR. MEYER: To just make it a little bit clearer  
14 the nature of the beast with this type of work is it's not  
15 unusual to have somebody come in from a fairly long  
16 commute.

17 Now I do need to make one point about NEBB  
18 specifically is that their pilot programs for online  
19 certification, online training, online continuing  
20 education and I'm the reason - that's the reason they  
21 hired me is that we're changing that and make that more  
22 available, more immediate and cheaper. And that actually  
23 is not a result of that hearing. It's because we know  
24 that's what's necessary in this industry. Do you have any  
25 questions, sir? No? Good.



1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Just one more question I  
2 guess. So somebody walks in with very good  
3 qualifications, say for the supervisor certification,  
4 what's involved for them to get certified? Just start to  
5 finish. Let's say they pick up the phone and, you know –

6                   MR. MEYER: Okay. They have the experience and  
7 it's discoverable experience, then it would basically be  
8 the certification exam. See, as Chris pointed out it's a  
9 mixture of education down to experience. And as the  
10 education – we're looking for an optimum mix of the two.  
11 Okay. And the only way that we can – we have to prove the  
12 experience. We have to prove the basic education and then  
13 they have to prove that they understand the process and a  
14 certain technique in the process.

15                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Go ahead.

16                   MR. SHIRAKH: We've been focusing on engineers  
17 but what if there's a commissioning agent who's not a  
18 registered engineer but who has been doing this for the  
19 past 10 years or so. So what's the process for them to  
20 become –

21                   MR. MEYER: The same.

22                   MR. SHIRAKH: And same would be?

23                   MR. MEYER: They would have to demonstrate their  
24 experience, any education. This would have to be  
25 discoverable and then they would have to sit for the exam.

1 MS. BROOK: But I heard that some of the  
2 requirements were actually connected to working under the  
3 TABB group and a commissioning agent wouldn't have the  
4 experience -

5 MR. MEYER: I believe that was a specific -  
6 wasn't that specifically for TABB, Chris?

7 MR. RUCH: [Indiscernible]

8 MR. MEYER: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. That needed to be  
10 on the record. For the record what was said is that's an  
11 option. There's three options for NEBB.

12 MR. MEYER: Yes. There's three options -  
13 there's three in-take options. It might make things  
14 easier, ma'am, if I ask Chris to email this to the  
15 Committee that can become part of the record and it'll  
16 also be easier for you to see it.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Sure.

18 MR. MEYER: I apologize. I had great  
19 intentions. I have it on a memory stick but that doesn't  
20 do us any good.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Well, thank  
22 you. I guess I have maybe one more question -

23 MR. MEYER: Yes, ma'am.

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And I see somebody else  
25 may be offering clarification on this. You know. Can you

1 help me understand, and I'll ask TABB and AABC this as  
2 well, but kind of how NEBB is different than TABB and AABC  
3 or not different as the case may be? Or am I really just  
4 treading in areas where I don't want to know?

5 [LAUGHTER.]

6 MR. MEYER: I think you may be better off asking  
7 Coke and Pepsi and Dr. Pepper -

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. All right.

9 [LAUGHTER.]

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: So it is substantially  
11 the same service. It's just a matter of which one tastes  
12 better to you. Is that it? Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. MEYER: Put overly simplification, yes  
14 ma'am.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Thanks. Go  
16 ahead.

17 MR. SHIRAKH: So just following through with  
18 what the Commissioner said, are the certification  
19 requirements essentially the same across the three or -  
20 and if there's a substantial difference we need to  
21 understand that.

22 MR. DE LEON: My name's Art De Leon. I'm the  
23 President of Final Air Balance Company and I am a NEBB  
24 certified company and Supervisor.

25 There's - in the scope of - I'm also certified

1 in TABB. So I'm NEBB certified and I'm TABB certified.  
2 My apprenticeship and my first 12 years before I started  
3 my company I was with an AABC firm. They're all the same  
4 in academics. What's different is they just have slightly  
5 different rules and with the AABC you have to be  
6 completely independent, you can't be associated with  
7 mechanical, manufacturer and what have you. With NEBB you  
8 - NEBB and TABB are the same where you can be a contractor  
9 and have a certification with the company as long as you  
10 have a supervisor and a technician. That's the core,  
11 really, on -

12 MR. SHIRAKH: So some of the details are  
13 different but the general requirements for education,  
14 experience and testing is essentially the same?

15 MR. DE LEON: They're really the same. Yeah. I  
16 could go take a test on each one of them and it would be  
17 identical. It's the same material, really. Practical and  
18 knowledge.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. That's really  
20 helpful. Thank you.

21 MR. DE LEON: You're welcome.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: While you're here, if you  
23 want to make your public comment now you're welcome to  
24 since you're here.

25 MR. DE LEON: Okay. Thank you.

1           My public comment would be you're going to hear  
2 a lot of technical. The technicality of the TAB and the  
3 performance testing and documentation but I also wanted to  
4 hit on a point where, as an owner, I've been in this  
5 industry for 23 years, been an owner for 11 years up here.  
6 I started my career down in the LA area, moved up here in  
7 2000, started my company and – so I've worked from San  
8 Diego to Yreka. I just did a job up there at Sutter  
9 Coast. I've worked at – I've done thousands of jobs. And  
10 one thing as an owner – we have insurance and the  
11 insurance really – we don't have a product that we sell.  
12 We just have a service. And our insurance, why do we have  
13 to have \$1 million insurance, \$2 million aggregate,  
14 minimum, on jobs. And it's not because of our product  
15 we're insuring. It's our men and how we do things out in  
16 the field.

17           I look at the training because I also went  
18 through the HERS training, by the way. I did all three of  
19 those. The training for my NEBB and my TABB was 8 years  
20 of experience and studying for a year solid, weekends,  
21 everything, to get my NEBB and TABB. With my HERS Rating  
22 I went in for three consecutive – I did the residential.  
23 The three of them and it took me 6 days to get those.

24           What I look at, as an owner, and like I was  
25 saying with the insurance – I'm getting nervous here –

1 it's real simple to look at a book and like Mark was  
2 saying from Hydeman. It's very difficult to this day when  
3 I send guys out on jobs when you look at a book and it  
4 tells you how to test the system. But when you actually  
5 go out to the job it's very complex. And to this day when  
6 I send my guys out to the job who are certified, within my  
7 company I have 8 guys and I have over 75 years of  
8 experience with those 8 guys in testing, adjusting,  
9 balancing. It is still difficult - I'll still get calls  
10 from guys with 28 years of experience, "Art, how do you  
11 want me to do this as a supervisor. I can do it this way,  
12 I can do it this way, I could do it this way but which way  
13 is going to be the most accurate that we're going to be  
14 putting our name and our stamp on?" And we go into  
15 buildings where I've been working at Rockwell where  
16 they're making the ships for the bombs and if you have to  
17 burp or belch in the room you have to go to the corner.  
18 The room is so clean.

19 Now I go to hospitals, they're doing - am I  
20 taking too long?

21 Basically the point I'm trying to make is it's  
22 not just about testing it's experience that you've - that  
23 is accumulative since 1965 when the AABC started to right  
24 now, years and years of passing down an experience of  
25 jobs, when you go out to the job there's a lot of dangers

1 that you can be effecting in the surrounding area. And  
2 not just the fan that we're testing. That's my biggest  
3 fear as a company owner and what my insurance is to cover  
4 is what am I going to do when my guys testing this fan but  
5 it could be affecting his area in the welding.

6 So it's -

7 MR. SHIRAKH: One quick question.

8 MR. DE LEON: Sure.

9 MR. SHIRAKH: You mentioned that you have  
10 certification from two of these organizations, NEBB and  
11 TABB, is there some advantage of having multiple  
12 certifications? Does that warrant some advantage?

13 MR. DE LEON: No. But some engineers on the  
14 specifications might say we want AABC only or we want NEBB  
15 only or we want TABB only or they want NEBB and AABC or  
16 they want NEBB and TABB. I'm doing the California Food  
17 and Ag Buildings. I do it every twice a year and their  
18 specs say NEBB and TABB. So that's the only reason. It's  
19 not specific. Believe me in knowledgebase they are all  
20 the same. You have to know the same amount.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: That's really helpful.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. DE LEON: You're welcome.

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thanks for coming up.

25 MR. BREHLER: If I could just add -

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, sorry.

2 MR. BREHLER: As a matter of housekeeping. Mr.  
3 Meyer, or anybody else in the room who hasn't submitted  
4 their written comments yet, the Public Notice has the  
5 instructions for submitting them to the docket. Thank  
6 you.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you, Pippin.

8 All right. I'll ask for Gary Andis, the  
9 Director of TABB.

10 MR. ANDIS: Good afternoon. Give you a little  
11 bit of the history of what I've dealt with over the years.  
12 I've been in the business 39 years. Started back in the  
13 '70s. I was a factory rep out of Syracuse, New York in  
14 the late '80s, early '90s. Here in California in 1994 I  
15 came when Title 24 was kind of getting started. Our  
16 computers were operating on 9 megahertz for those of you  
17 who can remember those days. And in the Title 24 we were  
18 doing Title 24s for California. I have to give credit for  
19 one plan inspector in Morgan Hill, California. I despised  
20 it. Because he came right here in this room. Every time  
21 we had a CEC meeting he showed up. When we came down to  
22 do the Title 24, in residential if I put shade co  
23 efficiency in for drapes he would mark on it for the  
24 building inspector and when the building inspector got to  
25 the job I had to have drapes in the residential house for



1 him to sign off on.

2           That is the kind of inspectors that I would like  
3 to see throughout California. Those were special. But  
4 those definitely come around. And California has got some  
5 of those but unfortunately I don't think there's enough of  
6 them.

7           As far as TABB, I've got to say that I'm  
8 certified in TABB, have been for years. I also hold a  
9 certification from AEE, Associated Energy Engineers. The  
10 engineers firm knew that they had everyone educated to  
11 what needed to be done but they also knew that a lot of  
12 their engineers didn't have the hands on to execute the  
13 validation within the field. So AEE started a  
14 certification under TABB. Unfortunately, most engineers  
15 said, "All I want is the report. I don't want to have to  
16 go into the field and do it. I went to school I don't  
17 want to do that." So AEE has just dropped their CTAB  
18 certification so it no longer exists.

19           Our TABB certification is really unique within  
20 itself because when you ask me about the certification I'm  
21 going to be able to address it. When you ask me about the  
22 training I'm going to have to refer to the gentleman on my  
23 right because TABB is unique because its ISO 17024 which  
24 is an international standard and is policed by ANSI. So  
25 we can only do certification. We do not do training. We

1 create the job task analysis and we create the  
2 knowledgebase. Now the job task analysis and the  
3 knowledgebase is what you're going to see pretty much  
4 across the board with all three certifications. Then the  
5 training is based on those job task analysis and  
6 knowledgebase.

7           There was a question, "Do you train specifically  
8 to the forms of Title 24?" And I would have to say we do  
9 not across the nation. As it's already been proven here  
10 locally that training is done but that's done on a  
11 training process. I will tell you that our knowledgebase  
12 covers every aspect that it would take to fill out the  
13 forms on a technical aspect but to lay the form down it  
14 does not. In other words I can't tell you what Line 15 is  
15 but the technical knowledgebase is within every one of our  
16 knowledgebases that we produce.

17           TABB has actually a certification for the  
18 contractor. It has a certification for the supervisor and  
19 the technician. To be a contractor you must employ  
20 supervisors and technicians in order to be a certified  
21 contractor. So those give you kind of a unique set up.  
22 The supervisor has a criteria that they can be. It's one  
23 of four. They can have college degrees and have  
24 experience in the field or they can be certified within  
25 the tech part and they can come in and take the exam. Our

1 technician exam is primarily based on a written exam and a  
2 performance exam so they not only have to show that they  
3 have the education but they have the quality to perform  
4 everything with their hands. Some other certifications  
5 are NATE and – so I’m on the service side as well. So in  
6 saying that when you get into the technician certification  
7 you have to have the hands on. You have to understand in  
8 the NATE certification that I hold, and there’s 6 or 7 of  
9 them, it’s pretty simple. They’ll tell you across the  
10 board, “Add up the air that’s in the grills and that’s  
11 what goes through the system.” Commercial systems don’t  
12 operate that way. You have diversity and sometimes it can  
13 be as much as 35-40 percent and that’s way out there.  
14 You’ve got VAV systems. There’s very few certifications  
15 that ask questions within built-up systems. Most of these  
16 built systems are either split systems or packaged units.  
17 You have the dry side or you have the wet side. These  
18 three certifications along with TABB are the only ones  
19 that bring the dry and the wet together for one  
20 certification.

21           We have prepared answers to all these questions.  
22 If you want me to I can read through them all but some of  
23 them’s been covered. It’s entirely up to you. If you’d  
24 like to ask questions I can answer them.

25           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. If you’ve

1 prepared answers to all the questions, I really appreciate  
2 it. We'll look forward to getting them in writing.

3 Martha, Mazi - do you have any questions.

4 MS. BROOK: [Indiscernible] Oh, sorry. We  
5 would like to see the responses to those questions. If  
6 you can provide them that will be very helpful.

7 MR. ANDIS: Okay. We will definitely clean  
8 these up. They went through counsel this morning and just  
9 got here and I've only got them on the iPad. I didn't  
10 even get them printed off.

11 MS. BROOK: We'll take the iPad. That works.

12 [LAUGHTER.]

13 MR. ANDIS: You're going to have to talk to this  
14 guy over here on that. But we can definitely clean them  
15 up and if there's any questions that anyone has on the  
16 certifications, be more than happy to answer any of them.

17 MR. SHIRAKH: [Indiscernible]

18 MR. ANDIS: We do.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Well,  
20 appreciate you being here. Thank you very much. We'll  
21 look forward to getting the written answers to the  
22 questions.

23 And let me ask Jim Taylor from AABC to come up.

24 MR. TAYLOR: Hello. I actually came here just  
25 to represent the AABC and answer any questions you had

1 about the certification.

2 I'm not here to provide a presentation about why  
3 we think we should be here. I've been a TAB contractor  
4 since 1992 with the same company and then all of my work  
5 in Northern California so, by default, we've been filling  
6 in a lot of the MEC sheets since about 2005.

7 Really, you know, aside we've always been the  
8 most qualified left on the job to fill out the form.  
9 That's why we've done it and the reason I kind of go with  
10 experience is the basis of all of our technicians and the  
11 basis of AABC certification. Now Art had mentioned AABC  
12 and I think we had also talked about the size of AABC. We  
13 are the smallest. We are the oldest though. We were  
14 established in 1964 by mechanical engineers that were  
15 designing systems and weren't getting the performance out  
16 of them when all was said and done. So they came up with  
17 a set of standards and the AABC was born.

18 So in the bylaws they realized it took a lot of  
19 experience to understand the systems and put them together  
20 and get them operating at the end. So AABC, I can speak  
21 only mostly for the AABC, although we are by choice union  
22 contractors. We're not required by AABC to be union  
23 contractors. We choose that and most of my technicians  
24 that I manage get the benefit of getting TABB education.  
25 And the AABC provides - basically I manage the training

1 for our technicians as well as the field experience and  
2 AABC wants 8 years of experience and what they dictate as  
3 experience is either field experience or accredited  
4 engineering school. So if you're a four year accredited  
5 engineer you only need 4 years of experience to become a  
6 test and balance engineer. I went the long way. I had a  
7 business degree so I had 8 years of experience before I  
8 could apply and take the test and balance engineer test so  
9 very proud of that. I've earned that from the school of  
10 hard knocks in just doing very diverse application  
11 projects and I think that's a very representative sample  
12 of how the AABC functions.

13 So do you have any direct questions about the  
14 AABC and our certification?

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Are you planning on  
16 submitting anything in writing responding to these  
17 questions or should we just ask some of them now?

18 MR. TAYLOR: Ask them now. I really just came  
19 here as a courtesy.

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. All right.  
21 So let me just ask how -- so how does somebody become  
22 certified under the AABC?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. The current requirements are  
24 -- is that you seek employment with an AABC company. Our  
25 membership is also that we have to be, since we're union

1 affiliated, we have to get them into the apprenticeship  
2 program. In our instance there's two levels. That's not  
3 required though. And there is the experience gained  
4 through four years of field experience working on diverse  
5 systems and working for a diverse group of engineers as  
6 well as the home study test and at the end of that process  
7 you get - it's an 8 hour test or a technician level  
8 certification. And that continues on 4 more years to get  
9 the test and balance engineer to be able to apply to take  
10 the test for test and balance engineers' certification.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Great. And what's  
12 the number and, if you can say location or rough location,  
13 of people who meet the certification requirements of AABC  
14 in California or nationwide?

15 MR. TAYLOR: Actually, the gentlemen - Chris -

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh. You've got that -

17 MR. TAYLOR: He threw that data out there.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh. That's fine.

19 MR. TAYLOR: I believe he's accurate. There's  
20 74 certified technicians.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Great.

22 MR. TAYLOR: So we're a very small agency.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Good. Mazi or  
24 Martha, any other questions?

25 MS. BROOK: When you provide training in

1 California do you train them on our acceptance test?

2 MR. TAYLOR: We do not. AABC is a national –  
3 actually international association and so it's very  
4 specific to the TAB contractors in California to take on  
5 that.

6 MS. BROOK: Okay.

7 MR. TAYLOR: And I've never actually, to be  
8 honest with you, most of our technicians that have the  
9 aptitude to do our trade are very good on picking up on  
10 those forms. They're very versed in the usage of that  
11 equipment. Since commissioning is such a hot topic in the  
12 industry now. Commissioning assistants as a TAB  
13 contractor as well as doing their own commissioning is  
14 very similar.

15 MS. BROOK: Okay.

16 MR. TAYLOR: So the MEC sheets are, in my  
17 opinion, a functional performance test.

18 MS. BROOK: All right. Thank you.

19 MR. SHIRAKH: And specifically you teach your  
20 students how to do test related to control systems?

21 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

22 MR. SHIRAKH: Energy management systems?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Yes. To be successful as a TABB  
24 contractor we get a very diverse – we see all types of  
25 control sequences as well as software so we get a very



1 diverse – I don't know of anybody else in the industry  
2 that really sees that diverse of an application of HVAC  
3 systems. AABC, I think, the only thing I'd like to  
4 comment also is that we are independent and that we're not  
5 affiliated with any design engineers, installing  
6 contractors and so that was one of the cornerstones and  
7 that's one of the biggest differences between AABC and the  
8 other certifications in this room.

9 MR. SHIRAKH: Just following up –

10 MR. TAYLOR: Is that you cannot be an –

11 MR. SHIRAKH: Just following up on Martha's  
12 thing. Your organization is a national one. It's not  
13 focused on California.

14 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

15 MR. SHIRAKH: Were you suggesting that we should  
16 incorporate California acceptance testing requirements in  
17 there somehow otherwise why – it's not clear what the  
18 benefit to us is if it's not focused on our acceptance  
19 testing.

20 MR. TAYLOR: I think the current TABB  
21 certifications are showing experience. And I think  
22 that's, from listening to everything that's been going on  
23 and the discussions that I've had with my peers. It  
24 really – I mean we get frustrated often with them as TABB  
25 contractors by commissioning agents that are just filling

1 in check sheets and don't have field experience on the  
2 diversity of a system. We have to not only educate them  
3 on our trade we have to show them TAB verification that  
4 the system is working correctly. Well, heck, we're doing  
5 all of the work then so I think the key that I see there  
6 is experience. Someway of documenting experience and not  
7 getting, as Art said, a HERS Rating in 6 days. We do duct  
8 testing and we've been doing duct testing on hundreds and  
9 hundreds of projects, in very high tech, in very sensitive  
10 areas. Usually that's what dictates duct testing.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. TAYLOR: Is that it?

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah. That's it. Thanks  
14 for being here.

15 Let's go to Bernie Kotlier, the Co-Chair of  
16 California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program.

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Indiscernible]

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Absolutely.

19 Michael Siminovitch coming forward with CLTC.

20 MR. SIMINOVITCH: Thank you, Commissioner. Just  
21 a few words. I wanted to speak to this concept at a  
22 relatively high level.

23 In terms of lighting the kinds of things we're  
24 going to be seeing in the next 5 years are going to really  
25 add to the level of complexity in the design and operation

1 of our buildings at such a level it's going to require  
2 very significant level of training and understanding in  
3 order to have the kinds of technologies and kind of  
4 efficiency that we're really looking for.

5           So I break this into sort of three areas. One  
6 is what are the strategic objectives? What's the process?  
7 And what's the level of agreement? So I really think we  
8 should be pushing very hard on the educational elements on  
9 this and I think if there's fairly broad agreement from  
10 the industry in support of this.

11           We work with the contractors, the utilities to  
12 test and develop some very early types of training and  
13 educational processes that Bernie was very helpful on with  
14 the CALCTP with the controls training. It was adopted.  
15 It was very – we got tremendous input from the Energy  
16 Commission, from the utilities and, more importantly, I  
17 think we got very strong interest from the industry in  
18 order to get these new technologies and put them into  
19 place.

20           So I think you're going to find fairly broad  
21 agreement on this from the industry and from the  
22 contractors. I think the devil's going to be in the  
23 details here as far as what are the processes that can be  
24 brought to bear in order to achieve this. And what I  
25 think we're going to need is a certain level of uniformity

1 between all the different types of organizations that do  
2 offer training. I think all the organizations are very  
3 supportive of training but I think the central  
4 threadedness is going to be how do you get all of these  
5 organizations to agree on some level of commonality. I  
6 mean, if somebody's got a certain kind of training  
7 program, how acceptable is it to the Commission and how do  
8 those training programs compare to all the other kinds of  
9 training programs that you might have.

10 So I think the critical question here is not so  
11 much the agreement on the product. It is going to be on  
12 the agreement on the process in terms of how do we get all  
13 these organizations working together.

14 So I'm going to leave it at that. If you have  
15 specific questions?

16 MS. BROOK: So when you're suggesting a process  
17 step, are you suggesting that the Energy Commission  
18 develop a set of criteria that all approved certifications  
19 must meet or some just collaborative work amongst the  
20 industry to align training programs?

21 MR. SIMINOVITCH: Well, I think you're going to  
22 have to - I think there's going to have to be some kind of  
23 agreement. Some kind of commonality whether it's the  
24 Energy Commission or some other public entity that comes  
25 together and says, "Of the following 5 entities that are

1 offering training what minimum level of standard is  
2 acceptable to us that will make sure that the goals of  
3 your standards and programs are realized?" I mean I think  
4 that everybody agrees that the lighting controls is the  
5 right thing to do. It's going to be where the bulk of  
6 your savings is going to be achieved. If we don't have  
7 the people trained right we're not going to get it.

8           And I think you heard broadly from the industry  
9 that everybody is pretty much supportive but we need to  
10 get all these different organizations talking to each  
11 other so there's some level of agreement so, "Yes. Our  
12 training program has some minimal acceptance."

13           So I think you hit the nail on the head here.  
14 We need to either have you folks or some other entity say,  
15 "Yes. The following entities have the bare minimum that  
16 it takes to say, 'This person's okay to come in and do  
17 acceptance training.'" That's the concentrated point  
18 here. The rest of this, in my opinion, is noise. We  
19 really need to focus in on how do you get this process  
20 going because everybody is gung ho on the product. The  
21 product is a great idea. You desperately need to have  
22 this product. If you don't have it you're not going to  
23 get your savings that you've lined up for Title 24.  
24 You're just not going to get it.

25           In lighting and not HVAC, but lighting, most of

1 our savings is going to be coming from advanced controls.  
2 That's just the reality of it. So it's invest now in a  
3 product that unifies us as a group.

4 Either you guys do it or you ask somebody else  
5 to do it. One of the two. So I wanted to make sure that  
6 you addressed that question because it was a key question  
7 that you had.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: What does it take to get  
9 the CLTC training? Is it a, you know, what does it cost,  
10 how long does it take?

11 MR. SIMINOVITCH: It's not CLTC training. We  
12 were one of the early - there was a group of folks. The  
13 utilities, the contractors, the contractor's association.  
14 We got together and said, "Look. We're not going to obtain  
15 California's goals here unless we start training people."  
16 So we were the little university at the table that was  
17 helping out on this process. By and large it's a body of  
18 information. It's distilled into a series of courses.  
19 Bernie can speak to the logistics of it. It's now offered  
20 broadly. There's now many people being trained.

21 But I think the concept here is that it's not  
22 the only program. I mean I think that CALCTP is wide open  
23 to have lots of other folks do the same or similar things.  
24 But what the essence is that we determined what the bare  
25 minimum of information that was needed there so that any

1 other organization that wants to go through the same  
2 process they need to do the same exercise just like the  
3 HVAC folks do but if somebody wants to offer lighting  
4 controls training, they need to do what we do. We said  
5 this is what you need to know, it's a moving target, these  
6 are daylighting controls, these are all the different  
7 technologies you need to really understand.

8           So I'll let Bernie talk to sort of the mechanics  
9 of this and there's lots of contractors being trained in  
10 this state. There's not a really big problem on  
11 throughput in terms of actually getting these people out  
12 there. I think it's just the cross-communication that  
13 needs leadership from you folks.

14           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Thank you.

15           MR. SIMINOVITCH: Thank you.

16           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I assume that since  
17 you're talking about a process you're not prepared to tell  
18 us what the bare minimum ought to be or -

19           MR. SIMINOVITCH: No.

20           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Are you?

21           MR. SIMINOVITCH: Well we do. We know what the  
22 bare minimum is for lighting controls and I could spend  
23 the next three hours going through sort of a cross section  
24 of what our course might be. I'm sure you don't want  
25 that. But we have something that we can hand to you and

1 say, "This is the bare minimum that needs to be done in  
2 order to get a contractor up to speed to be able to do the  
3 very commissioning you need to see." That's, I don't  
4 think, is a problem. I think the problem is then to get  
5 the 5-10 other organizations all to say, "Yes. Yes. Those  
6 are the 10 things we need to know." So someone in a  
7 position of trust, you folks or whoever else you deem,  
8 needs to say, "Here's the straw man that says this is the  
9 bare minimum of what we need." And I think every other,  
10 you know, the HVAC guys need to do this but in lighting I  
11 can give you the 10 broad course elements. We already  
12 have it. The homework's done. We just need to hand it to  
13 somebody.

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Good. Well,  
15 we'll look forward to getting it. Thank you, Michael.

16 Bernie, do you have anything to add? If you do,  
17 this would be a good time.

18 MR. KOTLIER: Thank you, Madam Commissioner, for  
19 this opportunity to speak to you today and I'd also like  
20 to thank the California Energy Commission for its support  
21 of CALCTP, a long-term support and funding of this  
22 program.

23 I'm one of two co-chairs of CALCTP and I'd like  
24 to recognize the considerable contributions of my co-chair  
25 Mr. Doug Avery of Southern California Edison. He could



1 not be with us today but, as I said, his contributions  
2 have been significant and appreciated.

3 CALCTP is a non-profit lighting controls  
4 industrywide collaborative. Stakeholders include all  
5 three investor-owned utilities, the Sacramento  
6 Municipality Utility District, the California Community  
7 Colleges, 14 advanced lighting control manufacturers, the  
8 University of California, electrical contractors,  
9 electricians, the National Electrical Manufacturers  
10 Association (NEMA) and, of course, the California Energy  
11 Commission.

12 CALCTP was formed because utility  
13 representatives stated to stakeholders that many lighting  
14 control systems have not functioned to their specified  
15 efficiency or did not work at all. And those utility  
16 representatives identified poor installation, poor  
17 commissioning, poor maintenance as primary reasons for  
18 these deficiencies.

19 CALCTP was initially funded by a contribution of  
20 \$450,000 from Southern California Edison with  
21 supplementary funding from the electrical industry as well  
22 as PG&E and SDG&E. Later, CALCTP received \$5 million from  
23 the U.S. Department of Labor and more than \$500,000 from  
24 the State of California. This funding has allowed CALCTP  
25 to develop curriculum, training and certification that is

1 comprehensive, effective and state of the art training  
2 that requires a 100 percent pass rate on the hands on lab  
3 portion of that training.

4 CALCTP is an open industrywide program. It is  
5 eligible to any and all state certified general  
6 electricians in California. It is offered across the  
7 state at community colleges and at electrical training  
8 centers. To date, 1,450 electricians have been trained  
9 and certified all around California.

10 At the current rate of training, by January  
11 2014, the time when the 2013 update will be instituted  
12 there will be at least 3,000, and likely 3,500-4,000  
13 CALCTP electricians in California. Some may question why  
14 CALCTP electricians are well suited to perform acceptance  
15 testing.

16 I firmly believe that the CALCTP electricians  
17 who install these advanced, sophisticated devices know  
18 them best. They know the system specs, performance, the  
19 requirements, the programming, the calibration and the  
20 maintenance of these systems.

21 The question of who or what other association or  
22 credentials should be included in acceptance testing for  
23 lighting controls is an important one. According to  
24 lighting industry experts, many professionals, often  
25 called specifiers, who include lighting designers,

1 engineers, architects, etc. are not up to speed and  
2 necessarily expert on the design or operation of advanced  
3 lighting control systems.

4 In fact, a group of lighting industry  
5 stakeholders is coming together from all over California  
6 and those stakeholders include the three investor-owned  
7 utilities and are convening a meeting next month to begin  
8 discussing a training and certification program for those  
9 specifiers.

10 One final point. When I've asked lighting  
11 industry professionals for other credentials that we could  
12 add now for acceptance testing that represent wide levels  
13 of expertise and competence in every meeting and every  
14 discussion, none have been offered.

15 While there are members of other certifications  
16 and other associations and other groups who are competent  
17 no industry professional has been able to say that any  
18 group has wide participation and high levels of competence  
19 to the degree that that group should be eligible for this  
20 acceptance testing. And I would submit with the  
21 exception of CALCTP and its broad and comprehensive  
22 training.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
24 being here.

25 MS. BROOK: Yeah. Bernie. Can a commissioning

1 provider take your training?

2 MR. SIMINOVITCH: Excuse me?

3 MS. BROOK: Can a commissioning provider who  
4 isn't an electrician or an electrical contractor of any  
5 kind take the CALCTP training?

6 MR. SIMINOVITCH: A commissioning provider who  
7 is not an electrician, not a state-certified electrician,  
8 they could audit a class but they could not be certified.

9 MS. BROOK: Oh. Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Anything else? It  
11 doesn't look like it. Okay. Thanks.

12 MR. SIMINOVITCH: But I would just add to that  
13 we understand acceptance testing can be different than  
14 commissioning, and isn't necessarily applied the same way.

15 MS. BROOK: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. SIMINOVITCH: Any other questions?

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, thank you.

18 All right. Let's see here. Ellen Avis, UC  
19 Berkeley something Unemployment in the Green Economy.

20 MS. AVIS: Hi. I'm Ellen Avis with the UC  
21 Berkeley Labor Center and the Donald Vial Center on  
22 Employment in the Green Economy.

23 I was one of the lead authors of the statewide  
24 workforce education and training needs assessment for  
25 energy efficiency, demand response and distributed

1 generation that was, as many of you know, commissioned by  
2 the Public Utilities Commission as part of the  
3 implementation of the Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan.

4 I just wanted to share some ways in which the  
5 findings of that need assessment show the importance of  
6 enforcement of code and raising standards for workers  
7 involved in those industries. In particular in this case,  
8 obviously, setting that bar high for assessment and  
9 testing.

10 So basically I have three points. Strong  
11 enforcement of code is obviously critical. It's what  
12 we're talking about here and without enforcement and  
13 testing that keeps up with the advancing technology  
14 requirements it just seems like updating the code is a  
15 pretty futile exercise as the needs assessment and other  
16 studies have shown where worker and contractor standards  
17 are low and enforcement is weak that there really are huge  
18 problems with the quality of installation of energy  
19 efficiency equipment. So even when the equipment is code  
20 compliant the installation is poor and there's a huge loss  
21 of savings which, you know, as many people have mentioned  
22 today there's that now classic sort of example in  
23 residential HVAC where 85-90 percent of installations are  
24 not done to code and we're losing energy savings everyday  
25 basically because of that.

1           So, as I said, it's really important to set a  
2 high bar for acceptance testing and enforcement and we  
3 need the most skilled people to be doing those jobs not,  
4 you know, someone to just sign a form.

5           So this is particularly true in the commercial  
6 sector. Compliance is higher in the commercial sector but  
7 the systems are more complicated and are getting more  
8 complicated all the time. So we have a base to start with  
9 in terms of compliance but we need to make sure that the  
10 bar is set high so that continues as the technology  
11 advances.

12           And then I wanted to speak to CALCTP in  
13 particular for the needs assessment we did an inventory of  
14 training programs throughout the state which was very  
15 extensive and, in the course of that inventory, CALCTP  
16 really stood out as the model and single best example of a  
17 training program that really looked at the needs of the  
18 industry and the demands of an advancing technology, saw a  
19 real gap and filled that gap. So it's really the only  
20 program training for this particular skillset at this  
21 time. And it's especially important because it's taking  
22 already highly skilled workers and bringing them up to the  
23 cutting edge of technology which is what I mean by setting  
24 the bar high. In order to get real energy savings we  
25 really need people who are trained specifically in the

1 technologies that they're assessing and not just someone  
2 to sign a form.

3 So advancing the Title 24 standards is about  
4 raising the bar so we want this to be effective. We want  
5 to raise the bar for the workers involved in verification  
6 as well.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

9 So next we'll have Josh Allen with Allen  
10 Electrical Contracting.

11 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Josh  
12 Allen. I'm with Allen Electrical Contracting. I'm out at  
13 Chico. I've been through the business development on the  
14 CALCTP and the installer side of it. I'm here to support  
15 it. It's a very comprehensive program. It's very  
16 detailed.

17 And I've been in business for 5 years for  
18 myself. I've been an electrician for 14 years.

19 I've installed lots of systems prior to going  
20 through the class and unfortunately I've found that I've  
21 installed them improperly myself. And so it's very  
22 detailed, it's comprehensive and so I think that it's a  
23 good program to push the standards that you guys are  
24 trying to accomplish.

25 MS. BROOK: One question I have. I guess it

1 seems to me that there's real value in CALCTP not only  
2 from the verification perspective but also the  
3 installation perspective. You're actually getting trained  
4 on how to install it right.

5 MR. ALLEN: Yes.

6 MS. BROOK: I guess the only thing that concerns  
7 me is that there doesn't seem to be a path for people who  
8 do verification as a profession, like a commissioning  
9 provider, to get that same kind of certification and that  
10 - because, again, because we're not requiring the  
11 installing contractor to verify in every case it's great.  
12 If that works and they're qualified to do that but that's  
13 not the only path the industry is taking to do  
14 verification of the functional performance of these  
15 systems.

16 So I know you're not CALCTP. You're just - I  
17 just wanted to mention that.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

19 Dave Dias, Sheet Metal Worker 104.

20 MR. DIAS: Thank you, Madam Chair. As you can  
21 probably guess I'm here to support this with the Sheet  
22 Metal Workers 104. Our territory right now consists of  
23 going from Monterrey to the Oregon border.

24 I guess it's question 17 that Martha brought up  
25 about if we have the man power to do it statewide. In our



1 local, yes. Pretty much, we do. We have people – I just  
2 actually called a couple of business reps for the North  
3 Bay and we have people in Eureka doing commissioning right  
4 now as we speak. So we cover the entire state.

5 Randy Young over here from our sister Local 162  
6 in Sacramento. I think Robbie attested they'd cover the  
7 rest of at least Northern California part. So we really  
8 don't have any issues that way. We can cover the whole  
9 state.

10 There's a couple of other things. I'm also a  
11 trustee on our training trust and you brought up a  
12 question about acceptance testing. Are we trained to?  
13 Yes, we are in the process of changing our curriculum on  
14 the TAB side to do that because we know it's critical to  
15 that state.

16 MS. BROOK: Okay. That's great.

17 MR. DIAS: We are going after that. And see  
18 what else –

19 Oh. I just wanted to say. I know there are  
20 some engineers and stuff that talked about design of  
21 buildings. A building can be designed to the best LEED  
22 standard or whatever but if it's not installed and checked  
23 and tested correctly it doesn't matter and that's really  
24 what I wanted to say. I've seen a lot of that. I've been  
25 in the trade for 28 years now so it's been awhile. I sit

1 on a lot of – I sit on IAPMO, International Green  
2 Mechanical Code, the UMC which is the California  
3 mechanical code based off that directly and I see all – I  
4 deal with the inspectors. We train the inspectors in our  
5 training centers and I understand, we all understand, in  
6 our whole entire trade how it can effect if things aren't  
7 put in correctly, tested to make sure they're running  
8 correctly.

9           That's pretty much all I have to say unless you  
10 have any questions.

11           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I do not. Thanks for  
12 being here. Thanks for being here to speak.

13           James Page, ITI. International Training  
14 Institute.

15           MR. PAGE: Good afternoon, Madam Inspector,  
16 Commissioners. Thank you very much.

17           My name is Jim Page. I work for the  
18 International Training Institute. We're the educational  
19 branch arm for Sheet Metal Workers International and I am  
20 the regional coordinator here on the west coast.

21           As Gary had earlier pointed out and you've had a  
22 couple of coordiners, school coordinators, here. Up here  
23 already. Gary pointed out earlier that his program he  
24 manages is for the certification. The program that I work  
25 on, and I'm one of 5 in the United States, we basically

1 work with the schools, making sure that their curriculum  
2 is in line with the state standards and the joint  
3 apprenticeship training requirements.

4           We also do journeyman upgrade training. Now  
5 where's that come to in TABB. My background, 35 years –  
6 close to 35 years here in the trade, I'm a TABB specialist  
7 for the industry. I manage training schools for TABB, the  
8 certified labs we have across the United States and the  
9 TABB training that goes on on a national level. I have  
10 been involved with the AABC prior to taking on this task  
11 with the national level. I was with the AABC. We were  
12 also a NEBB firm in the early going and we were a TABB  
13 firm.

14           So working with all 3 of the agencies, and it's  
15 been spoken and stated before, in a general platform  
16 everybody's got a knowledgebase. Everybody has done a job  
17 task analysis as to what has to be done. And it's all  
18 really based around following the same protocols. The  
19 testing that's done is the industry standard testing  
20 procedures. The training that goes on is about proper  
21 usage of the instrumentation and there's been some  
22 conversation over the forms that are filled out.

23           There's even training specifically on forms.  
24 How do you fill out a report? And it's very much  
25 emphasized amongst all 3 of the bureaus that integrity is

1 the most important thing. I mean these bureaus all sell  
2 basically paperwork. They're not installing. They're  
3 validating. That's their job. So that's what they  
4 specialize in and you have to have an understanding of  
5 systems. You have to have a workforce out there of  
6 trained technicians but you also have to have a level of  
7 supervision which is why when you listen to the bureaus  
8 talk and you look at the matrix that you were sent, or  
9 will be sent, you'll see the structure breakdown.

10 We have the contractors, we have a supervisor  
11 and we have the technicians in the field. So there's top  
12 down management that's going on here. And that's what's  
13 very, very important, especially when it comes to the MEC  
14 forms and I work the MEC forms – by the way, Gary's  
15 commitment here to California. He's a past California  
16 resident but he hails out of Virginia but he's got a long  
17 commitment here to Local 104. I'm a California resident.  
18 I hail out of Long Beach, California and I have a very  
19 much commitment to the State of California and Los  
20 Angeles. So we're very passionate about what we do in our  
21 industry and about the work that's performed out there.  
22 And yes, it's very true that on a national level people  
23 will look at what's going on here. And I've had to speak  
24 in a lot of other states around the country about what  
25 their energy programs are and how they're going about it.

1           Those MEC forms are a general standardized form  
2 that in the early goings when they came out there was a  
3 lot of discussion in the field about responsibility on the  
4 form. Who bore the responsibility? We're the technicians  
5 in the field validating, doing the check offs but there  
6 was a responsibility box. And there always was a  
7 discussion going on about whether it was the design  
8 engineer, the general contractor, what we going on. So  
9 clarity has come over the years to some of this and we  
10 have some new forms. The latest version that's out there.  
11 Again, it's about the integrity of the person that's out  
12 there doing the work. The fact that they've gone through  
13 a certification, a structured certification, program and  
14 they've proven proficiency in that industry and now  
15 they're out here doing the work.

16           So it's a big investment here in California.  
17 Really this investment here is for the future of  
18 California's sustainability, you know, and these JATCs,  
19 these schools, these bureaus have all spent a lot of money  
20 training their people specifically to be out there doing  
21 this, as some people would say, easy type of work. But I  
22 have a real pushback to those that say we can do this in 6  
23 hours because I can tell you the hours and the commitment  
24 of the individuals that do TAB are very extensive. It's  
25 very hard. And I applaud anybody that goes through it,

1 you know. It's not that you can't do it. It's just how  
2 much commitment did you have in learning it. We're not  
3 saying we're engineers. Really we are the communicators.  
4 We are the liaisons to that engineer, to the general  
5 contractor on the job and that engineer that designed it  
6 and we're out there validating performance and  
7 documentation and we're going to turn that in and we're  
8 going to be having a discussion if there's one to be had  
9 for why something may or may not be working. You know.

10 It's an important job and it's a stressful job,  
11 and I'm open to any questions you may have.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Questions? I don't think  
13 so right now. Thanks for being here.

14 MR. DIAS: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Robert  
16 Helbing.

17 MR. HELBING: Good afternoon, Commissioner and  
18 members of the public. My name is Bob Helbing. I am the  
19 owner and president of Air Tro Heating and Air  
20 Conditioning. I am a fourth generation contractor. Last  
21 year Air Tro was recognized as contractor – or commercial  
22 contractor of the year by the Air Conditioning Contractors  
23 of America. I've been on the board of the Institute of  
24 Heating and Air Conditioning Industries for the past 7  
25 years. Excuse me. I am a fourth generation contractor.

1 I am also a mechanical engineer. I'm a registered  
2 mechanical engineer in the State of California and a  
3 member of ASHRAE.

4 We've talked a lot today about TABB, NEBB and  
5 AABC and I've had the pleasure of working with Erik Emblem  
6 to promote those organizations in, for example, utility  
7 programs. As a commercial contractor I work with them on  
8 a regular basis. I know the quality of the work and the  
9 commitment that we've heard about today.

10 But the utility programs that I was working with  
11 Erik on were voluntary programs. Okay. They were smaller  
12 in scope. They were easily modified or cancelled if they  
13 were not working properly. We're talking about something  
14 different today. We're talking about putting something  
15 into regulatory language that once it's there turns out  
16 that there's flaws or problems; it will take years to get  
17 it straightened out.

18 I think we have had problems in the past with  
19 Title 24 with some of the language that was written and  
20 it's been a struggle to get it to straighten up and fly  
21 right. I don't want to see a similar mistake made in this  
22 case. We talked about compliance. The lady from UC  
23 Berkeley mentioned that commercial compliance is higher  
24 than residential compliance. Honestly as a commercial  
25 contractor I've seen exactly the opposite. I can go into

1 building departments in Los Angeles County and I can  
2 request the MEC forms and they don't know what I'm talking  
3 about. If I take the time to download the MEC forms and  
4 fill them out and bring them in they don't know how to  
5 handle them. It's my experience that compliance on the  
6 commercial side, at least in the retrofit market, has been  
7 in the low single digits. We've heard numbers like 85-90  
8 percent of systems installed are not working to spec. My  
9 guess is most of those systems were done without permits  
10 and without performing compliance.

11 Now my concern here with this proposed  
12 regulation is we're talking about making compliance for  
13 commercial contractors an even greater challenge than what  
14 it already is. We've heard some figures today. We've  
15 heard about how many qualified technicians there are in  
16 the State of California who would be able to do this work.  
17 I think the number came in at something under 1,000  
18 technicians. My guess is that not all of those are  
19 working fulltime in the field. Some are probably  
20 instructors. Some are probably also doing part time  
21 business. They're not fully available to do this work.

22 I don't know if anybody has numbers on the  
23 amount of commercial equipment sold in California but my  
24 guess is we're talking over 100,000 systems a year and the  
25 total HVAC system sales in California about 1 million so



1 it's safe to guess that at least 10 percent of that is  
2 commercial. We're talking about 1,000 technicians for  
3 100,000 systems installed. It seems like a lot of work  
4 for these guys.

5           We'd heard about how it takes 2 years of field  
6 experience before you can become a certified technician  
7 and it seems to me that if we do find we have a bottleneck  
8 here – somebody mentioned this is a good base. I think  
9 it's a bottleneck. If it turns out we have a bottleneck  
10 there's no quick and easy way to fix it. We can't bring  
11 in other people because they don't meet the specifications  
12 for these organizations. These are national  
13 organizations. They are not going to throw out their  
14 charters for the convenience of California. They're going  
15 to insist that their standards be met, which I respect  
16 them for that, but it does mean that if we run into a  
17 problem here there's no simple fix.

18           There are other groups out there that do  
19 training in the HVAC industry. As a board member of the  
20 Institute of Heating and Air Conditioning Industries I  
21 understand that we've trained about 15,000 people in the  
22 past 2 years. Now that has not been in testing and  
23 commissioning. It's been throughout the HVAC industry but  
24 it is a resource available if we do need more commissioned  
25 professionals there are other agencies out there that can

1 provide this work in addition to these groups. North  
2 American Technician Excellence is another organization,  
3 does a lot of HVAC training nationwide. Now, again, they  
4 are not testing and commissioning specialists. We've  
5 heard that the specialists here also do not train to the  
6 California standards. They will have to modify their  
7 training programs in order to do this work. I would think  
8 that other organizations that specialize in HVAC training  
9 could do similar things.

10 So these are my reasons for being concerned  
11 about this proposal. I think it was brought in rather  
12 hastily and hasn't been fully thought through and I don't  
13 see any reason why it has to be incorporated in the 2013  
14 Title 24 revision.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Any  
16 questions? I don't think so. All right. Thanks for  
17 being here.

18 MR. HELBING: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Mark Ouellette, Senior  
20 Project Manager, ICF International.

21 MR. OUELLETTE: Good afternoon, Madam Chairman,  
22 staff and citizens. I've attached my full written  
23 testimony but I'm going to cut those short and highlight  
24 just some of the key points.

25 My name is Mark Ouellette and I am with ICF

1 International. Thank you for this opportunity to testify  
2 on the proposal for using California Advanced Lighting  
3 Controls Training Program, or CALCTP, certified  
4 electricians as acceptance field testing technicians.

5 As you know, CALCTP was established back in 2008  
6 by a broad partnership of stakeholders including the  
7 California Lighting Technology Center, the major IOUs  
8 across the state, SMUD, the California College  
9 Chancellor's Office of Advanced Transportation Technology  
10 Energy Campuses, the LMCC as well as workforce investment  
11 boards across the state.

12 To date CALCTP has had a broad number of funders  
13 including the U.S. Department Employment Training  
14 Administration which you've heard before, the State of  
15 California Employment Training Panel was a clean energy  
16 workforce training program, investor owned utilities, the  
17 TomKat Charitable Trust Foundation as well as the  
18 California State Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

19 CALCTP Board was established and ICF was hired  
20 back in 2008 by the Board to act as an independent third-  
21 party administrator of the program. My comments today  
22 will reflect our role as Administrator of the program.

23 As was previously mentioned, CALCTP is now fully  
24 implemented across 28 training sites in the state  
25 including 6 community colleges, the Energy Training Center

1 at Southern California Edison and 21 electrical training  
2 centers. The course includes a 15 hour online  
3 prerequisite course which was developed by lighting  
4 manufacturers from across the country to be completed  
5 prior to taking the CALCTP certified technical instruction  
6 course. The course is also heavily based on hands-on  
7 labs. The course is 50 hours long with 10 hours of  
8 lecture and 40 hours of hands-on installation in a lab  
9 environment.

10 The ratios are very low, 1:10 for the lecture  
11 portion, 1:1 for the lab portion. Students must show  
12 competency in 1 lab before they can move on to the next.  
13 So it requires a 100 percent pass rate in the lab portion  
14 of the test. Also there is a final exam. The final exam  
15 was developed by experts in the field. It was then – data  
16 from the first 500 participants was calculated and it was  
17 validated by psychometricians for efficiency.

18 The California – the CALCTP team has developed a  
19 criteria for updating the lab boards based upon in the lab  
20 curriculum based upon market share, competitiveness and  
21 future use in the marketplace. Each training site gets  
22 visited several times a year by myself and my staff to  
23 ensure that the integrity and the fidelity of the model is  
24 being met. To date over 1,650 state certified general  
25 electricians have received the CALCTP training and over

1 1,450 are certified. It has an 87 percent pass rate.

2           Based upon our training for the past 2 quarters  
3 we believe conservatively by the end of the calendar year  
4 CALCTP will have train 2,795 electricians and many more  
5 electricians will be trained and certified by January 2,  
6 2014 which should provide more than adequate numbers to  
7 conduct lighting controls acceptance testing for the  
8 state.

9           There are several instances in pilot studies  
10 where CALCTP certified electricians were hired to install  
11 and commission a lighting project. Most notably was the  
12 attached in my written testimony. The case study of the  
13 Brookfield Properties which witnessed a 75 percent drop in  
14 the lighting energy use after the installation was  
15 complete.

16           So, in conclusion, we have seen impressive  
17 results from electricians that have been CALCTP certified  
18 including practical use of the course and results in the  
19 fields. For these reasons we recommend the California  
20 Energy Commission require the use of CALCTP certified  
21 electricians as acceptance testing Field Technicians for  
22 the 2013 update of the Title 24 code. Thank you for this  
23 opportunity to testify. I'm available for any questions  
24 you may have.

25           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for

1 being here. Any questions?

2 MS. BROOK: Has your organization thought about  
3 providing any kind of certification for third-party  
4 verification professionals like commissioning providers?

5 MR. OUELLETTE: Yeah. If others are qualified  
6 and there's a course or some kind of certificate that they  
7 have completed that we could say, "Okay." It's hard to  
8 just pick somebody and say, "You meet the criteria. You  
9 meet the criteria." If there's some class which they've  
10 completed which we can't verify, you know. What we did  
11 for CALCTP was we looked at what are the core competencies  
12 that are needed to be an expert in installation. We then  
13 went back –

14 MS. BROOK: But I'm trying to clarify that we're  
15 not talking about installation. We're talking about  
16 verification.

17 MR. OUELLETTE: But the same process with  
18 verification. Were there was a class or way to certify  
19 that we developed knowledge skills and abilities that were  
20 needed, went back, developed the curriculum that was  
21 identified by experts, went back and said, "Okay. How do  
22 we test to make sure that the people that have this skill  
23 are competent in that skill and the certification means  
24 something to be more than welcome to do that," and so far  
25 we've asked, we've asked specifiers, the California

1 Commissioning Collaborative, "Do you have such a class  
2 that we can verify?" And the answer was, "At the moment,  
3 no. We need to develop it."

4 MS. BROOK: Well the commissioning collaborative  
5 doesn't do certification but -

6 MR. OUELLETTE: Okay.

7 MS. BROOK: They are national building, like the  
8 National Building Commissioning Association, is a  
9 certifying body for commissioning providers.

10 MR. OUELLETTE: Yep.

11 MS. BROOK: So I would think that there would be  
12 some potential there.

13 MR. OUELLETTE: Yeah. I mean -

14 MS. BROOK: So that's what I wanted to know.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. OUELLETTE: If there is something that we  
17 can - yes. We'd be more than willing.

18 MS. BROOK: Okay. Great. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
20 being here.

21 Dale Gustavson, President of Better Buildings,  
22 Inc.

23 MR. GUSTAVSON: Thank you, Commissioner. Dale  
24 Gustavson, Better Buildings, Inc. I am not here to speak  
25 on behalf of the Western HVAC Performance Alliance but my

1 company is responsible for managing that and has been  
2 involved with that since its birth in 2009.

3 I'm not going to say much about the proposal  
4 because as you might guess as being an alliance of  
5 organizations that include from soup to nuts almost  
6 everyone involved in the discussion. We have members on  
7 both sides. But we also have members that include the  
8 California Public Utilities Commission, the California  
9 Energy Commission, the IOUs, SMUD and others.

10 So I just - 2 things really. One, I think in  
11 thinking back to the strategic planning process including  
12 what was known as the HVAC Conveners Report which also  
13 became this Commission's report to the legislature on  
14 HVAC. That there was an emphasis and an intent throughout  
15 that entire process for the State of California to embrace  
16 existing industry certifications and help the public  
17 become more aware of them. And that's where it has been  
18 continued throughout the development of the strategic plan  
19 and from that implementation of programs in the utilities.

20 And we in the Performance Alliance have been  
21 wrestling with those questions, how in fact do we help the  
22 public become more familiar with these hard to earn,  
23 prestigious certification. And that's really all I want  
24 to say about that. I think if we go in the direction of  
25 coming up with our own anything we're undoing what has



1 taken us 5-6 years to correct the direction of.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

3 MR. GUSTAVSON: In terms of knowledgebases,  
4 you've all of the organizations talk about knowledgebases  
5 and what I think we've seen in the Performance Alliance is  
6 we've wrestled with should certain certifications be  
7 acknowledged within the utility programs is that it's  
8 probably more important for the State of California  
9 whether it be the CEC, the IOUs, anyone working with  
10 industry, to work with and begin to understand the  
11 knowledgebases and how to have an impact on them. Then -  
12 it - over time, and I don't think it would be much time,  
13 we've already seen the evidence in 2 ½ years of the  
14 knowledgebases changing slightly as a result of just  
15 interacting with us tree huggers out here. So food for  
16 thought if we want classes taught or certification to  
17 reflect our values and our priorities in California one  
18 way to do that is certainly just to work with those groups  
19 and that's why they're here I think. I'm going to leave  
20 it at that. Thank you very much.

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thanks for your comments.

22 Christopher Ruch, Final Air Balance. Oh.

23 You've already been up, haven't you?

24 MR. RUCH: [Indiscernible]

25 [LAUGHTER.]

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Go ahead.

2 MR. RUCH: My name is Chris Ruch. I'm the  
3 Operations Manager for Final Air Balance. I did put  
4 together that matrix purely to try so that way it'd be  
5 easier for everyone here to look at and determine how many  
6 numbers are with everything on one page.

7 First off, I really do appreciate being here,  
8 Commissioner. Thank you very much. I thank everyone in  
9 this room for having such care with what's going on in  
10 this industry. For myself I've had the opportunity to  
11 work in both independent balance companies. That's  
12 balance companies that are purely - that's all they do is  
13 balance. I've also had the opportunity of most of my  
14 career to work for large mechanical companies running what  
15 would be called an in-house TAB department where we work  
16 within the mechanical company.

17 Because of that that's given me a definite  
18 benefit to see the Title 24 forms, the compliance forms  
19 and how they interact. A lot of mechanical specs purely  
20 call out for that the mechanical company is responsible  
21 for these compliance forms. So I got to see how this  
22 happens inside mechanical firms. What I came up with is a  
23 certified TAB technician is the best choice and I will  
24 explain why.

25 I tried various different combinations of

1 different technicians. Mind you I came from companies  
2 with the top control guys, top mechanical start-up  
3 technicians and I tried different combinations to get them  
4 to do it because I was the only TAB guy at the time. What  
5 I found though is that TAB technicians really were the  
6 best ones to do it and the reason why is that they're  
7 trained to test the entire system, 1. It's not, even  
8 though we use the term air balancer, air is just a small  
9 sliver of what we do. So it's everything involved in the  
10 system that we're testing. On top of that we have a very  
11 clear understanding of protocols and method of procedures  
12 of doing different kinds of testing.

13           In regards to controls, which I've heard a lot  
14 about, every in here has to understand that a good TAB  
15 technician in order to really do your job has to be able  
16 to override the system to perform the test. That means  
17 that we have extensive knowledge of not just one kind of  
18 controls like many of the control technicians that I work  
19 with but every kind of controls. We also have an  
20 extensive knowledge of the user interface. Meaning that I  
21 know my guys are specifically trained to be able to do  
22 quick manipulations and overrides on the units.

23           The other thing would be is that TAB technicians  
24 are the ones that are accurately and honestly reporting  
25 findings on the jobs. What I'm getting to with that is

1 that they are the only ones on the jobs that's, generally,  
2 not building anything. There's no product that you can  
3 look at afterwards so what that means is that the TAB  
4 technicians that are out there are the ones that everyone  
5 from the engineer to the general contractor to the  
6 inspector are depending on to be accurate and honest with  
7 their readings.

8           This is backed up because they have a  
9 certification that can be lost. I can go through the  
10 different certifications but what you'll see when you look  
11 at them is that the people that do this put an extensive  
12 amount of time into it. If you are known or get caught  
13 lying you will be dropped out of your certification and  
14 you will lose it. And that's everything to these guys.  
15 So that's the main reason that I found that they are the  
16 best ones. Because they tend to be the ones that are very  
17 honest with what they're putting their name to.

18           Another thing is that they, of course, own and  
19 know how to use all the equipment needed. Not just one  
20 piece of equipment for one kind of test but generally in  
21 their truck or in their storage area they'll have a piece  
22 of equipment that can test any kind of scenario given that  
23 if it's a windy day or what's going on.

24           The other thing that should lastly be mentioned  
25 with that is that TAB technicians inherently have the

1 ability to pick up these skills. However, we shouldn't  
2 just depend on that. We should also look at these TAB  
3 organizations, all 3 of them. I'm a member of 2 myself.  
4 Have the ability to very quickly ramp up their training  
5 programs to meet any need. I know that as operations  
6 manager that when I've contacted the schools or NEBB or  
7 TABB, who I am a part of, they've been able to quickly  
8 respond with documents or training materials for my  
9 technicians. So these are organizations that have built  
10 up something to be able to respond to any kind of specific  
11 training necessary.

12           The other reason that I chose TAB certified  
13 technicians at a mechanical firm was the I was also trying  
14 to protect the engineers. The in-house engineers that did  
15 this. With the change from 2005 - 2008 it changed from  
16 all a sudden an engineer was signing on, or a licensed  
17 person, any architect, contractor, somebody that had  
18 something very significant to lose was signing on that the  
19 technician who did that did it correctly under penalty of  
20 perjury. It's important to understand that very rarely is  
21 the licensed person there the one that's actually out  
22 there performing the test. Generally it's a technician.  
23 And for the protection of the engineers that I was working  
24 with we made sure that the people that were doing those  
25 tests were definitely qualified. This also falls into the

1 protection for the inspector.

2 My original push for this because I'm very  
3 concerned about energy looking at this and I was very  
4 concerned with what I've seen out in the field of how much  
5 is not working out there. And my initial push for this  
6 was not necessarily to have TAB technicians do it. My  
7 initial push was for increased enforcement. Now after  
8 talking in front of IAPMO or talking with various  
9 inspectors, it became apparently that they just didn't  
10 have the funding to really thoroughly dig into this in the  
11 way it really needed to be done.

12 So the main thing would be having some kind of  
13 major certification behind this with strict guidelines  
14 would give those inspectors the knowledge that when they  
15 get report and it's signed off by a technician that has  
16 that much to lose and an engineer that tested that  
17 technician enough that they can feel confident that it was  
18 done correctly.

19 If you have any questions I'd be more than happy  
20 to answer them. As far as the matrix, if you would like  
21 it sent to you if you don't have it already I can be sure  
22 and get that to anyone.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
24 being here.

25 MR. RUCH: Absolutely.

1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And we'll be sure to  
2 docket the matrix so that everybody will be able to get  
3 it.

4                   Thomas Enslow, United Association of Plumbers  
5 and Pipe Fitters.

6                   MR. ENSLOW: I already spoke.

7                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh. You already spoke.  
8 Great. I don't know how I put the card in the wrong pile.

9                   Chris Walker, California Association of Sheet  
10 Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors.

11                  MR. WALKER: Chris Walker on behalf of the  
12 California Association of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning  
13 Contractors. We appreciate the opportunity to be here,  
14 Commissioner Douglas and staff and other Commissioners.

15                  Could I start with - I have comments but I have  
16 one quick question about process because I noticed on  
17 Friday, the 45-Day comment went out on the regulation  
18 itself and today we have a workshop on a proposal that  
19 would at some point be brought into that language. So I'm  
20 just kind of curious how that process will play out.

21                  COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: So maybe I'll ask staff  
22 to talk about that. We've opened this up as a separate  
23 rulemaking. Go ahead, Martha.

24                  MS. BROOK: Yeah. So on our last slide which  
25 we'll get to as soon as we're done with the comments in a

1 few more hours, depending on what we hear today and what  
2 the Lead Commissioner – you know, with our discussions  
3 decides to do what we’ve planned is that we could open a  
4 parallel rulemaking. And that’s, you know, our legal  
5 counsel has confirmed that that’s absolutely a fine thing  
6 to do so that our current 2013 update which we’ve released  
7 45-Day language on Friday would continue on all the way  
8 through adoption and approval by the Building Standards  
9 Commission. And we would do this new proceeding in  
10 parallel and have a whole separate 45 day language. It  
11 would only be limited to the scope. We wouldn’t make any  
12 other changes. It would just be the scope of  
13 certification for nonresidential acceptance test. It  
14 would have its own 45-Day, 15-Day language. Its own  
15 adoption date at the Commission and then we’d – it would  
16 sort of catch up with the other proceeding.

17 MR. WALKER: But it would never be merged?

18 MS. BROOK: It would be merged at the time it’s  
19 approved by the Building Standards Commission as part of  
20 the overall Title 24 California Building Code Update.

21 MR. WALKER: Great. Thank you. I apologize for  
22 the question but we were kind of concerned about process  
23 and didn’t understand how it played out.

24 CAL SMACNA represents close to 600 contractors  
25 statewide and in good years employs up to 22,000 men and



1 women performing sheet metal work and HVAC work throughout  
2 the state.

3           We hope that today, and I'm told that it is, the  
4 beginning of the discussion and it's going to be an  
5 interactive process and we appreciate that opportunity.  
6 We did have contractors that wanted to be here today to  
7 relay their positions very clearly and on the technical  
8 aspects. I am not a mechanical engineer. I'm not a  
9 mechanical contractor so I'm not going to be any help when  
10 it comes to the technical issues but as this moves forward  
11 we would like to absolutely be included in that process so  
12 we can bring the expertise to the table.

13           Briefly, we would, as an organization, do not  
14 support of the proposal to only allow AABC, NEBB and TABB  
15 certified technicians or firms to perform the acceptance  
16 testing and documentation. We believe that mechanical  
17 contractors and mechanical engineers have a valid role and  
18 a valid role to play in that process and they'd like to  
19 continue to play in that process.

20           We believe that Title 24 forms require a complex  
21 mix of skills and certifications to complete. We do not  
22 believe that this is something that can be taught in a 6  
23 day or even a 20 day course. This needs to be done by  
24 highly trained, highly qualified personnel that have  
25 extensive experience in this industry.

1           We believe that AABC, NEBB and TABB certified  
2 techs and firms have the requisite skills and knowledge to  
3 complete some of the forms and provide some of the testing  
4 but not all. For example some of these require a PE  
5 stamp, etc. and we think that it really is a collaborative  
6 process not to be done by a single person but a mix of  
7 people all highly qualified and certified. We even  
8 support additional certification and / or training, well  
9 thought out training or certification, should that be  
10 needed. But we do not want to limit it at this time to  
11 only those certified bodies.

12           We are working on a matrix because we understand  
13 that you are probably curious what our position is on  
14 various roles and what portions of the forms those roles  
15 should be responsible for. We're working on that matrix  
16 and should have it completed in the next couple weeks.  
17 Apologize I don't have it today. This workshop was kind  
18 of quick. We're scrambling to get all of our ducks in a  
19 row but we will have that to you in the next 2 weeks.

20           Finally, we do believe very strongly that the  
21 forms should have a spot for the responsible party to be  
22 signing off on. We think that's a critical piece to  
23 ensure accountability going forward. And we support -  
24 we're talking about what kind of certifications exist.  
25 It's kind of the supply side of it. We're not talking -

1 we've heard comments earlier about the demand which are  
2 the local building officials and others. We need to be  
3 addressing the demand that this be done properly on the  
4 front end at the same time and as aggressively.

5           Finally, one little housekeeping item, this is a  
6 small item. But on the Commission's website under the  
7 docs, the documents and reports for review, under this  
8 workshop there is a letter that comes to you from the  
9 Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy. And  
10 the file name includes SMACNA in that file name. CAL  
11 SMACNA is not part of JCEEP. We have not been involved  
12 with JCEEP since December 31, 2010. Our positions on  
13 Title 24 are completely independent form JCEEP and we'd  
14 like to have that corrected.

15           Thank you.

16           MR. SHIRAKH: Actually, I have a question. So  
17 CAL SMACNA doesn't support this proposal but SMACNA the  
18 national organization does. I mean, what is this? I'm  
19 really confused here.

20           MR. WALKER: I cannot speak for national SMACNA  
21 but I don't believe they support this. I don't think I've  
22 heard them say they support this.

23           MR. SHIRAKH: Well then -

24           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Is anyone from national  
25 SMACNA here that -

1                   MR. WALKER: CAL SMACNA is the California  
2 Chapter.

3                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right.

4                   MR. WALKER: We do not support it.

5                   MR. SHIRAKH: Which part of SMACNA supports it?  
6 We have letters from SMACNA that definitely – I’m a little  
7 bit confused here now.

8                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I think you can please  
9 clarify but on the microphone. I mean we have Erik who  
10 might –

11                   MR. HYDEMAN: I apologize. I’ve been  
12 corresponding with Eli Howard on this issue because I had  
13 been directed and in fact SMACNA did comment on this and  
14 that’s why you found out that document had SMACNA in  
15 there.

16                   Eli said that the national SMACNA has no comment  
17 on this. They’re not for or against it. They’re not  
18 taking a stance on it.

19                   MR. WALKER: And if I may, the letter in  
20 question that I’m speaking to that’s in the Energy  
21 Commission file is not signed by SMACNA. It’s signed by  
22 others who are members of the Joint Committee on Energy  
23 and Environmental Policy. However, how it’s saved as a  
24 PDF document and how it’s referred to it says SMACNA in  
25 the referenced piece of it. I just wanted to make sure

1 that the contents of the letter are not confused to be  
2 endorsed or supported by SMACNA or CAL SMACNA.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And that's  
4 probably my misunderstanding. And I don't even know if I  
5 was the one that saved that file but I think that's a  
6 staff misunderstanding and I appreciate you clarifying it.

7 MR. SHIRAKH: That's exactly my source of  
8 confusion. So I still don't know who's supporting this.

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Erik? All right. So  
10 we'll look forward to that matrix.

11 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Erik, is there anything?

13 MR. EMBLEM: Yes, Commissioner. Erik Emblem  
14 again with Western States Council and the Joint Committee  
15 on Energy and Environmental Policy.

16 You have several letters already on the docket  
17 from SMACNA contractors supporting this proposal. And I'm  
18 prepared today before I leave to give you 25 more of  
19 SMACNA contractors who have written and want to be  
20 docketed supporting the proposal.

21 As an organization on the national level I think  
22 that is true that they have not taken a position. But as  
23 an organization national SMACNA is a cosponsor of TABB who  
24 is proposing a written response to all of the questions  
25 and that their representatives voted on it actually

1 Sunday. They worked on it. I got slapped on the back of  
2 my hand because I had to work Sunday. And they're sending  
3 out a proposal of support from TABB's perspective.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Go ahead.

5 MR. TAYLOR: Madam Chair, since there's been a  
6 representation that SMACNA contractors support it. There  
7 may be some individual letters out there. I know that  
8 there was a grass roots call that was put out to them and  
9 they may have unwittingly signed on to some letters but I  
10 want to let you know that the California Association does  
11 not support it. That the Bay Area SMACNA does not support  
12 it and I have 25 letters from contractors written Friday  
13 afternoon that do not support the proposal.

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well thank you. And  
15 thanks for the letter. And I realize that with the timing  
16 of the workshop there were challenges for parties in terms  
17 of reaching out to their members and getting input into us  
18 so of course we do have a couple of weeks after the  
19 workshop for you to get us more information and we'll look  
20 forward to getting it.

21 Let me know call on Bob Wiseman, President,  
22 Institute of Heating & Air Conditioning -

23 MR. WISEMAN: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Ah. You're here.

25 MR. WISEMAN: I am.

1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:  As I stared at the card  
2 you made it up here.

3                   MR. WISEMAN:  Thank you, Commissioner Douglas.  
4 Hi.  My name is Bob Wiseman.  I'm the President of the  
5 Institute of Heating & Air Conditioning Industries.  We  
6 are a California, primarily California, HVAC trade  
7 association.  We have over 700 members, primarily non-  
8 union.  As I am a HVAC contractor, I do commercial work  
9 myself and I do residential work.  My mix is basically  
10 50/50.

11                   One of the things, as I look at this, I kind of  
12 look at this from a little bit different perspective than  
13 many.  Title 24 has been a difficult process and our goal,  
14 our hope as a trade association, as everybody in this  
15 rooms, I believe, wants is to make this process as clean  
16 and as simple as possible.  To make it even and fair for  
17 everybody.  To be honest we found out about this process  
18 just a couple weeks ago.  We have not had a chance to  
19 review this.

20                   This is something that is much too rushed in our  
21 opinion to be included in the 2013 standards.  This is  
22 something that we need to think about.  We don't want to  
23 make another mess such as what's happened and I think we  
24 can all agree with that.  With the proper care I think we  
25 can get there.  I know the motivation of everybody is

1 right. That people want to do the right thing, to get  
2 involved, but we can't rush into that process. I think we  
3 will all suffer because of that.

4 I've heard a couple comments throughout this  
5 afternoon that I wanted to address. I often hear the  
6 concept that commercial work has a higher compliance rate  
7 than residential work. I have to – I do not see this. I  
8 don't see this at all. In fact I've heard from utility  
9 companies they consider their compliance rates for  
10 commercial permits 0 percent plus or minus 2. It's bad.  
11 And of course it depends on what market we're talking  
12 about. The commercial market is huge, going anywhere from  
13 5 tons to, you know, as far – as high as we want to go.  
14 So this is a big industry that we have to look at and make  
15 sure that we take of it, you know, properly. There are  
16 different market segments here that have to be dealt with  
17 independently. There is a huge difference between new  
18 construction and engineered projects and add-on retrofit.  
19 The requirements are different. The expectations of  
20 building owners are different. The people who will do the  
21 testing is different. These things need to be looked at.

22 With such low compliance asking people to fill  
23 out these forms, you know, and setting standards for these  
24 forms at this point is much putting the cart before the  
25 horse. We have a structural problem in the state with



1 compliance and we can address these issues and we can deal  
2 with these issues. And then we're going to be able to  
3 deal with who is going to do this work. And when we do  
4 that have an inclusive policy to include all the  
5 organizations who can do this without gatekeepers there to  
6 stop everybody from being able to participate in the  
7 process.

8 I just think that at this point it's something  
9 that we need to seriously consider slowing down on,  
10 looking at and fully vetting the process.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Can I just ask? Are your  
12 concerns addressed kind of equally to both the lighting  
13 and the -

14 MR. WISEMAN: Primarily HVAC.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Primarily HVAC.

16 MR. WISEMAN: Yeah. That is my experience.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. WISEMAN: Sure.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: How about Mike  
20 Outerbridge? Outerbridge Electric.

21 MR. OUTERBRIDGE: Good afternoon. I'm Mike  
22 Outerbridge with Outerbridge Electric. I'm a local  
23 electrical contractor. I've been in business for 23  
24 years. And I just wanted to support, excuse me, the CALCTP  
25 program.

1           The lighting industry right now, everything is  
2 going really high-speed and it's very complex and it's  
3 very expensive. To get what you guys want out of it, the  
4 results, which is the bottom line saving energy you have  
5 to have qualified people. Not only installing it but  
6 commissioning it or inspecting it. Making sure it's  
7 completely dialed in and getting the results that you're  
8 trying to receive.

9           Any kind of further education that we can  
10 provide to my workers in the field is welcome. I'll sign  
11 up tomorrow. And that's pretty much where I stand.

12           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Great.

13           MR. OUTERBRIDGE: Any questions?

14           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No. Thank you. Thanks  
15 for being here.

16           Keith Dias, Training Coordinator, Sheet Metal  
17 Workers Training Centers.

18           MR. DIAS: Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm  
19 Keith Dias. I represent the Local 104 - Sheet Metal  
20 Workers Local 104 Bay Area Training.

21           I'm here with - just in support of the proposal.  
22 Talk a little bit about what we provide. We do provide  
23 training to our apprentices and our journeyman. A lot of  
24 people haven't - they've talked about training. We train  
25 in the TABB industries. We train in the servicing of HVAC

1 equipment and also design, fabrication and installing of  
2 HVAC systems.

3 A lot of people have talked about the training  
4 but one of the things I just want to reiterate. We  
5 provide on the job training also, with our qualified  
6 contractors. We have two TAB training sites in the Bay  
7 Area. We're going to build a third one year here in the  
8 next year or so. They're extensively for TABB. The next  
9 one we're going to build is going to be approximately  
10 2,700 square foot TABB facility.

11 So, I'm just here to provide the counsel and the  
12 Commissioners with information that the training is out  
13 there and we do provide. And if you guys have any  
14 questions for me -

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I do not. I don't see  
16 any. Thank you. Thanks for being here.

17 Just so people know I have 9 cards left. How  
18 many people do we have WebEx wanting to speak? Oh, I'm  
19 sorry. I've got 11 cards. All right.

20 Randy Young, Sheet Metal Workers, 162. Randy  
21 Young.

22 MR. YOUNG: Good afternoon. Thank you for  
23 allowing me to give just my recommendation or my support  
24 for the proposal that was brought forward to the Board and  
25 the body.

1           Just a little piece of information. There was  
2 somebody earlier that talked about 1 million pieces of  
3 equipment set. If you do the math, 10 percent of  
4 commercial that makes about 100,000. If you divide that  
5 by 12, 12 months in a year, that leaves you with 8,300  
6 pieces of unit or equipment, I should say. And if you  
7 divide that by the 1,000 TAB techs we currently have  
8 that's about 8.3 pieces of equipment per month per TAB  
9 tech so that's doable with TAB sheet metal workers.

10           And also Local 162 covers Fresno up to the  
11 Oregon border from Local 104 over to the east all the way  
12 to the Nevada border. We've got shops in Fresno, Modesto,  
13 Stocking, Redding, Sacramento, Shingle Springs, Eldorado,  
14 Coalinga. Basically darn near every city up and down the  
15 valley we have contractors who can do this work.

16           And I would support this initiative. Thank you.

17           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

18           MS. BROOK: Karen, I'm just going to interrupt  
19 for one second because there's a couple times when we  
20 talked about a two week period for comments. We actually  
21 only have a one week period because March 5 is our  
22 deadline. So those of you developing information we do  
23 have a deadline of – and I wanted to notice you now in  
24 case you had to leave early that March 5 is our comment  
25 period deadline.

1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. That's a  
2 really important notification. I noticed that one of the  
3 people who said two weeks did leave so I think we was a  
4 representative of CAL SMACNA so you can get back to him.  
5 There's nobody else that I noticed who said two weeks and  
6 left but that doesn't mean that didn't happen.

7                   All right. So California Director, Blue Green  
8 Alliance.

9                   MS. HOYOS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair. I'm  
10 from the Blue Green Alliance and for those don't know  
11 we're an organization of 8 big national labor unions and 4  
12 national environmental organizations and we're here to  
13 speak in strong support of the Sheet Metal UA and IBEW  
14 proposal that would require acceptance testing performed  
15 and verified by TAB contractors with AABC, NEBB or TABB  
16 certification and to require that the electrical system  
17 acceptance testing be performed by electrical contractors  
18 with CALCTP certification.

19                   At the end of the day our organization exists to  
20 grow jobs in the clean energy economy and we think it's  
21 critically important in an economic time like this for  
22 those jobs to be quality jobs. We think it's important to  
23 support industry, excuse me, training operations and  
24 apprenticeship program that graduate people who are able  
25 to execute this certification at a very, very high level.

1           Scott Wetch mentioned earlier that this is not  
2 just a union versus a non-union, clearly there are both  
3 involved in all these three certification, four  
4 certification, programs. But having said that we think as  
5 was – I think really well articulated by Ellen from the UC  
6 Berkeley Don Vial Center that at the end of the day if the  
7 equipment is not working properly we're not getting the  
8 gains we need. We are prepared to be full tilt boogie in  
9 support of passing strong, aggressive, green building code  
10 standards for 2013. That's how we're positioned to be and  
11 as part of that we want to make absolutely sure that we  
12 have certifications being executed by people who are fully  
13 qualified to do so.

14           And there's – most of the preponderance of the  
15 day we've been hearing people speak in support and there's  
16 been a few people that have raised questions about  
17 capacity. Are there enough people who can do the training  
18 and having had the opportunity to work with people like  
19 Erik Emblem and work with people like Bernie Kotlier they  
20 can spend 5 or 6 amounts of time that we've spent in this  
21 hearing telling you exactly how they could make this work  
22 swimmingly. So I'm sure they'll talk to you afterhours as  
23 much as anyone, any staff person could possibly want.

24           But I just wanted to thank you for your time and  
25 underscore our support. And we really look forward to

1 this being incorporated into the standards to that we can  
2 move forward and be what California can be. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. And could you  
4 say your name for the record just so that we have it. You  
5 didn't put it on the card.

6 MS. HOYOS: Lisa Hoyos.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Ah. Lisa Hoyos.

8 All right. Charles Knuffke, WattStopper.

9 MR. KNUFFKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Charles  
10 Knuffke with the WattStopper. And I'm just here to speak  
11 in support of the training that's done in CALCTP. I just  
12 wanted to let you know that I'm not saying that that  
13 should necessarily be the only path to certification  
14 however if we were designing the program to try to do what  
15 Dr. Siminovitch was talking about and trying to ensure  
16 that there's a level of understanding of basic control  
17 requirements, of the technologies involved, making sure  
18 that the right products are put in the right place that  
19 program would actually look exactly like the CALCTP  
20 Program.

21 I just want to say that I've been involved with  
22 some of the people that have been through the program and  
23 it is refreshing to see people who actually understand how  
24 to fill out the acceptance testing forms that are required  
25 and understand the use of the products. So I think that

1 it has done exactly what it is touted to do which is raise  
2 the level of understanding and to ensure that the lighting  
3 controls of the future, which are definitely going to be  
4 much more advanced than they are right now, are being  
5 treated properly and understood by the people doing the  
6 installations. So I understand you've got quite a bit on  
7 your plate to make sure that everybody has access to that  
8 sort of a training program but, as I said before, the  
9 training program that is there is exactly the type of  
10 training program that's needed for the industry.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Great. Thank you.

12 MR. KNUFFKE: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Let's see. Darlene  
14 Besst, NECA.

15 MS. BESST: Thank you, Madam Commissioner. I'm  
16 Darlene Besst with the National Contractors Association.  
17 I'll make this very brief otherwise I'm repeating what  
18 others have said.

19 But I would like to add that as contractors  
20 association we have worked very hard to get our  
21 electricians trained and certified. A few years ago  
22 participation was a challenge but as electricians have  
23 gone through the program and as they recognize the  
24 complexities of the systems they seen this training as  
25 valuable and it had enabled them to do an effective and



1 professional job with installations.

2 In speaking to our contractors they are  
3 convinced that electricians trained and certified to  
4 install these energy saving systems are the best qualified  
5 to do the acceptance testing.

6 And then I would like to make one comment  
7 concerning a question raised about commissioning agents.  
8 While there are certainly individuals who can commission  
9 there is not a whole class, we wanted to point out, there  
10 is not a whole class that has been trained and certified  
11 and there is no standard or credentialing program for all  
12 commissioning agents.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. I've got  
15 another card from NECA as well. Eddie Bernacchi.

16 MR. BERNACCHI: Good afternoon, Commissioner  
17 Douglas, CEC staff. Thank you for putting this workshop  
18 on today. I know this is how we get ideas out there and  
19 vetted and this has been very educational. I think I've  
20 even learned having to find myself in a clean room where  
21 to belch today so.

22 [LAUGHTER.]

23 So it's been very educational. My name is Eddie  
24 Bernacchi and I'm here on behalf of the California  
25 Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors

1 Association. We represent over 800 of the contractors  
2 here in the state who perform work on many non-residential  
3 lighting efficiency projects.

4 As Bernie Kotlier mentioned earlier the quality  
5 and openness of the CALCTP program is very apparent and  
6 that is why our NECA contractors adamantly support the  
7 adoption of the acceptance testing by CALCTP trained  
8 contractors and electricians.

9 Advanced lighting control systems. These are  
10 not plug and play systems. We're not discussing here  
11 today the replacement of CFL light bulbs. These are very  
12 sophisticated lighting control systems that if not  
13 installed correctly will not perform up the energy  
14 efficiency standards they're designed to. If the goal of  
15 this Commission is truly to promote energy conservation or  
16 energy efficiency then the Commission must support  
17 acceptance testing of these energy efficiency systems by  
18 qualified contractors to ensure that the systems perform  
19 properly to achieve that goal.

20 So if – we strongly believe that a minimum  
21 standard of certification is essential and for these  
22 reasons our NECA contractor support the CALCTP acceptance  
23 training proposal.

24 I also have with me 30 some odd letters from  
25 contractors, our contractors, from throughout the state

1 who support this proposal that we'd also like to submit to  
2 the record formally.

3 Thank you, and thank you again for putting on  
4 the workshop.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
6 being here.

7 Richard Garbrick with Schetter Electric?

8 MR. MARKUSON: Is it Markuson?

9 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No. Richard Garbrick.  
10 If you like, I'll go with Richard Markuson next.

11 MR. GARBRICK: Is Schetter Electric. S-C-H-E-T-  
12 T-E-R. Schetter.

13 Yeah. I'm Richard Garbrick with Schetter  
14 Electric and just real brief. I have gone through the  
15 CALCTP management program and we've heard a lot of the  
16 qualifications to get into the CALCTP program, we've heard  
17 about the, you know, as far as the advanced lighting  
18 controls and where the technology is going to. And I  
19 think I want to address some of my comments to the public  
20 good and as far as with the advanced technologies, I know  
21 it's not too far, we can all remember when the VHS came  
22 out and a lot of us bought them and they sat there with  
23 the 12:00 blinking at us because we couldn't program them.  
24 Well a lot of these advanced controls can be a similar way  
25 when they're installed improperly. They're not getting

1 the best use. And when we don't install these things  
2 appropriately they're not getting the use that they need  
3 as far as the energy savings and they're not doing the  
4 full effect that they have the ability to do. And I know  
5 that, you know, Schetter Electric has been around for 50  
6 years and they have some of the finest qualified and the  
7 trained electricians that we have out in the field.  
8 There's a huge difference when the standard is set, the  
9 training is done and we're fully supportive of that. And  
10 I know that when the consumers out there, when they go  
11 through the expense and the time to put some of these  
12 products in their building, they deserve to have them  
13 installed right and they get the maximum use out of their  
14 energy efficiency. And that's what I want to say.

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Great. Thank you.

16 Okay. Richard Markuson.

17 MR. MARKUSON: Thank you, Commissioners. I'm  
18 here representing the Western Electrical Contractors  
19 Association; Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors of  
20 California and the Air Conditioning Trade Association.  
21 And I'll divide my comments into 2 since they're on 2  
22 separate components.

23 WECA is strongly in favor of training and  
24 qualifications for both electricians and contractors in  
25 California; however, I would say that we are adamantly

1 opposed to the proposal forwarded by IBEW to create a  
2 state monopoly. And this is not a criticism of CALCTP  
3 it's probably an excellent program but for the state to  
4 consider creating a monopoly that only 1 organization may  
5 certify and qualify acceptance technicians and contractors  
6 for the entire state of California – a lots been talked  
7 about. How many current technicians there are available  
8 but according to their own website there's only 50  
9 contractors who are currently certified in order to  
10 perform these to employ these certified technicians.  
11 That's inadequate.

12           Furthermore, I'm very concerned about only  
13 having a one week period of time to provide written  
14 comments. We only learned about this on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We  
15 don't understand the race to create a state monopoly for  
16 doing the lighting certification.

17           We have similar concerns – I also represent PHCC  
18 and ACTA on the other components for the air conditioning  
19 HVAC certification. Again, you're being asked to adopt a  
20 regulation monopoly programs for the three existing  
21 certification entities. We are opposed to that. It is  
22 incumbent upon the state of California to establish strong  
23 standards for energy, in both lighting and the HVAC.  
24 However, we don't think it's appropriate for the state to  
25 be adopting or sanctioning monopoly organizations, private

1 organizations, to verify these installations.

2 For that reason we are strongly opposed to the  
3 provisions.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Can I ask one question?  
5 You know you talk about monopoly, and I tend to agree with  
6 you, when you're saying one organization is the only that  
7 can do it and I think even Dr. Siminovitch made similar  
8 comments on that. But do you object to the concept of  
9 having a certification requirement? Let's say there were  
10 2 or 3 organizations or let's say it was open ended as to  
11 how many organizations?

12 MR. MARKUSON: Absolutely. And, in fact, I was  
13 a little bit confused by what I found to be somewhat  
14 conflicting testimony from the 2 CALCTP representatives.  
15 The Dr. suggested that CALCTP was really designed to be a  
16 forum for establishing minimum certification, minimum  
17 training standards and things like that but then the other  
18 representative said that CALCTP was the only entity was  
19 qualified in order to do that.

20 I think WECA contractors would strongly support  
21 some minimum standards. WECA operates a state approved  
22 apprenticeship program that's approved by both the State  
23 of California and the Department of Labor. So I think we  
24 would be strongly in support of some minimum standards but  
25 mandating that only those graduates of the CALCTP program

1 are qualified I think we would strongly object to that.  
2 And similarly for the HVAC programs, although there are,  
3 at least in that program, 3 options available for the  
4 contractors and the technicians quite frankly my numbers  
5 are primarily from a non-union background. I've been told  
6 anecdotally, and I think one of the witnesses here today  
7 said one of the programs is exclusively union. We've  
8 heard anecdotally that at least 2 of the programs have a  
9 heavy union emphasis. We just don't think that it's  
10 appropriate for the State of California to be making those  
11 qualitative decision about which programs work and which  
12 don't.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. Other questions?  
14 I don't see any. Thank you.

15 MR. MARKUSON: I think the questions that were  
16 posed and were put upon the board really did - I think  
17 your staff did a great job of kind of analyzing some of  
18 the challenges, particularly in this short time frame, to  
19 get responses from the industry. I did not see those  
20 questions on your website. Maybe you can direct me to  
21 where they are because we would like to provide some  
22 written testimony as well.

23 MS. BROOK: They're an attachment to the notice  
24 so they're in the same document as the notice.

25 MR. MARKUSON: Wonderful. We didn't see it as

1 an attachment.

2 MS. BROOK: Okay.

3 MR. MARKUSON: But thank you very much.

4 MS. BROOK: All right.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Great. Thank you.

6 Thanks for being here.

7 Dennis Morrin, Sacramento Electric JATC.

8 Training Center. By the time I get through the card

9 you'll be there ready to speak.

10 [LAUGHTER.]

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Go ahead.

12 MR. MORRIN: As soon as I heard the first name I

13 got started. I'm Dennis Morrin. I'm the Director of the

14 Sacramento Electrical Training Center. We also run an

15 apprenticeship program which is the JATC acronym.

16 I come here speaking in favor of the CALCTP

17 program, the California Advanced Lighting Controls

18 Training Program. We've been delivering this training

19 program now for a couple of years. We have nearly 200

20 local electricians that have gone through it and they're

21 all state certified electricians. It is definitely a

22 benchmark model program for training the workforce and to

23 ensure that when people go out and do the work they can

24 actually do it. And I have to go back to Mr. Ouellette's

25 comment when he talked about the 87 percent passing rate.



1 If you inverse that and say that's 13 percent failure  
2 rate. Yes, some people are failing. Not everybody can do  
3 the complexity of this work. And those that can't are not  
4 certified so that, in fact, only the people that are going  
5 to get the results from the energy savings and the complex  
6 controls are the ones that are going to be out there doing  
7 the work. It's state of the art training on a specialty  
8 skill and we're very much in favor of this program. Thank  
9 you.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
11 being here.

12 Andrew Meredith. Andrew Meredith? Did we - we  
13 might have lost somebody. I'll call him up again.

14 Victoria Rome, NRDC.

15 MS. ROME: Good afternoon. I'm Victoria Rome  
16 with NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense Council. I just  
17 have a few general comments today.

18 We think acceptance testing is important. When  
19 designed right it serves as an important tool to increase  
20 compliance and make sure that we get the savings that are  
21 promoted on paper in terms of energy and cost savings.

22 Now is a good time for the Energy Commission to  
23 review and update requirements for who does the acceptance  
24 testing. And we would think that - we would urge you to  
25 establish specific requirements regarding qualification,

1 certification for acceptance testers. Specifically we  
2 think, unless it's impractical, acceptance testing should  
3 be done by an independent party so in other words not the  
4 person who did the installation design or manufacturer of  
5 the system. In extreme circumstances we understand there  
6 may need to be flexibility on that point.

7           And regarding the specific proposals before you  
8 today we think those are a good starting point. We're  
9 supportive of those proposals as a starting point and  
10 would be happy to provide additional input as you move  
11 forward.

12           Thank you.

13           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thanks for  
14 being here.

15           Patrick Splitt, App-Tech Inc.

16           MR. SPLITT: Good afternoon, Commissioner. I'm  
17 Pat Splitt from App-Tech. I'm an Energy Consultant from  
18 Santa Cruz. I've been one for 30 years and have been to a  
19 lot of these workshops.

20           I thought from the description of this being a  
21 workshop that this would be a little different so I didn't  
22 have a prepared statement but since I've been sitting here  
23 for a long time I've had a long time to write stuff down.

24           [LAUGHTER.]

25           So anyway on my blue card I said I opposed this

1 proposal but basically I'm opposing the timing. I think  
2 it's a good idea that people be trained better and get a  
3 lot more knowledge but I just don't think we have the time  
4 now to get into this. Especially when I review the  
5 document that was the basis of this and look at the  
6 findings and I see all these problems with the  
7 requirements are confusing, not easy to understand, our  
8 contractors are unfamiliar with the forms, incorrect forms  
9 are commonly used. Just a lot of problems with the  
10 process we have now. I think what we're doing is we're  
11 putting the cart before the horse. That actually one of  
12 the problems we have with the nonres compliance is that  
13 this equipment isn't getting installed correctly.

14           And we're not - I don't see that the Commission  
15 is doing much to try to get the equipment installed  
16 correctly. We're off talking about, "Well, we've got to  
17 check this stuff afterwards." I think it'd be a lot nicer  
18 and more efficient if it was installed correctly the first  
19 time. And there actually already is a document that has  
20 been approved, it's in the standards now, they're called,  
21 Installation Certificates. On the residential side they  
22 got formatted fairly well and for whatever the contractor  
23 is doing these forms sort of spell out what they're  
24 supposed to do and which regulations actually comply to  
25 what they're doing and it's on the form that the licensed

1 contractor has to sign and state that he actually  
2 installed these things correctly. This is then required  
3 to be given to the building owner so they have a record  
4 later on if something isn't right who's responsible. In  
5 the nonres side those forms sort of exist but they're  
6 essentially blank pages. Very little on there. A lot of  
7 space where a contractor could fill in things and put  
8 requirements onto his systems if he wanted to but why  
9 would he do that?

10 So I think that really, one of the things that  
11 needs to happen is we should actually try to implement  
12 those forms better and actually try first before we build  
13 up a whole new system of certification to test this  
14 equipment. What I think first we have to do is actually  
15 for mechanical compliance, electrical compliance,  
16 whatever. Set up some flow charts. Start with the  
17 planning part of the phase, permitting, construction,  
18 verification, move-in by the owner and maybe follow up  
19 test. Set up this flow chart and at each stage list what  
20 the requirements are, who is supposed to do it, what forms  
21 are supposed to be filled out and by who and lay that all  
22 out and see if you can get - at least most people would  
23 agree that the flow chart is right. Because I think right  
24 now everybody has something else in their mind about how  
25 this is supposed to work. And I think first you have to

1 lay this out and once you lay it out you can see well a  
2 lot of this stuff we're talking about, actually stuff the  
3 installers should know how to do, I mean, he doesn't just  
4 install stuff and walk away and never turn it on. I mean  
5 it should be working when they leave. We're just trying  
6 to verify with these acceptance tests so he has to know  
7 that somebody's going to come in and this is what they're  
8 going to be looking for. And if all that was on the form  
9 that he had to sign and give to the building official and  
10 to the owner, well his license is on the line. We already  
11 have a document to try to get this to work. It's just not  
12 implemented very well. So I think that has to be  
13 improved. There is a lot of other problems with the  
14 forms. People are having problems. There's problems with  
15 the compliance software. That you can't actually – even  
16 if there's a form where there's a place where I'd like to  
17 input something I can't do it. The program just doesn't  
18 let me type in anything in that spot. So there's just a  
19 lot of things that need to be clean up before we start  
20 doing new things. We ought to try to get things that are  
21 on the books now working better.

22           So, now let me just see what I forgot to tell  
23 you from my list. So anyway one thing is the  
24 responsibility has to be defined in the standards. Right  
25 now there's a problem where there's a form where you're

1 supposed to put who's responsible for doing these tests  
2 but nowhere does it say who decides who puts a name in  
3 there. So everybody thinks somebody else is going to do  
4 it so the place usually gets blank.

5 MS. BROOK: We've done quite a bit of work on  
6 our 45-Day language in that regard and would love to have  
7 you review and we can talk about that later.

8 MR. SPLITT: Okay. Again, who's the responsible  
9 party? Everybody thinks it's someone else. I know -

10 MR. SHIRAKH: We're actually doing a lot of  
11 review of the documentation out there of the responsible  
12 party, who's signing and all that, run that by you but,  
13 you know, we have -

14 MR. SPLITT: Well, actually, let me switch hats  
15 for a second. I'm also Vice-Chair of CABEC and CABEC is  
16 very interested as an organization of getting involved in  
17 trying to fix those forms.

18 MR. SHIRAKH: I agree. Forms are part of the  
19 manuals. We'll work with you guys as we did in 2008. I  
20 think what we'd like to concentrate on now is this  
21 proposal in hand. If you have any comments related to  
22 this acceptance testing and procedures. We can talk to  
23 you about the forms a little bit later.

24 MR. SPLITT: Well, there are certain things that  
25 sort of are involved at, like in the lighting side for the

1 acceptance test. They're supposed to have somebody done a  
2 daylight plan and there should also be a plan for the  
3 outdoor lighting. Well, those aren't done and they sort  
4 of should be done by the person, for the daylighting plan,  
5 by the architect or by the lighting design for outdoor.  
6 By the time the acceptance guys get onboard whoever should  
7 have done that is long gone and they're sort of having to  
8 imagine what a lot of this stuff is. So that's a problem  
9 that sort of crosses over from one side to the other.

10           One thing I noticed is that many people, just a  
11 comment here; they mentioned they were members of more  
12 than one organization of these TABB groups. So when you  
13 get your total of all the people you have to realize that  
14 many of them belong to two or more of those organizations  
15 and it may not be as many as it looks.

16           Also, there are some companies, I think more on  
17 the electrical side, that specializes in just particular  
18 types of equipment. So they have certain brands they  
19 install. They have certain controls that they use. And  
20 they use these same controls over and over again so  
21 they're very, very familiar, factory trained with stuff.  
22 So they're actually very good at installing this equipment  
23 and operating it and setting it up but they may not have a  
24 broad controls background. So there's a lot of people I  
25 think that can actually do their job and shouldn't be sort

1 of pushed out of being able to do their work just because  
2 they don't know a lot of stuff that is useless to them.

3 I guess that's enough. I've got more. You know  
4 me so. The main thing is I think we should try to fix  
5 what we have on the books right now and put this off until  
6 later until we see - it may not be needed. Once we get  
7 the installation certificates going and get the installers  
8 to actually know what they're supposed to be doing. We  
9 may not have all these problems.

10 MS. BROOK: Okay. Thank you, Pat.

11 MR. SHIRAKH: Thanks, Pat. You have my number.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Appreciate  
13 your patience in waiting to make the comments. Very  
14 helpful.

15 Johnnie Smith, Hangtown Electric, Inc.

16 Looks like Johnnie Smith has stepped out of the  
17 room or has run out of patience. I'll go on to -

18 I'm now on cards that I'm either repeating or  
19 came up in the last 10 minutes or so. Jon McHugh, McHugh  
20 Energy.

21 MR. MCHUGH: Good afternoon. I'm Jon McHugh and  
22 I'm representing myself today. One of the things that I  
23 thought I'd first talk about - I know that there's part of  
24 this has to do with concern for jobs and I was doing a bit  
25 of hand-calc earlier with some help from my friends that,



1 you know, for the new nonresidential standards we're  
2 really, I'd say, replacing electrons with neurons. That  
3 there's more effort and more thought and more design into  
4 new California buildings that would qualify under these  
5 new standards. And so the nonresidential portion of the  
6 standards my calculation is is that there's around 740  
7 fulltime jobs per year that are created by the new  
8 standards to satisfy the needs of the requirements. For  
9 our friends in IBEW the lighting retrofit portion, a  
10 fairly substantive change to the standards, which would  
11 require when more than 10 percent of lighting is upgraded  
12 that the new lighting system has to meet the control  
13 requirements and the lighting power density requirements.  
14 My estimate is that there's an additional 140 jobs per  
15 year that is created by that change in the standards. So,  
16 you know, this new standard is a job creator and a kind of  
17 similar kind of order of magnitude of, you know, somewhere  
18 around 700 additional jobs associated with the residential  
19 standards.

20 So I just wanted to first start out there that  
21 to some extent that standards are actually helping all  
22 ships rise in terms of construction jobs. And related to  
23 the conversation about the standards I'd like to kind of  
24 recognize someone who's actually no longer with us.  
25 Jeffrey Johnson was a member of the California Energy

1 Commission staff, then when he worked on this he was with  
2 the New Buildings Institute. And the idea of acceptance  
3 testing is what I call commissioning light. Its intent  
4 was not to be commissioning. It was not be a full blown  
5 very sophisticated approach. It was actually based on  
6 some fairly detailed research, much of it sponsored by  
7 PIER that looked at what are the issues. The sort of the  
8 80/20 rule which is if I take 20 percent of the effort can  
9 I uncover about 80 percent of the failures that we see and  
10 so based on that kind of research it looked at some fairly  
11 simple approaches with some fairly simple tests that would  
12 uncover whether or not various failure modes of this  
13 installed equipment. So the intent was to not only fix  
14 problem systems because you couldn't pass a test if it had  
15 this fault because you would fail and so, no, you don't  
16 turn into the inspector, "Here's my form that says that it  
17 failed." No, I've got to now go back and fix a piece of  
18 equipment. Some of these tests were intended to be  
19 conducted by the actual installing contractor so the idea  
20 is that there would be direct feedback and we would be  
21 improving the quality of the installation so that, I think  
22 as Pat had mentioned earlier, that people are starting to  
23 do it right the first rather than saying, "We're bringing  
24 in this third-party. We don't really trust the person  
25 who's installing it." We actually believe that when

1 people don't install equipment incorrectly it's not  
2 because they're trying to rip off the consumer. Sometimes  
3 it's just a mistake and so what happens is that by  
4 applying these simple tests, these simple tests identify  
5 some fairly major issues. And so it would be somewhat  
6 problematic - it would be changing the scope. I mean, it  
7 would be changing the scope from something that is  
8 ultimately something that's a self-certification to  
9 something that's a third-party certification and that's  
10 really sort of the question that's in front of the  
11 Commission around this proposal. Because this proposal  
12 would say that many of the folks that do install equipment  
13 would not be allowed to perform these acceptance tests.  
14 Myself and my colleague Matt Tyler over here, after the  
15 2005 standards we actually tested the test with  
16 contractors and looked at some of the issues. And Matt,  
17 since then has actually done further investigation later  
18 on. One of the things in terms of doing the test is that  
19 even though TAB contractors and various contractors may be  
20 very knowledgeable about controls, the fact of the matter  
21 is that these controls can get pretty darn complex, pretty  
22 darn quickly. So an acceptance test that would actually  
23 disallow the controls contractor from performing the test,  
24 I think, potentially would actually increase the cost of  
25 the test, make it a lot longer to perform. So I'm not

1 sure that's really what the intent was. Certainly when we  
2 did our cost effectiveness of the test I don't think we  
3 were presuming that people are going to be doing these  
4 tests were actually going to have to spend quite a bit of  
5 time getting up to speed on that particular control  
6 system. So the intent is to really encourage folks to  
7 actually get it right the first time, the second time,  
8 right? After they've conducted the test a couple of  
9 times, didn't pass, now I know how to actually make this -  
10 install this so the system works.

11           And this is not just for mechanical but this is  
12 also for electrical systems too. And as we heard from Dr.  
13 Siminovitch control systems are getting more and more  
14 complex. And, you know, CALCTP, which I think is a great  
15 program. I think we should be encouraging that but at the  
16 same time my understanding is that, for instance, low  
17 voltage electricians would not be able to apply, those  
18 with the C7 license would not be allowed to have  
19 certification nor folks that are controls contractors.  
20 Again, kind of keeping out some of the very skilled  
21 professions that you'd want to include.

22           So I guess the end is that I think there's a lot  
23 of good in the proposal that people brought forward that  
24 we would like to see more training for folks but I also  
25 don't think that we want to narrow the scope.

1 Any questions? Okay. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No. Thank you. Thanks  
3 for coming up.

4 Patrick Pico, Vice President of Advantage  
5 Construction Services Division.

6 MR. PICO: Thank you, Commissioners. Patrick  
7 Pico. I'm a TAB technician, supervisor. I've been in the  
8 industry professionally for 25 years but pretty much all  
9 of my life being a second generation HVAC. You know my  
10 dad was in this industry for my entire life and was a  
11 contractor in the state. And I've been involved from the  
12 training side through the fabrication, the install side,  
13 eventually leading me to the testing and balancing side of  
14 it.

15 And listening to everybody speak today, we see  
16 the complexities of the issues out there. We're all  
17 trying to clear up the complexities and make the system  
18 work more efficient. Make all the equipment out there be  
19 much more productive and work more energy efficiently.

20 From my experience what I've seen is that the  
21 TAB, and I'm not saying that TABB is T-A-B-B, any of the  
22 certifying agencies, those professionals, the technicians,  
23 the firms, the supervisors. Those are the people that I  
24 see that have been given the proper skillsets to go out  
25 and perform these mechanical acceptance tests. That's

1 what I've seen in my professional career when I've worked  
2 full-service mechanicals, the TAB personnel for those  
3 firms are the ones that were dedicated to go out and  
4 perform these tests. They were the ones with the  
5 knowledge of the controls, being able to manipulate and  
6 put these sophisticated pieces of equipment into those  
7 modes that are required to come up with this data.

8           So, I was listening when Martha was bringing up  
9 our people being taught to fill out this form and we've  
10 heard from some of the training centers specifically that  
11 they are going specifically after these forms. But I've  
12 looked back at what I've seen is yes. They've been giving  
13 that, not maybe specifically to that form, but in a much  
14 broader sense. All their training on airflow, all their  
15 training on instrumentation and which one to use in the  
16 proper application. I can teach somebody a procedure but  
17 if I give them 3 pieces of equipment that are supposed to  
18 do the same thing how do they know which one to use at the  
19 proper time. So those are the things that I see any of  
20 the certifying agencies that we have out there currently,  
21 they've tested people to this level of knowledge. These  
22 people have proven proficiency to this level of knowledge  
23 and of everybody out there they're the most complete group  
24 to be able to fulfill these forms and ensure that  
25 equipment that's installed out there is operating to its

1 most efficient applications.

2 Thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

4 Andrew Meredith? Andrew Meredith? Going once,  
5 going twice.

6 Matthew Tyler, PECI.

7 MR. TYLER: Good afternoon, Commissioner and  
8 Energy Commission staff. My name is Matt Tyler and I work  
9 as a Mechanical Engineer for PECI. I am the principle  
10 investigator of the recent PIER project that led to  
11 publishing the report on behalf of the CEC that eventually  
12 led to opening this can of worms.

13 So I'm available to answer any questions and  
14 provide any clarifications that you might need based on  
15 the report content.

16 In addition I'd like to provide a clarification.  
17 Perhaps 10 or 15 minutes ago a speaker mentioned that  
18 there are no certifications programs for commissioning  
19 providers and that's incorrect. There's actually at least  
20 4 and that includes programs that are administered by AEE,  
21 ASHRAE, ECA and University of Wisconsin at Madison.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you. Mazi, Martha,  
23 any questions? Okay. I don't think so. Appreciate you  
24 being here.

25 Johnnie Smith, Hangtown Electric? Or Andrew

1 Meredith? Looks like we wore both of them out.

2 How about the phones and WebEx?

3 MR. WARE: We have a question from George  
4 Nesbitt.

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Go ahead, George.

6 MR. WARE: George, are you there?

7 MR. NESBITT: Yeah. George Nesbitt.

8 Environmental Design Build HERS Rater.

9 I think in the residential end we have to  
10 remember that we have a certified HERS Rater but the  
11 installers have to test 100 percent of their own work but  
12 they're not required to have any specific certification.

13 So I think on the commercial end it's important  
14 if we're not requiring a third-party who is certified that  
15 we do require the contractor or whoever is doing the  
16 acceptance testing to have some sort of certification or  
17 qualification.

18 I'd also say that I think it's probably  
19 important that we have flexibility for engineers,  
20 contractors, trades people to be able to have that if they  
21 have the qualifications and not necessarily say, "You have  
22 to have electrical contractors license" or whatever as to  
23 be the only one.

24 I think that would be my – and I definitely also  
25 want to echo as a HERS Rater I've worked – I've actually



1 had almost – I’ve had no call for nonresidential duct  
2 testing and I think a lot of that has to do with the PERF-  
3 1 not making HERS verification requirements clear in bold  
4 letters. And that, in general, the quality of  
5 construction in high-rise residential and other nonres –  
6 you know, they’re not installing installation right and  
7 all the various other things. You do not have credit for  
8 doing those right under the Energy Code. That’s something  
9 I keep hammering on and I’ll keep trying, even if it’s  
10 2017.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you, George. Other  
12 people online or on the phone?

13 Looks like most of you – oh. Oh. Is that  
14 somebody?

15 MR. WARE: I had to mute George.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. Well, if  
17 there’s nobody else online or on the phone it looks like  
18 most people made the effort to come here in person. Is  
19 there somebody else on the phone who’d like to speak? It  
20 doesn’t sound like it.

21 So with that let me turn this back to Martha and  
22 Mazi to talk about next steps.

23 MS. BROOK: So I think we’ve mentioned this  
24 already but just as a follow up we do need to have your  
25 written comments placed in our docket by March 5 and we

1 would very much encourage you to attempt to respond to the  
2 questions that are attached as an attachment to the  
3 Workshop Notice and if you have any problems finding it  
4 let us know and we'll be happy to send it to you.

5           And then we also talked about the Energy  
6 Commission may initiate a parallel rulemaking proceeding  
7 to consider adoption of certification requirements or  
8 training or criteria for qualifications for these  
9 acceptance tests for the nonresidential standards for  
10 inclusion in the 2013 standards update.

11           And that's all we have.

12           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right. So with that  
13 I'd like to thank everybody for being here and for  
14 providing your ideas and information and expertise and  
15 lending it to us today. We'll look forward to next steps  
16 on this and, again, really appreciate you being here. So,  
17 with that, we're adjourned.

18           (Whereupon, at 4:43 p.m., the workshop was  
19 adjourned.)

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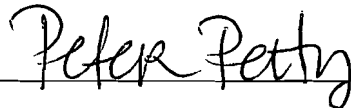
**REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of March, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Petty". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

PETER PETTY  
CER\*\*D-493  
Notary Public