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05-M-0090
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February 28,2005

State of New York
Public Service Commission

RE: Case 05-M-0090 - In the Matter of Systems Benefits Charge III Notice Soliciting Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to Case 05-M-0090, Question No. 7, "What specific program(s) should be eliminated, expanded or created."

As owners of The Energy Doctors, we have been in business for thirty years, focusing on energy conservation. As a private company, we have been involved for over thirteen years with the following programs: Niagara Mohawk Power Partnership Program, Niagara Mohawk Affordability Program and most currently, the Empire New York Program with N.Y.SERDA. All have been funded by the Systems Benefit Charge.

The purpose of this letter is to explain why this program needs to be continued. Important examples will support why we believe this program should be continually funded on behalf of the rate payers of New York State. Briefly, our viewpoint covers these areas:

- 1 Health vs. safety benefit.
- 2 Economic benefit to homeowners.
- 3 The positive economic benefits to the rate payers of New York State.

First, the people that the Empire New York Program (System Benefit Charge) benefits are people who through no fault of their own have been financially impacted by unexpected health problems or unexpected economic problems due to a job loss. Consider the plight of a family of four living in Sacketts Harbor, New York. The father, a writer, won an Emmy for a documentary on P.B.R. He was making over \$60,000 a year when an accident rendered him immobile for six months. In the meantime, his wife was diagnosed with cancer. The family suffered stress from

the extreme financial burden. Many times the parents told us how thankful they were for this **program** and how it helped them to get back on their feet. This family is now productive and back to an active and positive part of their community.

Secondly, consider the son of the Jackson's living in the city of Syracuse, New York. The youngster had just been released from a seven day stay in the hospital. During an energy analysis of the home, our company detected CO in the basement where the youngster slept in an unfinished area. Due to continual training and education with B.P.I. and other educational programs provided through Empower New York, we were able to eliminate the dangerous health and safety problem for the Jacksons, possibly even saving a life.

Thirdly, consider the situation of the North Syracuse woman with a heart problem taking \$150 to \$175 a month medication. Through our training, we discovered she had high levels of CO being produced in an oven creating unsafe levels of CO in the ambient air. ■ talked to ~~the~~ homeowner a year later and found out he replaced the stove and his wife no longer needs the expensive medication; she is now employed.

The Empire New York Program is able to deliver comfort and financial reward to the homeowner. This program provides a full in-home comprehensive evaluation of the heating and electrical usage. The performance based work scope is specifically designed to reflect the cost to benefit ratio for every dollar going into the home to make it more energy efficient. It will pay back in comfort and savings.

A prime example is a house in Central Square, New York that had no attic insulation. We installed R38 and the house went from using 1400 therms to 900 therms of natural gas. That is a \$900 savings. A mobile home in Fulton, New York had a KWH usage of 14,500 KWH. After an electrical evaluation, the hot water tank and refrigerator were replaced. The usage was reduced by 6,200 KWH; that's a savings of \$706.00 a year.

We have found the residents or occupants behavior to be an important aspect in the energy consumption of the home. The Empower New York Program has a very good educational component that we use. We communicate to the family what they can do to reduce energy consumption in their home.

All of the above proponents have a far reaching, positive impact on the homeowners we are serving.

Our final comment on the importance of the Empower New York Program is that this program allows us (a privately owned company) to do what we do best... to perform energy reducing procedures in homes. Our company, The Energy Doctors, is continually taking up-to-date, state-of-the-art training and education through B.P.I. and other **certification** programs. Our company hires people and contractors. We buy trucks, machinery, tools, materials, appliances, etc. We pay taxes. We are helping to put money back into the New York State economy and to reduce our country's reliance on foreign oil.

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Empower New York, a performance-based program, has a long and positive track record.
Please consider our views and expand the program.

Sincerely,

THE ENERGY DOCTORS

Warren Smith / Wayne Smith

Warren Smith *Wayne Smith*
WS:WS:dt