

PANEL 8D

THE EFFECT OF VARIOUS RE-STRUCTURINGS OF PUBLIC BENEFITS' DELIVERY ON THE ROLE OF EVALUATION –

an informal discussion session

Facilitator: Ken Keating, Bonneville Power Administration

Summary:

Just when IRP looked like it would keep utilities involved in DSM for years to come, the changes in the industry have sent energy program evaluation spinning. If utilities have no obligation to serve as a result of re-regulation, it is difficult for them or their regulators to determine what is cost-effective. Instead, new visions are being developed in several places in the country. Distribution utilities are still regulated, with much of what was previously paid for by DSM being considered for “public benefit” funding.

Whatever it is called in New England, the Pacific Northwest, California and Wisconsin, conservation delivery is clearly being restructured, and the role and responsibility for evaluation will be restructured with it. Market transformation, distributed utility planning, low-income program implementation, and standard offers for DSM are but a few of the related issues.

We invite professionals involved in the most active arenas to join us for a discussion on this subject. Who will want evaluation? What will be the reward for doing it well? Where will it be considered superfluous? Who is even thinking about the next step in the process – hand off funding; now figure out what you will get for that funding!