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SCE Provides 2010 Rate Estimates for Business Customers

At the Fall Electricity Outlook sessions held in October, Southern California Edison (SCE) business customers learned that SCE rates are expected to increase in 2010, but not as much as initially expected. The lower-than-anticipated increase is mainly due to a continued decline in prices of natural gas, which makes up approximately half of SCE's energy portfolio.

Current projections indicate a system-wide average rate of 14.8¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in the first quarter of 2010, which would mark a 4.1% increase over rates that took effect in October 2009. Projected first-quarter 2010 rates by segment include:

- **Average Small and Medium Power:**
15.7¢/kWh (increase of 4.4% from October 2009)
- **Average Large Power:**
11.3¢ (increase of 3.2% from October 2009)
- **Average Agricultural and Pumping:**
12.0¢ (increase of 3.1% from October 2009)
- **Average Street and Area Lighting:**
19.7¢ (increase of 1.1% from October 2009)

Direct access (DA) customers are projected to see a first-quarter 2010 system-wide rate of 4.3¢/kWh on the SCE component of their bill, representing a 19.6% increase over October 2009 rates.

Upcoming regulatory filings could affect these rate changes, and individual customers' rates will vary, so contact your account representative to discuss your specific situation as 2010 draws closer.

Energy Efficiency Updates: Expanded Savings Opportunities

SCE wants to help you reduce your energy usage, costs and your carbon footprint. We provide detailed rate analyses to assist you in making the best possible decisions for your business, and continue to offer a wide array of energy-efficiency and demand response programs and services to help you manage your electricity bills and improve your bottom line.

In September 2009, the California Public Utilities Commission issued a landmark final decision that adopts SCE's 2010-2012 energy-efficiency portfolio. The approved portfolio represents the largest investment in energy efficiency in SCE's history—a \$1.2 billion investment that will provide more than 4.7 billion kWh of annual energy savings and 975 megawatts of demand reduction, resulting in \$2.6 billion in benefits to our customers.

For current information on SCE energy-efficiency and demand response offerings, visit www.sce.com/b-rs/rebates-savings.htm. Also, contact your account representative to learn how SCE can assist you into next year and beyond with expanded solutions tailored to meet your energy management needs.

The Power Bulletin newsletter is meant to be an aid in understanding programs and incentives administered by SCE to help your business reduce energy. Programs and incentives covered in this newsletter are subject to funding availability and policy changes. Please consult your account representative for more information on any incentives/programs mentioned in this issue.

Express Efficiency Program Rebates

There's still time this year to take advantage of SCE's Express Efficiency Program, which offers business customers cash rebates toward the purchase and installation of qualified equipment that improves facilities' energy efficiency.

It's quick and easy to participate and obtain your rebate:

1. Purchase and install the qualified equipment, then
2. Complete and submit SCE's Business Incentives and Services Application.

Rebates are offered on a per-item basis and available up to 100% of the total measure cost.

You can find a list of qualified measures—covering lighting, air conditioning, food service equipment, refrigeration, agricultural equipment and premium efficiency motors—along with the application and additional information, at www.sce.com/ExpressEfficiency.

Submit your application today! For questions and assistance, contact your account representative.

Demand Response Update:

Interruptible Program Adjustment Window

The annual adjustment window for SCE customers on interruptible rates—the Time-of-Use Base Interruptible Program (TOU-BIP) and the Agricultural Pumping and Interruptible Program (AP-I)—will take place Nov. 1-Dec. 1, 2009.

If you're on TOU-BIP, during this time you can:

- Remain on the program with no changes
- Change your participation option (15-minute or 30-minute notification)
- Decrease or increase your Firm Service Level (requests for decreases may be placed on a waiting list)
- Terminate your TOU-BIP service and switch to another optional rate schedule and/or another demand response program
- Switch to a third-party aggregator's demand response program or a demand response contract
- Terminate your TOU-BIP service and return to your Otherwise Applicable Tariff

Updates: Effective Dec. 1, 2009, the maximum duration of TOU-BIP events goes from four to six hours and TOU-BIP penalties increase. On Oct. 1, 2009, summer credits increased, while winter credits decreased.

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For AP-I customers, you can:

- Remain on the rate with no changes
- Terminate your AP-I service and switch to another optional rate schedule and/or another demand response program
- Switch to a third-party aggregator's demand response program or a demand response contract
- Terminate your AP-I service and return to your Otherwise Applicable Tariff

Updates: Effective Oct. 1, 2009, AP-I credits differ for accounts on Time-of-Use and non-Time-of-Use Rates.

If you do terminate TOU-BIP or AP-I service, it may take longer to re-enroll at a later date. The California Public Utilities Commission recently ruled that these programs are capped at current levels, so new enrollment requests will be placed on a waiting list.

Review the annual adjustment window packet you received in October for details. If you did not receive a packet, or have any questions on your choices or rate program changes, contact your account representative immediately.

COMMERCIAL SEGMENT FOCUS

Xanterra Parks & Resorts® Harnesses Death Valley Sun for Renewable Energy

In Southern California's Death Valley National Park—the nation's sunniest place—national park and resort concessioner Xanterra Parks & Resorts® is tapping into the power of the sun's rays with a 1-megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system covering four acres. Operational since the summer of 2008, the single-axis tracking system meets one-third of the annual electricity needs of Xanterra's Furnace Creek Resort facilities, including the historic Inn at Furnace Creek.

One of the largest solar energy systems in the U.S. tourism industry, the 5,740-panel Xanterra solar energy system generates more than 2.2 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, and is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 58 million pounds over the next quarter century. When the system began operation, Xanterra reported an immediate 4% drop in greenhouse gas emissions corporate-wide.

Economic Viability + Ecological Responsibility

Speaking of his company's century-long legacy of stewardship, Joel Southall, Xanterra's director of environmental health and safety in Death Valley National Park, said, "Our company is very privileged to work in one of the most beautiful places on Earth and we take that responsibility very seriously. We focus on balancing economic viability with ecological responsibility. Our success lies in surpassing guest expectations while achieving energy savings."

He added, "It is Xanterra's goal to set the pace in the tourism industry by establishing the standards by which other tourist-related organizations can measure themselves. Our solar facility is part of that mission, but by no means the full extent of our industry-leading performance. We're making the case for other companies to follow in our footsteps."

Though Xanterra's case for solar focused primarily on the importance of sustainability, it required the convergence of financial, technological, regulatory and related factors. After working with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for a few years to examine the project's economics, the project timing finally made sense given rebate levels from the California Solar Initiative (CSI) and advances in solar technology, which consequently led to an improved rate of return. A new renewable energy rate available from SCE may offer additional cost benefits starting in 2010. Long term, Xanterra expects the system to operate 40% more productively than a typical stationary solar facility, because of the considerable amount of sunlight the system tracks throughout the day in Death Valley.

"Solar energy's environmental benefits drove this project but financial benefits made it viable," said Xanterra Vice President of Environmental Affairs Chris Lane. "This project allows Xanterra to show that large-scale renewable energy generation can be not just feasible, but also extremely successful on a variety of fronts—with a facility that is surpassing projections, reducing our peak loads, and will pay back in just a few short years."



Joel Southall, director of environmental health and safety in Death Valley National Park for Xanterra Parks & Resorts, standing in front of the site's 1-megawatt solar energy generating system, said, "We focus on balancing economic viability with ecological responsibility. Our success lies in surpassing guest expectations while achieving energy savings."

Demonstrating its thorough commitment to sustainability, to make room for the system, Xanterra relocated more than 144 date palm trees and mulched vegetative debris, using it around the site perimeter for landscaping. The company even reused the solar panel boxes for cardboard bale end caps, and chips from wooden stakes that originally supported relocated palm trees were used along with local stones to create a "nature path" leading to the facility.

An Energy-Efficient Oasis

Xanterra brings the same exemplary approach to all energy management initiatives for its Furnace Creek Resort hotels, restaurants, golf course and other facilities. Besides operating its solar energy system every day, Xanterra participates in SCE's Demand Bidding Program (DBP), which provides the opportunity to receive bill credits for voluntarily reducing power during program events.

Additional energy management efforts include tapping into SCE rebates to offset costs for more efficient equipment (such as lighting), using ENERGY STAR® air conditioners exclusively and replacing golf course irrigation motors with premium efficiency motors and variable speed drives. Xanterra also continues to use a hot-dry climate super-efficient five-ton air conditioner installed in 2006 in a partnership with SCE to help gather data on the effectiveness of this emerging technology, with savings of about 500 kWh per summer month.

"It's just been such a positive partnership and a pleasure to work with SCE," Southall said. "We've always found them to be really good advocates for what we're trying to get accomplished."

"Phenomenally Positive Experience"

As for the solar energy system, besides providing clean, renewable power, it is also a point of pride for employees and a welcome addition for guests. A three-foot-high viewing platform at the end of the nature path allows visitors a panoramic view of the panels that harness the sun's energy in this desert oasis.

While looking ahead at new opportunities to succeed both financially and ecologically, Southall said of this project, "It's just been a phenomenally positive experience."

To learn more about how your business can benefit from installing a solar energy system, contact your account representative or visit www.sce.com/csi. For information on all of SCE's energy management programs for business and industry, also contact your account representative or log onto www.sce.com/b-rs/large-business.

This case study is provided for your general information and is not intended to be a recommendation or endorsement of any particular product or company. Funding for this case study is provided by California utility customers and the CSI program is administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.