

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL NO. 571: AAC ENERGY AUDITS

MARCH 7, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL
VICE CHAIRMAN JOHN W. BETKOSKI

The Department OF Public Utility Control (DPUC or Department) supports the intent of Raised Bill No. 571. The Department commends the work of CL&P and UI in rolling out its energy audit program and agrees that the continued use of this program is key to helping customers control their energy usage. While the Department largely supports this bill the Department has a few recommendation to aid this underutilized program and avoid potential problems with the program as proposed in this bill.

Available Financing

New Requirement

In accordance with the language of the proposed bill beginning January 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the Energy Conservation Management Board, in cooperation with the Department of Public Utility Control, shall appoint members to a committee to conduct an overview of available tax and financial incentives available to individuals and businesses for energy conservation, including grants and loan programs, offered by the state and the federal government.

DPUC Comment

Some of this information is currently compiled for access through Connecticut's Energy Information website, CTEnergyInfo.com. The Department and ECMB would provide additional resources to assure that the information is comprehensive and current.

Energy Audits

New Requirement

Information concerning environmental matters such as lead, radon, subsurface sewage disposal, flood hazards and, if the residence is or will be served by well water, as

defined in section 21a-150, the results of any water test performed for volatile organic compounds, and results of an audit of the energy efficiency of the residence which shall include recommendations for energy efficiency improvements and potential effectiveness of said improvements and such other topics as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may determine would be of interest to a buyer.

DPUC Comment

As part the administration of the Conservation and Energy Efficiency programs, CL&P and UI vendors conduct audits of residential and business properties. CL&P and UI could make the information available to the real estate market. Since the information is currently maintained, this may provide a cost-effective means of providing this information.

It is important to note that these audits **do not** cover all aspects of a building's energy use. For example, many commercial audits focus on lighting improvements and do not evaluate on-site fossil fuel systems. Therefore, while current audits could be made available, these evaluations may not be as comprehensive as envisioned by legislation.