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New Opportunities for Utah Businesses and Residents to Save Energy and Money

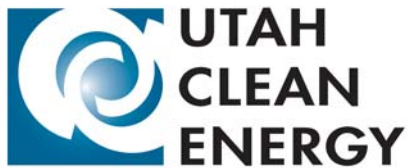
Third Year of Energy Efficiency Programs Approved by Utah PSC

Salt Lake City – December 16, 2008 – In January of 2007, Questar Gas launched a progressive, customer energy efficiency program, known as “ThermWise”. With more than 80,000 participants and over \$11 million in rebates the program has exceeded projections for energy savings and participation. Last week the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the third year of natural gas efficiency programs benefitting Utah residents, homebuilders, businesses and others. The approval was requested by Questar Gas, and supported by Utah Clean Energy and other stakeholders.

ThermWise is a market transformation program offered by Questar Gas, to promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses. The program provides incentives for energy efficient appliances, solar assisted water heating, home weatherization such as attic, wall and floor insulation, and builder rebates for energy efficient new home construction, among others. These energy efficient upgrades have saved Utah consumers millions of dollars per year in energy costs. On top of financial savings, a notable amount of fuel has been conserved; through October 2008, the amount of natural gas saved is equivalent to the average consumption of over 3,000 residential and small commercial customers. Dan Dent, Director of Demand Side Management for Questar Gas states, “In the beginning we didn’t know what to expect regarding customer participation in our ThermWise programs. We had a goal of reaching all market segments but weren’t sure how long it would take to get there. Almost two years into the ThermWise implementation and we have far exceeded everybody’s expectations and all Questar Gas customers are benefiting. With continued support of regulators and stakeholders, we hope to continue these cost-effective customer programs well into the future.”

One of the popular incentives is a \$300 rebate for a high efficiency furnace – especially important during the winter heating season. High efficiency furnaces save natural gas and reduce utility bills, while increasing comfort and benefitting the environment. In 2008, over 5,000 inefficient furnaces have been replaced with new, high efficiency furnaces, through October alone.

Questar Gas is able to offer the ThermWise program as a result of the Conservation Enabling Tariff (CET). Approved in 2005 as a three-year pilot, the tariff enables Questar Gas to collect its allowed revenue regardless



of customers' gas usage. The tariff was contingent on a number of factors: low-income weatherization assistance funding and the development and immediate introduction of energy efficiency programs.

"Heading into its third year, the ThermWise program is a win-win solution for customers, the utility and future generations" explained Kevin Emerson, the Energy Efficiency Program Associate for Utah Clean Energy, who has advocated in favor of the program. "This innovative program saves customer's money on energy bills, increases comfort at home and at work, and conserves natural gas, a finite resource, for future Utahns."

Questar applied, and was approved, for a third year of funding in December of 2008. With that approval, and due to the increasing success of the program, the ThermWise program has increased its 2009 budget to \$17.8 million (up from \$10.5 in 2008) for program administration and rebates. This investment level places ThermWise among the leading natural gas efficiency programs in the region and nation. The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) provides expertise to utility energy efficiency programs in the Southwest. Said Howard Geller, Director of SWEET, "Questar Gas Company has done an excellent job stimulating greater energy efficiency by its customers. In this regard, Questar serves as a model for gas utilities throughout the region."

To learn more about the Thermwise program and for a list of all available rebates, visit:

<http://thermwise.com/>.

About Utah Clean Energy

Utah Clean Energy is a non-profit organization partnering to build the new clean energy economy through policy, regulatory, and educational initiatives. Utah Clean Energy advances renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean energy technologies in Utah and the West. www.utahcleanenergy.org

About SWEET

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) is a public interest organization promoting greater energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. SWEET collaborates with utilities, state agencies, local governments, environmental groups, universities, private businesses, and other energy specialists. www.swenergy.org

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