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## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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### Commission Approves Energy Conservation Education and Outreach Programs for TEP, UNS

**PHOENIX, AZ**—The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) today approved plans submitted by Unisource (UNS) and Tucson Electric Power (TEP) to create and expand outreach programs to educate consumers on ways they can conserve energy and lower their electricity bills. The companies will use a variety of marketing tools and community activities to let customers know what strategies and incentives are available to them to reduce their energy usage.

Among the strategies that will be highlighted in the outreach program are adequate insulation, weather-stripping, installing solar water heaters, and switching to compact fluorescent lighting. In addition, the program includes education on the benefits of Time-Of-Use (TOU) rate plans. These plans can help consumers maximize savings by using more of their energy needs during off-peak hours.

Not only will TEP and UNS reach out to both residential and commercial customers, but they will also provide educational opportunities for schools to provide children with an early understanding of and appreciation for energy efficiency; and to encourage students to take the information home to their families. As an example, the companies will offer schools educational materials about the programs and will give teachers the opportunity to order grade-appropriate energy conservation booklets and study guides.

Educational opportunities include an *Insulation Station*, which provides training to 4th grade teachers and a kit containing ready-to-assemble model houses and supplies to conduct science and math activities on insulation and home energy efficiency, and the *Energy Patrol*, an Arizona Energy Office-sponsored program which encourages students to monitor classrooms to ensure that lights, computers and water faucets are turned off when rooms are empty.

These education and outreach programs are part of the companies' Demand-side Management (DSM) Portfolio, a Commission requirement that utility companies provide programs to help consumers reduce energy usage. TEP would devote a total of \$496,000 to the program, while UNS would use \$120,000.

#### **Comments from Commissioners:**

“Reducing energy usage is the least expensive way to curb the emission of harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases,” said **Commissioner Bill Mundell**. “These programs will let customers know what they can do to protect the environment.”

“By approving today’s orders, Arizona’s families will have a better opportunity to learn about programs available to them to reduce their energy costs,” said **Commissioner Kris Mayes**. “Today, we also approved energy efficiency programs at TEP that will prevent 1 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from entering our skies.”

“I supported these programs because they fund marketing for cost-effective conservation measures, rather than just giving subsidies to pay for otherwise uneconomical projects,” said **Chairman Mike Gleason**.

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