



Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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Docket #: R.07-04-015

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**DRA SUPPORTS COMMISSIONER SIMON'S
BACK-UP POWER PROPOSAL**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 30, 2008 - The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), an independent consumer advocacy division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), today reminded consumers that the CPUC will soon have the opportunity to approve a decision that would protect Californians by creating requirements for telecommunications back-up power systems.

The Proposed Decision by Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon requires that battery back-up power supplies located on customer premises have the capacity to maintain several hours of service during a power outage. DRA has determined that this would ensure a greater level of security for customers, as it would provide reliable standards of service for telecommunications customers during times of emergency.

“A mandate to provide acceptable back-up power for telecommunications equipment at the customer level is vital in protecting California during disasters and emergencies,” said Dana Appling, director of DRA. “Commissioner Simon’s Proposed Decision provides the right framework for developing standards to ensure we can all reach the outside world during times of distress, even when the power’s out.”



The Voice of Consumers, Making a Difference!

DRA has determined that Commissioner Rachelle Chong's Alternate Decision does not meet the standards needed to protect Californians, as it relies on statements from the telecom providers on the level of power reliability currently in place, fails to mandate back-up power standards going forward, and suggests only voluntary workshops to develop a public education program.

Commissioner Simon's decision, on the other hand, would establish a forum for service providers and emergency alert system operators, which would begin a dialogue about how to increase the effectiveness of alerts and promote a public education campaign on the concept of back-up power system at the customer level.

The CPUC will discuss both proposals at its business meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at 10 a.m. in the CPUC Auditorium at 505 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

DRA requests that the public contact the CPUC's Public Advisor at 1-866-849-8390 to communicate its support for Commissioner Simon's Proposed Decision. The public can also attend the meeting and recommend approval of Commissioner Simon's proposal.

Commissioner Simon's proposal is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/EFILE/PD/84289.htm>

Commissioner Chong's proposal is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/EFILE/ALT/84473.htm>

For more information on DRA, please visit www.dra.ca.gov.

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