

**Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program - Plan Year 6
Quarterly Report: Fifth Quarter
Response to Evaluators' Recommendations**

Program	PY Recommendation Was Made	Recommendation	Utility Perspective	Program Actions (if Applicable)	Action Implementation Date
HES	PY4	Navigant recommends updating these parameters in the tracking database for the kitchen and bathroom aerator measures. In addition, Navigant recommends adding a QC procedure for verifying the actual number of faucets in a single-family residence if four or more are reported.	Parameters in the tracking database have been updated for PY5 and PY6.	Done	6/1/2015
			Nicor Gas implemented a QC within HEA. While performing these QCs, The Company ensures that the quantity installed is correctly captured in both the CR field tool and on the report, and that they are all installed per the programs guidelines. Additionally, there is not a guideline that would limit the number of aerators.	Done	6/1/2016
HES	PY4	Navigant recommends checking the tracking database for project PRJ-266563.	Navigant requested additional information about this project because there was incentive spend but no therms associated with the project. As it turns out, this project had a incentive measure in the data submitted, which was a duct sealing measure provided as a customer service effort (the duct sealing did not qualify for the rebate and therefore could not have savings claimed).	N/A	N/A
HEER	PY4	Navigant recommends including fields for Gas Boiler Load and Gas Furnace Heating Load in the tracking database to accurately capture all necessary information for gross savings calculations.	Nicor Gas agrees that Gas Boiler Load and Gas Furnace Heating Load are both part of the boiler and furnace savings algorithms, respectively. As such, they should be included in the tracking database. Annual Therm Consumption and furnace load is under "Annual Therm Consumption". Starting in PY6, all values will be passed in the tracking database.	Done	6/1/2016
Multi-family	PY4	Nicor Gas should review the savings calculations for certain common area prescriptive measures. In particular, Nicor Gas should revise the savings calculation for pool covers to use TRM deemed savings factors for indoor and outdoor space.	An error in the pool cover savings calculation methodology was found and has been corrected.	Done	Mid - Plan Year 5
Multi-family	PY4	For the programmable thermostat savings calculation, consider using actual heating capacities of installed heating equipment. Nicor Gas should use TRM deemed savings factors based on reported building location instead of a default custom value for all locations where programmable thermostats were installed.	Nicor Gas changed the savings methodology for programmable thermostats to coincide with TRM version 4, and the location specific savings factor is no longer applicable to savings calculations. At the beginning of PY6, building type matching with deemed values.	Done	6/1/2016
HES	PY4	Navigant recommends that the implementation contractor provide the results of the quality assurance inspections to both Nicor Gas and Navigant for review. In addition, Navigant recommends that the implementation contractor develop quality assurance and quality control procedures for the ASI measures installed by the approved contractors.	Nicor Gas agrees. QA/QC procedures are already in place and will be shared with Navigant upon request.	Done	6/1/2016

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Multi-family	PY5	Recommend to update the GPY6 tracking system HOU assumptions for multi-family building types, as deemed in the approved TRM version for GPY6.	HOU values for PY6 had been updated to reflect the appropriate version of the TRM, using the version of the TRM in effect at the date the rebate is paid and the savings claimed.	Done	6/1/2016
Multi-family	PY5	The implementation contractor could calculate an average savings value from the TRM building types, assuming an unknown location.	Starting in PY6, Nicor Gas calculates savings for thermostats based upon building type.	Done	6/1/2016
HEER	PY5	When furnace condition is unknown, the implementer should assume the conservative time of sale condition, or use a weighting based on the condition of furnaces incented through the program.	When furnace condition is unknown, Nicor Gas assumes the conservative time of sale condition.	Done	6/1/2016
HEER	PY5	In GPY6, Nicor Gas should separately track and claim savings for smart thermostats rebated through the program.	In GPY6, Nicor Gas began separately tracking and claiming savings for smart thermostats rebated through the program.	Done	6/1/2016
HEER	PY5	The IC should use inputs as defined by the applicable version of the TRM when calculating ex ante savings estimates.	Nicor Gas input values have been updated to reflect the appropriate version of the TRM, using the version of the TRM in effect at the date the rebate is paid and the savings claimed.	Done	6/1/2016
HEER	PY5	Nicor Gas should continue its cross promotional activities between the Home Energy Assessment Program and the HEER Program	Nicor Gas continues to cross promote activities between the Home Energy Assessment Program and the HEER Program	Done	6/1/2016
Res New Construction	PY5	Attract builders to the program through targeted outreach efforts or training sessions offered to both participating and non-participating builders.	Held "Selling High-Performance Homes" training sessions for participating and non-participating builders, raters and related stakeholders during 2015, 2016, and 2017.	Done	6/1/2016
Res New Construction	PY5	Continue offering targeting training sessions focused on sales practices and educating consumers about the benefits of energy efficient homes.	Continue these targeted outreach activities, focusing on sales practices and educating consumers about the benefits of energy efficient homes.	Done	6/1/2016
Res New Construction	PY5	RSR should continue to improve and maintain relationships with participating builders and the greater building community. RSR should continue offering builder training to the broader building community, including non-participants.	In an effort to broaden the scope of training participants, our latest outreach efforts have included home builder associations. The 5/4/17 "Selling High-Performance Homes" training session was held at a meeting of the Southwest Suburban Home Builders Association, and was attended by ~30 participants.	Done	6/1/2017
BEER	PY5	To encourage a diversified measure mix and expand participation, the evaluation team recommends continued focus on conducting assessments and direct measure installation in addition to offering training and targeted measure incentive bonuses.	The program offered trainings, direct install and assessments.	Done	6/1/2016

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BEER	PY5	The evaluation team recommends that the implementation contractor review the programmable thermostat inputs in the tracking system being used for GPY6, and calculate savings per unit based on the participating business or building type when known, as required by the TRM, and where unknown, use the overall average per unit estimate from the participating building types.	Starting in PY6, Nicor Gas calculates thermostat savings per unit based on the participating business or building type when known, and where unknown, use the overall average per unit estimate from the participating building types.	Done	6/1/2016
EEE	PY5	The program should use the student survey form data in order to calculate custom inputs where allowed by the TRM.	Nicor Gas uses the student survey form data in order to calculate custom inputs where allowed by the TRM, starting in Sept. 2016.	Done	9/1/2016
EEE	PY5	The program should calculate savings for CFLs, aerators, showerheads, and water heater setbacks for single family homes separately from multi-family homes to increase the degree of accuracy of its ex ante savings estimates.	The program calculates savings for CFLs, aerators, showerheads, and water heater setbacks for single family homes separately from multi-family homes.	Done	9/1/2016
Kits	PY5	The program should modify the email survey to capture all of the installation information (including quantity installed) for each individual kit component.	Beginning in January 2016, the surveys have included questions on component installation quantities.	Done	1/1/2016
Business New Construction	PY5	The program should consistently apply the methodologies set forth in ASHRAE 90.1 and the IECC when calculating ex ante savings.	Starting in June, 2017, Nicor Gas added a reminder to the QC checklist to review code compliance for applicable measures, to avoid missing issues like this in future.	Done	6/1/2017
Business New Construction	PY5	We recommend the program provide documentation which details specific program influence when the program claim's savings based on a horizontal baseline shift (i.e., moving from minimum code compliance standard to another minimum standard). Since a horizontal baseline shift may require us to deviate from ASHRAE 90.1 Appendix G in calculating savings, the documentation provided should clearly describe the programs influence so the program can claim all appropriate savings.	Starting in June, 2017, Nicor Gas added a reminder on the QC checklist to document unusual baseline issues.	Done	6/1/2017
Business New Construction	PY5	The program should leverage the fuel-blind nature of program implementation to continue to increase program gas savings.	The program continues to utilize the fuel-blind nature of the implementation strategy.	Done	8/1/2017
Business New Construction	PY5	The program should continue to conduct outreach and marketing to the design community, including architects and MEP engineers, as well as developers, focusing on the benefits of early participation. The program should continue to remind participants of the benefits of early participation at the conclusion of each project.	Program marketing materials have been revised in PY6/9 to reinforce messaging around early engagement. We also launched Accelerate Performance, in partnership with DOE and NREL in PY5/8. We also increased direct outreach to owners/developers as part of our strategy to drive early engagement. Our education offerings also have focused more on owner/developer-oriented topics in an effort to support early engagement of key decision-makers.	Done	6/1/2016

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SBES	PY5	Thermal efficiency and combustion efficiency are not equivalent metrics. Savings estimates should be based on comparison of equivalent metrics.	In PY6, CLEAResult made changes to the internal best practice manual to address confusion between thermal and combustion efficiencies, and provided training on this topic to new engineers.	Done	6/1/2016
SBES	PY5	Review the tracking system EFLH values for HVAC systems, and ensure consistent use of the deemed assumptions and apply appropriately. Ensure the tracking heating loads and custom efficiency values are consistent with the claimed savings estimates.	Nicor Gas has since changed savings calculations for hold over projects so that their savings are calculated using the version of the TRM in effect at the date the rebate is paid and the savings claimed.	Done	6/1/2016
SBES	PY5	Review the savings factor for commercial pool covers and switch the current values in the tracking system for indoor and outdoor space to correctly calculate the deemed measure savings.	Nicor Gas has corrected the commercial pool cover input values in the tracking system for indoor and outdoor space to correctly calculate the deemed measure savings.	Done	6/1/2016
SBES	PY5	Review the tracking system input assumptions for small commercial programmable thermostats to ensure consistency with the respective program year participating building types, quantity, and TRM deemed inputs. For an unknown building type, use an average estimate based on the Small Business program participation rather than estimates from other Nicor Gas programs	Thermostat savings calculations have been updated and are now based upon building type.	Done	6/1/2016
SBES	PY5	Provide robust, easily navigable program information on the utility website offering potential participants the resources they need to enroll and schedule a contractor visit, from cost and savings information to applications and TA lists. Such material would additionally offer support and validation to TAs as they promote the program, and may encourage former participants to consider additional measures. Additional research into the existing website and best practices for online utility program content is warranted.	Starting in October, 2017, Nicor Gas created a new page with small business assessment information more prominently highlighted.	Done	10/1/2017
Custom	PY5	Nicor Gas should calculate averages using the total population of data. If there is a need to deviate from this approach, justification should be provided in the project documentation.	Nicor Gas calculate averages using the total population of data. If there is a need to deviate from this approach, we will provide justification in the project documentation.	Done	6/1/2016