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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2530
PUC DOCKET NO. 52194

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APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT §
ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC §
FOR APPROVAL TO AN ADJUSTMENT §
TO ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST §
RECOVERY FACTOR §

BEFORE THE
STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

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July 15, 2021

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC
PUC DOCKET NO. 52194
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2530**

**CITY OF HOUSTON
REQUEST NO.: COH02-01**

QUESTION:

Please provide an explanation for the notable decrease in R&D costs from 2019 to 2020. Please also provide a detailed explanation for the projected R&D costs in 2021 and 2022 given the historical expenses.

ANSWER:

In 2019, CenterPoint Houston contracted with a vendor to provide a new energy efficiency database and utilized R&D funds to integrate this technology with the Company's energy efficiency program portfolio. The company incurred R&D costs for this database implementation project in both 2019 and 2020, but those R&D costs decreased in 2020 as the vendor's project activity shifted from the initial development/configuration phase, needed to implement the database system, to ongoing system support and maintenance.

For 2021 and 2022, CenterPoint Houston plans to utilize the R&D budget to evaluate new technologies and measures that could be implemented into the Company's programs. Examples include evaluating commercial applications for smart thermostats as well as researching new kitchen equipment measures that could be added to the TRM. The Company also continues to pursue new opportunities for R&D projects and may identify and implement additional projects with the potential to add value to CenterPoint Houston's program portfolio.

SPONSOR (PREPARER):

Shea Richardson

RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS:

None

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC
PUC DOCKET NO. 52194
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2530**

**CITY OF HOUSTON
REQUEST NO.: COH02-02**

QUESTION:

Please provide a detailed explanation for the significant increase in IT costs from the 2019 EECRF filing. Please include in your response any changes that were made to the methodology or underlying expenses used by CenterPoint Energy Service Company to bill IT costs to the energy efficiency initiatives between 2019 and 2020.

ANSWER:

As discussed in the Company's response to COH02-01, in 2019 CenterPoint Houston contracted with a vendor and initiated a project to implement a new energy efficiency database. IT costs billed increased from 2019 to 2020 as integration of the vendor's database system with the Company's internal SAP system required significant technical support in 2020.

SPONSOR (PREPARER):

Shea Richardson

RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS:

None

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC
PUC DOCKET NO. 52194
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2530**

**CITY OF HOUSTON
REQUEST NO.: COH02-03**

QUESTION:

Please provide a detailed explanation for the increase in energy efficiency program costs related to data storage and associated management between 2019 and 2020. Please include in your response a summary of the data storage and associated management costs by vendor for each of the periods.

ANSWER:

CenterPoint Houston's data related vendor costs in 2019 and 2020 were incurred for management and implementation of energy efficiency database tracking systems.

As discussed in the Company's response to COH02-01, in 2019 CenterPoint Houston contracted with a vendor to provide a new energy efficiency database. Implementation of that new database began in 2019 with the system going live in 2020. During this transition period, the Company continued to utilize its existing database tracking system throughout 2019, and through the first quarter of 2020 to ensure a smooth transition between technologies.

The attached document summarizes the energy efficiency database technology costs incurred by vendor for program years 2019 and 2020.

The attachment is confidential and is being provided pursuant to the Protective Order issued in Docket No. 52194.

SPONSOR (PREPARER):
Shea Richardson

RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS:
COH02-03 - Confidential - Energy Efficiency Database Vendor Cost.pdf

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC
PUC DOCKET NO. 52194
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2530**

**CITY OF HOUSTON
REQUEST NO.: COH02-04**

QUESTION:

Please provide a detailed description of the Energy Efficiency Tracking System. Please include the implementation date as well as the expected benefits from this system.

ANSWER:

VisionDSM, provided by vendor Applied Energy Group (AEG), is the energy efficiency tracking system CenterPoint Houston utilizes to manage business workflows for the Company's energy efficiency programs. AEG configured VisionDSM for the Company's energy efficiency portfolio, which allows participating program sponsors and implementers to submit energy efficiency projects and track the status of those projects via an online interface. The tool calculates energy savings and project incentives, stores documents and project data, provides tracking and reporting tools, and interfaces with the Company's internal systems. Implementation of this system began in May of 2019 and the database went live in 2020.

VisionDSM has increased efficiencies and automation of many business processes, enhanced data analytics and forecasting, and improvements to program tracking and reporting. CenterPoint Houston continues to work with vendor AEG to optimize the features and functionality available through VisionDSM and modify the system to meet the needs of the Company's energy efficiency programs.

SPONSOR (PREPARER):
Shea Richardson

RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS:
None

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I hereby certify that on this 15th day of July 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served upon all parties of record by email pursuant to Order Suspending Rules - PUC Docket No. 50664.

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