

Women's Energy Matters 510-915-6215 [wem@igc.org](mailto:wem@igc.org) [www.womensenergymatters.org](http://www.womensenergymatters.org)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release: January 24, 2005

Contact: Barbara George, Executive Director, Women's Energy Matters 510-915-6215

### **Multi-Organizational Briefing Tuesday, January 25, 2005**

**RE: Key State Energy Decision scheduled at CPUC this week: Who should control \$400 million/yr. of ratepayer funds for California's Energy Efficiency programs?**

**WHO: • National Consumer Advocate and Founder of Public Citizen, Ralph Nader**

- Women's Energy Matters Executive Director, Barbara George
- The Utility Reform Network (TURN), Exec. Dir. Robert Finkelstein
- Local Power co-founder and author of CA Community Choice law AB117, SF's Prop H solar bonds, and SF Energy Independence Ordinance, Paul Fenn
- San Francisco District 5 Supervisor and Clean Energy Advocate, Ross Mirkarimi
- Representative of Sierra Club-California (*to be announced*)
- Representative of California Interfaith Power & Light, Susan Stephenson

*\*\*\* Individual follow-up interviews to be arranged; priority for briefing attendees. Fact sheets and summaries will be available at the briefing, including comparisons of utility-run and independent' programs, and the first-ever Audit of utility programs*

**WHERE:** Calif. Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco CA  
(*Exact location to be announced*)

**WHEN:** 11:30 am –12:15 pm January 25, 2005

**WHY:** The California Public Utilities Commission is scheduled to make a key decision this Thursday, January 27, 2005. At stake is the fate of \$400 million per year of ratepayer funds for energy efficiency for the next decade. Effective administration of these funds is critical to the state's energy security, economy, and environment. Speakers at this briefing can provide a range of experience, information, and perspectives on the issue.

**WHAT:** The CPUC's current Draft Decision (Agenda #30) puts utilities in charge of all state Energy Efficiency funds (\$400/yr), ending a four-year experiment with competition;

- Neither the Draft nor Commissioner Brown's Alternate (Agenda #30a) fully provides for Community Choice cities and counties to determine their own mix of energy and efficiency pursuant to AB117, but the Alternate leaves the door ajar with a local "Pilot;"
- A brief history: the long-standing nationwide controversy over utilities' conflict-of-interest with un-selling their main product; performance of current utility-run and independent programs in California; independent, competitive systems in other states; the national/global significance of the CPUC's forthcoming decision; the role of energy efficiency in a statewide economic and environmental revival.

CPC Agenda Items 30 (Draft Decision of Assigned Commissioner Kennedy)

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC\\_ID=184766](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=184766)

Agenda 30a (Alternate Draft Decision of Commissioner Brown)

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC\\_ID=187339](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=187339)