



# TNMP

## High-Performance Homes Program Newsletter

Summer 2015

Welcome

### A Letter from the Program Manager

TNMP Homebuilders and HERS Raters,

We hope you're having a successful year and appreciate your contributions to the TNMP Program. The primary objective of the High-Performance Homes Program has been to achieve peak demand reductions and/or energy savings through increased sales of ENERGY STAR® certified and High-Performance qualified homes. Additionally, the Program is designed to condition the market so that consumers are aware of and demand ENERGY STAR® certified and High-Performance qualified homes, and that builders have the technical capacity to supply them.

We have a Production Milestone coming up soon - September 14, 2015 and are encouraging you to get your home information submitted into the online database as quickly as possible. If a participating homebuilder fails to meet the September 14th milestone, the homebuilder risks losing a portion of their remaining incentives as described in the Homebuilder Agreement. ICF, with Texas-New Mexico Power's approval, will reallocate incentives to homebuilders that have additional capacity and can deliver additional kW and kWh savings to meet Program goals.

All homes must be submitted by December 3, 2015.

Below are a few Program reminders:

- Report ALL completed homes in the Program portal within sixty (60) days of certification and submit at least one invoice per month for each builder. If no homes are ready for submittal in a particular month, communicate with the Program staff, before the end of the month, to notify them that no invoice will be submitted for a particular builder.
- Re-submit any home requiring correction by the next invoice.
- Submit all Program data for invoicing by the 25th of each month.
- Raters are required to update to the newest version of REM within 60 days of a new release per RESNET guidelines and to participate in the Texas-New Mexico Power High-Performance Homes Programs.

- Using outdated versions of REM Rate can result in turndowns from the Program.

Best regards for a successful and rewarding year,

Ashley Erdman, Program Manager  
Texas New Mexico Power Company  
Email: [Ashley.Erdman@tnmp.com](mailto:Ashley.Erdman@tnmp.com)  
Office: 214-222-4186

## **STRONG Housing 2015 Finish**

**Demand** - Against a background of strong consumer spending and lower unemployment this spring, sales of new homes grasped a near eight-year high in May and purchases of existing homes scaled to their highest level in six months. Part of that demand is coming from renters who have become homebuyers after enduring years of increasing rents.

**Mortgage Rates** - Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said last week she anticipates short-term interest rates to rise by the end of the year in response to the strengthening economy and job market.

**Inventory** - When housing starts dropped 11%, the researchers predicted "an upturn in homebuilding," which could bolster the inventory of new homes on the market.

**Prices** - Tight inventories continually put upward pressure on home prices and researchers predict "sharp acceleration in price growth".

## **ENERGY STAR - Revision 8 responds to builder, rater, and HVAC contractor concerns**

We have been anxiously waiting for the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Version 3 Revision 8. What is Revision 8 all about? If you missed the builder webinar presentation, here is the link to the new ENERGY STAR New Requirements. In brief, the major changes are to help homebuilders continue building to the [ENERGY STAR](#) program requirements!



REDUCED PAPERWORK to a one-page report per system design, and certifying ENERGY STAR homes is easier than ever for raters and HVAC contractors and designers. The challenging workflow has been improved significantly to make it easier to participate.

Checklists have been streamlined and REDUCED considerably! There is only one compliance path, the PERFORMANCE path. For a complete list of changes visit the [ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Version 3 Revision 8 Highlights!](#)

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Here is a summary of the upcoming changes:

### 1. Greatly reduced paperwork

- Raters will no longer collect the Water Management Checklist.
- Raters will no longer collect full load calculations, an AHRI certificate, or a test & balance report.
- Raters will no longer collect the HVAC System Commissioning Checklist.
- Raters will only collect a single HVAC design report per system design.
- Thermal Enclosure System and HVAC System Rater Checklists will be consolidated into: a 1/2 page Rater Plan Review Checklist and a single-page Rater Field Inspection Checklist.

## 2. Greatly Improved Workflow

- Old HVAC System QI Checklist split into two parts: (1) HVAC Design Report goes from designer to Rater once per system design, earlier in the process, and (2) HVAC System Commissioning Checklist held by contractor; no longer collected by Rater.
- Rater Plan Review Checklist completed once per plan/system design, typically at the same time HERS modeling is completed.
- Rater Field Checklist has fewer items at final inspection, reducing uncertainty.

## 3. Reduced HVAC oversight for Raters, for the time-being

- No document collection from installing contractor.
- No more math check on refrigerant charge.
- No more collection or verification on Test & Balance report.
- No more basic system control checks.
- Streamlined visual inspections for ventilation inlets and exhaust ducts, though airflows will still be measured.
- Raters will continue to measure static pressure, but will no longer check against contractor readings.
- Sounds limits for intermittent exhaust fans recommended, but not required.

### Key Takeaways for Revision 8

#### For Raters

1. Reduces all paperwork collection to a one-page report per plan.
2. Greatly improves predictability at final inspection.
3. Easier than ever to include ENERGY STAR certification in your offerings.

#### For Builders

1. Estimated to reduce costs from Revision 7.
2. Less hassle-factor for them and their trades.
3. Continues to help improve performance and reduce cost of HVAC system.

Contact [energystarhomes@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhomes@energystar.gov) for more information.

## Calendar of Events & Trainings

### [September Luncheon - Bay Area Builders Association](#)

Sept 1, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

La Brisa Mexican Grill, 501 N. Wesley Dr, League City, TX 77573

Sponsored by: Bay Area Builders Association

### [NAHB - Green Building for the Building Professional](#)

Sept 8-9, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

9511 West Sam Houston Pkwy North, Houston, TX 77064

Sponsored by: Greater Houston Builders Association

### [Energy Series - Airtight Code Requirements](#)

Sept 29, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

5816 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093

Sponsored by: Dallas Builders Association

### [October Luncheon - Bay Area Builders Association](#)

Oct 6, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

La Brisa Mexican Grill, 501 N. Wesley Dr, League City, TX 77573

Sponsored by: Bay Area Builders Association

**[Green Building for Building Professionals](#)**

Oct 7-8, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
5816 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093  
Sponsored by: Dallas Builders Association

**[Build a Better House - Lighting Systems](#)**

Oct 14, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
5816 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093  
Sponsored by: Dallas Builders Association

**[Dallas Builder Association - Special Events](#)**

**[Dallas Builders Association - Educational Classes](#)**

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## TNMP FAQ's

### **How big is TNMP?**

We have about 350 employees in more than 20 counties throughout Texas. Our main office is located in Lewisville, TX.

### **Approximately how many people does TNMP serve?**

We provide electricity to over 230,000 accounts throughout Texas.

### **What is Energy-Efficiency?**

Improvements in the use of electricity that are achieved through customer facility or customer equipment improvements, devices, processes, or behavioral or operational changes that produce reductions in demand or energy consumption with the same or higher level of end-use service and that do not materially degrade existing levels of comfort, convenience, and productivity.

### **Why does TNMP run Energy Efficiency Programs?**

According to the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999, PURA § 39.905, and Substantive Rule § 25.181, programs are to be administered by transmission-distribution utilities to meet annual demand and energy savings goals. All customers shall have access to energy efficiency in order to reduce energy consumption and costs.

### **How many people have you served with Energy Efficiency?**

Since 2002, over 245,000 customers have participated in TNMP's programs. In the past 11 years, TNMP invested approximately \$17.6 million in energy efficiency programs.

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For more information, please contact:

**[George Cornwell](#)**, ICF International Account Manager (Houston Area), 713-445-2027  
**[Gloria Vandegriff-Honea](#)**, ICF International Account Manager (DFW Area), 469-467-4408 or  
**[Ashley Erdman](#)** of TNMP at (214) 222-4186.

For more information on ENERGY STAR, please visit the ENERGY STAR website ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)).

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