

[News](#) > [Results: \("ralph cavanagh"\)](#) > NEW COALITION FOR CALIFORNIA UTIL...



Disclaimer

PR Newswire

July 10, 1995, Monday - 12:22 Eastern Time

NEW COALITION FOR CALIFORNIA UTILITY RESTRUCTURING FORMED

SECTION: Financial News

LENGTH: 640 words

A major new coalition of 82 organizations representing businesses, consumers, environmentalists, labor, utilities and other groups has announced support for the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) recently proposed majority decision on the restructuring of the electric utility industry.

"We commend and support the CPUC," the coalition stated, "for its emphasis on the critically important features of a competitive electricity market: reliability, equity, choice, efficiency, public policy objectives, stranded cost recovery and the fair sharing of costs and benefits."

On May 24, 1995, the majority of the CPUC issued its "Proposed Policy Decision Adopting a Preferred Industry Structure" governing the electric services industry in California, restructuring the electric utility industry through the development of a "pooled" wholesale electricity market that would give all customers the benefit of a competitive market by 1997.

SAN DIEGO, July 10

Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network, a consumer group based in San Diego, said that the joint statement issued today endorses the majority CPUC proposal because it "says that all consumers, large and small, should be able to reap the benefits from and participate in a competitive electric marketplace. And it backs up this pledge with a restructuring process that allows that market to evolve into a competitive one."

Jim Conran, president of Consumers First, a consumer advocacy group, also echoed these sentiments, saying "the CPUC's majority proposal is a balanced policy. It allows all consumers to benefit, it emphasizes safety and reliability, it maintains quality service, and it offers protection to consumers."

"This marks a new beginning for the restructuring of an industry that ranks among California's -- and America's -- most important," said **Ralph Cavanagh**, energy program director for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national environmental organization. "We think the commission majority has identified a formula that will work for both the economy and the environment -- including, in particular, the energy-efficiency and renewable energy resources that are crucial to a sustainable energy future."

News > Results: ("ralph cavanagh") > THE CUTTING EDGE: COMPUTING / TEC...

 Disclaimer

Los Angeles Times

July 12, 1995, Wednesday, Home Edition

THE CUTTING EDGE: COMPUTING / TECHNOLOGY /
INNOVATION;
TAPPING INTO TECHNOLOGY IN HOPES OF MAKING
ELECTRICITY CHEAPER;
ENERGY: NEW USAGE-MEASURING METERS AND
DEREGULATED SYSTEMS ARE PART OF A PUC EFFORT
TO ACHIEVE LOWER RATES.

BYLINE: By MICHAEL PARRISH, TIMES STAFF WRITER

SECTION: Business; Part D; Page 4; Financial Desk

LENGTH: 1176 words

It will take a wide range of innovations, from new electric meter technologies to radically different marketing systems, but within the next few years many California electricity customers should be getting the opportunity to help lower their power bills. 

It's all part of a complex effort by the state Public Utilities Commission to deregulate the state's investor-owned electric utilities, with the aim of cutting rates that are on average 50% higher than in the rest of the country.

The PUC released rival draft proposals for a deregulated electricity market on May 24, and it expects to decide on a final proposal later this year. But many of the components that will be a part of any final plan are already clear, and all the big players in the state's electric power industry will be attending a meeting Thursday in Marina del Rey to work on the nuts and bolts.

One innovation will be the creation of an independent operating agency -- not controlled by the utilities or other power generators -- that will direct the flow of power, much as air traffic controllers direct aircraft. In the case of electricity, this is meant to ensure equal access for competing power plants to the big transmission wires of the interconnected power grid -- which is now owned and controlled by the utilities.

Impartial access will allow competition based on the price of electricity, without anyone's gaining an advantage by dint of ownership of the electron superhighway.

"This has great potential for transforming the industry, but is widely overlooked," says **Ralph Cavanagh**, energy program director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. With computers to shunt the power to and fro, the logistics are not complicated.