



Subcommittee Summary

Subcommittee	<i>Cross-Cutting Technical Issues Standing Subcommittee: Best Available Information</i>
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Final Deliverable(s)	The subcommittee will create a proposed definition of 'best available information,' to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example sources and sets of 'best available information' • Criteria for evaluating whether information can be considered 'best available,' including specific criteria for the use of out of state data • Criteria for determining when the 'best available information' is insufficient to minimize ex post risk and time and resources should be invested in gathering/producing further information
Commencement Date	February 2015
Conclusion Date	July 2015

I. Subcommittee Objective

The objectives of the subcommittee will be to

- Create a definition of "best available information."
- Develop examples and sources of "best available information."
- Develop criteria for evaluating whether information can be considered "best available information" (e.g. date of information, who conducted/reviewed information gathering or produced information, statistical significance of the sample size if relevant).
- Determine when it is reasonable from a cost/time perspective to collect additional information to meet the "best available data" standard.
- Provide guidelines for assessing when out-of-state data can be used in California.
- Develop criteria for when "best available data" is insufficient to minimize ex post risk.

The final deliverable will be a proposal document detailing the recommendations and supporting reasoning resulting from subcommittee discussion and consensus to meet the above objectives.



II. Description of Issues

In lieu of an official definition of 'best available information,' both Commission Staff and the IOUs are left to interpret the meaning of 'best available' at their own discretion, leading to differing opinions and inconsistencies in many cases. The Cal TF needs a consistent definition of 'best available information' to properly determine if proposed energy efficiency savings estimates are developed in accordance with CPUC standards.

III. Background information

The directive to use "best available information" in developing ex ante savings estimates is a recurring mandate in CPUC decisions.¹ Commission Staff are tasked with using "best available Information" for DEER ex ante updates, and similarly the IOUs are expected to use "best available information" when developing non-DEER ex ante estimates. However, CPUC decision language does not specifically define "best available information." Thus it is not always clear what "best available information" means, and how to consider the accessibility, applicability, credibility, and cost of various potential data/information sources in determining whether the "best available data" standard has been met. This ambiguity may lead to suboptimal use of ratepayer dollars to fund superfluous research when existing data may provide a reasonable level of ex ante accuracy.

IV. Schedule

Date	Agenda	Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of abstract• Agreement on Issues• Agreement on Objectives• Agreement on number of meeting to hold• Discussion	Subcommittee members to consider issues discussed, prepare comments for next meeting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Settle on Cal TF definition of 'best available information'• Develop 'best available information' criteria• List examples of 'best available information' and sources	Cal TF staff to compile subcommittee conclusions into working proposal draft.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create guidelines for use of out of state data• Determine instances where further data collection should be allowed• Finalize proposal	Cal TF staff to draft final proposal.

V. Attachments

¹ D. 12-05-015 at 320; Ordering Paragraph 26 of D. 09-09-047 at 356, D. 11-07-030



Cal TF Cross-Cutting Position on Best Available Information_ver 4