An Econometric Benchmarking Study

# **Gas Emergency Response Time Target by PSE**

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# **PSE's Emergency Gas Response Time**

The study which include 22 utilities across the U.S. involves:

- Company's estimated and actual gas response time by district/operating centers.
- The company's confidence interval of response time compared with other utilities.
- Model estimates of company's gas response time by districts/centers based on external factors unique to each centers.
- PSE's recommended target based on external factors and peer comparison in confidence interval.
- The study entails a comprehensive report including tables and graphics.
- Coveys to managers/regulators how much confidence to put into the results.



# A Utility with 15 Districts Average Gas Emergency Response Times

• Downward (improving) trend, where is the equilibrium or expected level?





### **Econometric Model**

• The econometric method creates a model that directly estimates how service territory conditions influence emergency response times.



- PSE uses a Translog functional form to estimate the impact of the variables above on expected gas response time.
- The variables selected are unique to a specific service territory.



# **Results for Selected Districts**

- Actual versus PSE Model's Expected
- All the districts in this selection beat model expected 3-year average

Actual and Model Expected Gas Emergency Response Time						
Onerating Districts	Year	Actual	PSE Model Expected			
District 1	2018	31.42	32.16			
	2019	29.09	30.07			
	2020 YTD	23.10	23.86			
Average 2018-2020		27.87	28.69			
District 2	2018	31.53	32.45			
	2019	29.48	29.85			
	2020 YTD	28.16	28.55			
Average 2018-2020		29.72	30.28			
District 3	2018	33.58	33.68			
	2019	28.47	29.39			
	2020 YTD	27.85	28.08			
Average 2018-2020		29.97	30.38			
District 4	2018	39.16	39.68			
	2019	38.46	38.95			
	2020 YTD	28.22	28.48			
Average 2018-2020		35.28	35.71			
District 5	2018	33.31	33.35			
	2019	38.08	38.18			
	2020 YTD	28.03	28.31			
Average 2018-2020		33.14	33.28			



# District 1 2018-2020 Average

- The distribution represent hypothetical utilities with the same operating conditions
- The distribution response times ranging from a low of 27 minutes to around 31 minutes.
- It is highly unlikely for any utility with the same conditions as district 1 to achieve actual response times of less than 27 minutes or greater than 31 minutes.
- Most will be around 28.69 minutes, with about half faster and about half slower.





# Menu of Target Options

- Model expected target is PSE's best estimate of "true", albeit unknown, industry expectation
- CI's tell us how confident we are that a district is beating that unknown "true" industry expectation.

Performance Level	District 1	Actual	District 2	Actual	District 3	Actual
	2018	31.42	2018	31.53	2018	33.58
	2019	29.09	2019	29.48	2019	28.47
	2020 YTD	23.10	2020 YTD	28.16	2020 YTD	27.85
Actual Response Time	Average 2018-2020	27.87	Average 2018-2020	29.72	Average 2018-2020	29.97
Model Expected	Average 2018-2020	<b>28.6</b> 9	Average 2018-2020	30.28	Average 2018-2020	30.28
85% Statistical CI Target	Recommended	27.09		29.11		28.78

- Recent response time (i.e. 2020) show favorable performance versus recommended targets.
- Consistent with study recommendation.