



LINCOLN ELECTRIC SYSTEM

LES RESOLUTION 2001-25

WHEREAS, many low-income residents in Lincoln experience difficulties in keeping up with their monthly energy bills and other expenses due to extremes in weather conditions which can cause extraordinary hardships; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Electric System (LES) issues an average of approximately 7,700 disconnect notices per month resulting in significant administrative costs and a disproportionate loss of revenue to LES; and

WHEREAS, LES credit representatives routinely work with low-income customers regarding payment arrangements or exploring available assistance options; and

WHEREAS, LES desires to provide a community energy assistance program that will provide assistance to low-income residents in paying their energy bills and will also lower LES' administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the LES staff has developed the framework for an LES Energy Assistance Program that would involve the distribution of LES vouchers to local human service agencies and programs for these entities to distribute to clients that meet their requirements for assistance in paying their electric bill at LES; and

WHEREAS, these human service agencies and programs have expertise in administering assistance and have criteria for determining eligibility for need; and

WHEREAS, the level of such program for the first year would be equivalent to five cents per LES customer per month, or about \$69,000 per year, with future program levels to be determined as part of the LES Budget; and

WHEREAS, the LES Administrative Board Marketing & Communications Committee has met with staff to review the energy assistance program and recommends that the full Board approve the program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LES Administrative Board approves the LES Energy Assistance Program at a level of five cents per LES customer per month and authorizes the LES Administrator and CEO to forward this proposal to the Lincoln City Council for its approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LES Administrative Board authorizes the LES Administrator and CEO and LES staff, contingent upon approval of the program by the Lincoln City Council, to work with the human service agencies and programs and take the necessary steps to implement the program as soon as is reasonably possible.

Marilyn M. Pouchard
Chair

Adopted: Dec 21, 2001