# Annual TQS Benchmark Customer Satisfaction of Large Key Accounts

1994 - 2015

## BACKGROUND ON TQS RESEARCH

- Established in 1994 in Atlanta, GA by Joe Ellis, previously of Southern Company
- Nationally survey 6500+/- Key Accounts a year to benchmark 49 holding companies
- Experience
  - Best Practices of Top 10 Utilities
  - Corporate Energy Manager's study
  - Benchmarked satisfaction of 6 state PUCs for PacifiCorp
  - Identify Products and Services for Transmission Dept. for MidAmerican

#### BEST PRACTICES

- Best practices as viewed by Corporate Energy Managers
- Face to Face qualitative research
- Roundtable of top 10 utilities to their views of why they are held in high esteem
- Idea Generation to select and rank the 12 best practices to improve customer service to Key Accounts

## SEGMENT OF ONE

Intel	BOC Gases (Linde)
Corporate Energy Manager	Corporate Energy Manager
Importance: Reliability	Importance: Price
Why: 3 days to reset robotics	Why: 87% of O&M is energy costs
Ramifications: HLF – 8760 – Production lost forever; Employees paid while off the job. Delivery	Ramifications: Earnings, stock prices, growth
Willing to pay more for 100% reliability. Duel 115kv lines; split bus, duel breakers, backup.	Demand response, buy back energy, load curves, interruptible, interruptible with buy through, RTP

### SEGMENT OF ONE

- Conduct a census of largest customer, rather than a sample
- Ask respondent to allow sharing of results with rep
- Create database showing customer name
- Sort database to identify
  - specific issues
  - reliability problems
  - Candidates for rate options or demand response
- Ability to target specific communication opportunities
- Joint planning

# WHY BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY RANKS #1 96.1% VERY SATISFIED

- Setting high performance goals
- Tie pay for performance
- Improving communications
- Increasing the number of customer contacts
- Managing by a segment of one
- Assisting customers to reduce their energy costs
- Conducting joint planning programs
- Excellent support from their upper management

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT

- CRM
- Segment of One
- Joint Planning
- Eliminate reliability as a Dissatisfier
- Tie pay/bonuses to results
- Executive involvement

#### SUCCESSFUL IMPROVEMENTS

Utility	Improvement
PacifiCorp (BHE)	Improved from 29 <sup>t6</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> in 2007 (92%)
MidAmerican (BHE)	Improved from 15 <sup>th</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> in 2010
Berkshire Hathaway Energy	1st in 2013 and 2015 (96%)
Southern Co	1 <sup>st</sup> in 2011, 2012, and 2014 (96%) Continuous improvement every year.
Allegheny (Now First Energy)	Improved from 27 <sup>th</sup> in 2007 to 6 <sup>th</sup> in 2009
Portland General	Improved from 17 <sup>th</sup> in 2005 to 3 <sup>rd</sup> in 2011 to 3 <sup>rd</sup> in 2014 (91%)
Xcel	Improved from 27 <sup>th</sup> in 2003 to 10 <sup>th</sup> in 2014 (81%)

## REASONS KEY ACCOUNTS ARE' "VERY SATISFIED"

Reason	Percent of Times Mentioned
Response to Specific Problems	26%
Overall They Are a Good Company	18%
Excellent Account Rep	12%
Improved Reliability to Our Facility	12%
Tailored Solution to Specific Issue	11%
Value concept – Good Price with Excellent Service	9%
Never Have a Problem	6%
Special Contracts	3%

It's a Segment of One

## REASONS FOR OVERALL SATISFACTION BELOW AN 8

Reason	% of Total
Customer Service/Slow Response	30%
Reliability	29%
Price	22%
PQ Issues	9%
No cost reduction/ Energy efficiency	7%
Other	3%

It's a segment of one!

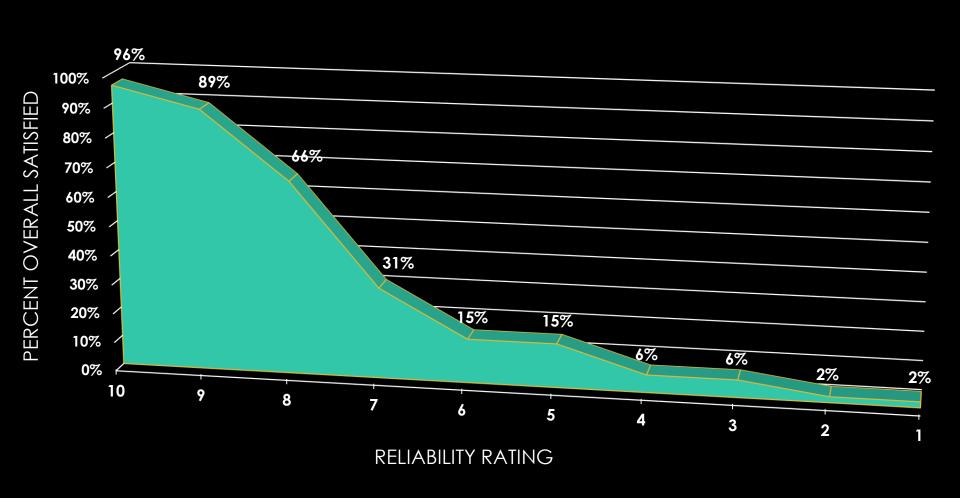
### ANNUAL JOINT PLANNING

- LAMP by Miller Hyman
- Use individual reports and database to assess issues
- Meet with key account to jointly develop a written strategic plan for meeting customer needs
- Without "confronting", use data collected to assist in joint planning documentation, conversation starter
- Individually planning will force communication between customer and utility, improving relations
- Following up to give updates and progress reports for identified issues

#### RELIABILITY AS A DIS-SATISFIER

- Customers who rated their utility less than a five on Overall Reliability
  - Only 8.8% rated their utility above a seven on Overall Customer Satisfaction.
  - 82% have at least some propensity to switch suppliers.
  - Only 4.9% are very likely to stay with their incumbent utility.
  - Only 4.7% would highly recommend the utility to others.

## SLIPPERY SLOPE



## PERCEPTION OR SAIDI/ SAIFI

- Saifi is average frequency of outages
- Saidi is average duration of outage
- Breaker operations have little to no impact on these measurements
- Breaker operations have tremendous impact on perception, especially

Robotics

**Extrusion** 

Molten Metals,

#### EXECUTIVE INVOLVEMENT

It starts from the top

- APCo invites executives from 50 largest customers
- Customers view companies in a better light if executives are seen "in the trenches"
- Make visits to customers
  - Be careful not to over-promise and under deliver
- Communication from executive management regarding pricing, work on reliability, etc.
  - PacifiCorp, Florida Hurricane for example

## COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Don't Know	National
Competitive Price	25%
Rate Options	19%
Working hard to control costs	18%
Accurate Bills	14%
Rep Authority	11%
Understands Billing Statement	14%
Assistance on reducing cost	10%
Assistance to solve PQ problems	10%

## OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

- FP&L Hurricanes
- Rate Increases at Pacific Power
- News Letters
- Offer seminars: Safety; National Electric Code, Industrial Wiring; Motor Controls
- How a substation breaker operates
- Image

# THANK YOU I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS