

## Energy Center receives grant from SDG&E

**November 18, 1976**

The University of California, San Diego Energy Center has received a major research and development grant from the San Diego Gas and Electric Company for studies relating to energy conservation and environmental impact assessments.

According to Dr. Stanford S. Penner, professor of engineering physics and director of the Center, the \$45,186 grant will be used to fund a number of conservation programs including a study of cost-effectiveness and energy savings to be derived from home-insulation, the development of a means of determining the cost to homeowners of hardware designed to reduce energy use, and improvement of short-term electric-load forecasting techniques in order to reduce utility start-up costs and energy losses.

Penner will serve as principal investigator for the SDG&E grant. Professors John P. Howe, of the Energy Center, and Alan A. Schneider and Anthony Sebald, of the Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences, will serve as participating faculty members.

The research grant is the third such grant that the Center has received from the local utility company. An SDG&E grant for the study of regional energy problems including geothermal resource development in the Imperial Valley, was awarded in 1974 and a three-year grant to support the study of energy conservation in the San Diego region was awarded earlier this year.

The energy program began operation on the San Diego campus during the 1972-73 academic year with university support for two research assistants. The Energy Center was established as an organized research unit in June 1974.

According to Penner, the Center was developed to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in the San Diego area to solve fundamental problems resulting from the interrelated physical, biological, economic, political and social consequences of the world's need for energy.

"The San Diego Gas and Electric Company grants to the Energy Center are invaluable in broadening the scope of the work at the Center and in allowing us to conduct research in a number of related and extremely important areas," Penner said.

The continuing programs at the Energy Center deal with environmental impact assessments of nuclear reactors and with the development of alternative energy technologies including solar, geothermal and wind energy and synthetic fuels.

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(November 18, 1976)