Energy Center receives grant of $82,000 from SDG&E

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The Energy Center at the University of California, San Diego has received a continuation grant of $82,000 from the San Diego Gas and Electric Company for studies in energy conservation.

According to Dr. Stanford S. Penner, professor of engineering physics and director of the Center, the money, together with previously uncommitted resources, will be used for continuation or initiation of studies dealing with energy conservation.

The studies will include the use of wall and floor insulation in reducing residential energy consumption in San Diego County; air infiltration, its control and its effects on residential energy requirements; and the use of passive and active solar energy technologies in San Diego County. Also included will be a study of chemical energy storage systems, especially those that may be used in conjunction with solar energy applications; and the development of improved underground electrical transmission lines.

The work will be conducted by UC San Diego faculty members associated with the Energy Center. They include Penner, Dr. Gustaf Arrhenius, associate director of the Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences; Dr. James R. Clinton, associate specialist in the Energy Center; Dr. Daniel B. Olfe, professor of applied mechanics and engineering sciences, and Dr. Anthony Sebald, assistant professor of AMES. Graduate and undergraduate research assistants will also work on the studies.

According to Penner, the SDG&E grants to the Energy Center have been an important factor in developing new methods and realistic estimates for consumer applications of energy conservation measures, as well as fostering significant educational and research efforts within UC San Diego.

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 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.

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