



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2025

IDAHO POWER RATED #1 IN ENERGY INDUSTRY BENCHMARK REPORT

100 Automated Phone Systems Evaluated by IVR Doctors and Chartwell, Inc.

Idaho Power tops the list in the 19th Energy Utility Benchmark Report of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems, released today by IVR Doctors and Chartwell, Inc. The 2025 Report compares 100 energy utility automated telephone systems in the U.S. and Canada.

A new-for-2025 "Platinum Stethoscope" award category recognizes eight companies whose IVR earned the coveted "Balanced Company" category, with top quartile scores in Functionality, Usability, and System Aesthetics

"Gold Stethoscope" award recognition was awarded to winners in 12 categories, including Top Overall Company; Top Electric, Gas, and Combination Utility; and Top Canadian Utility, and more.

"No other benchmark report with such a consistent set of design principles has been in place and proven effective in the utility industry over the 19 years of this Benchmark," said Peter Brandt, IVR Doctors cofounder. "Correlation between top performance in this Report and a utility's own internal performance measures is very high."

The Report identifies automated telephone systems that successfully balance company objectives and customer preferences in the Report's three key rating categories: Functionality, Usability, and Aesthetics, the major drivers of customer satisfaction and system utilization.

"The Report looks at the IVR experience from two-perspectives - callers using it and those who manage it. It also highlights common design mistakes and demonstrates clearly how those errors can have a negative impact on a company and its callers' experience," said Mark Camack, IVR Doctors' co-founder.

The 100 automated phone systems evaluated in the 2025 Report were rated using standards which IVR Doctors and Chartwell, Inc. can apply to other companies interested in inclusion in the Benchmark.

"IVR optimization represents a key strategy to improve contact center efficiency, encourage self-service, and provide a great customer experience. Customers who said their utility's IVR was easy to use were 16% more satisfied with their utility overall than customers who found the IVR difficult to use based on Chartwell's 2024 Residential Consumer Survey" said Chartwell Vice President Stacey Bailey. "Chartwell is excited to work with IVR Doctors to provide data and best practices utilities can use to optimize IVR performance.

The 2025 Report is available at <u>ivrdoctors.com</u>. As an additional benefit, Report buyers receive a customized online consultation with IVR Doctors targeted specifically to their company's automated phone system.

2025 "PLATINUM AND GOLD STETHOSCOPE" RECOGNITION WINNERS CATEGORY / COMPANY

The eight "Balanced Company" Platinum Stethoscope Winners are:

- Entergy (New Orleans, LA)
- Idaho Power (Boise, ID)
- Kentucky Utilities and Old Dominion Power (Louisville, KY)
- LCEC (Lee County Electric Cooperative, North Fort Myers, FL)
- LG&E (Louisville Gas & Electric, Louisville, KY)
- Ozarks Electric Cooperative (Fayetteville, AR)
- PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power) (Portland, OR)
- UGI Utilities (Denver, PA)

This Report's Gold Stethoscope Category Winners are:

Top Rated IVR System - Overall

Idaho Power (Boise, ID)

Top U.S. Combination Utility

MidAmerican Energy - (Des Moines, Iowa)

Top Canadian Utility

Nova Scotia Power (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Top U.S. Electric-only IVR

Idaho Power (Boise, ID)

Top U.S. Gas-only IVR

SoCalGas (Los Angeles, CA)

Top Municipal Utility IVR

JEA (Jacksonville, FL)

Top Electric Cooperative

LCEC (Lee County Electric Cooperative, North Fort Myers, FL)

Top "Touchtone-only" system

LCEC (Lee County Electric Cooperative, North Fort Myers, FL)

Top "Press or Say" system

Idaho Power (Boise, ID)

Top in Functionality

LCEC (Lee County Electric Cooperative, North Fort Myers, FL)

Top in Usability

Idaho Power (Boise, ID)

Top in Aesthetics

Idaho Power (Boise, ID)

Honorable Mention for the Most Improved IVRs of the 2025 Top Quartile companies -

alphabetically: CPS Energy, Nova Scotia Power, and Puget Sound Energy

IVR Doctors, with over 30 years of market research, usability consulting, marketing, and call center management experience, specialize in automated phone system diagnostics and optimization. Their practice, with an energy utility specialty, is not limited to a single industry and covers companies large and small. For more information, visit <u>ivrdoctors.com</u>.

Chartwell, Inc., is a specialized information provider for the utility industry. They provide strategic research and facilitate issue-targeted forums for collaboration among industry peers. Their wide range of services ensures that members have access to the best, most timely information available to make their business decisions. For more information, visit www.chartwellinc.com.

Contacts:

Peter Brandt | peter@ivrdoctors.com | (843) 469.4266 Mark Camack | mark@ivrdoctors.com | (503) 449-5940 Stacey Bailey | sbailey@chartwellinc.com | (404)-447-6939

##