

TEXAS ENERGY DEREGULATION

As many of you know beginning January 1, 2002 Texans have the right to shop for competitive energy providers. The process has been interesting, yet somewhat confusing for many consumers. The following information will help you guide your buyers and sellers through the maze of deregulation.

How do they compare rates?

Consumers should request a Electricity Facts Label (EFL) from their current Retail Electric Provider (REP). With this information they will be able to compare different REP's. Additionally with this information they will be better informed consumers and possibly lower their rates.

Do they have to shop for a new provider?

No, consumers can choose to stay with their current local utility provider. This does not apply to new service. In that circumstance the consumer will have to choose a REP. A new customer may choose any certified REP offering electric service in their area.

What's staying the same?

The Local Distribution Utility (LDU) will continue to maintain the poles and wires and respond to power outages and electrical emergencies. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) will continue to regulate the delivery of electricity, in addition to enforcing customer protections.

How do they choose a new Retail Electric Provider?

Contact Texas Electric Choice at toll-free 1-866-797-4839 or on the Web at www.powertochoose.org for consumer information and shopping tips.

Contact the current REP to obtain the ELF (Electricity Facts Label). This will enable the consumers to comparison shop. Also they will need to know about how much electricity they typically consume per month. This information can be found on their latest electricity bill.

Contact the chosen REP to sign a contract (Terms of Service) and a "Your Rights as a customer" disclosure. The consumer does not need to contact their current electric provider to notify them of the change. If the consumer is changing to a new REP, the change will occur at their next scheduled meter reading. They will receive their first electric bill from their new REP on the next billing cycle. There are no fees to switch REP, unless the consumer requests a special meter reading.

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