

Public Utility Commission of Texas

1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326

News Release
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

Contact: Terry Hadley 512-936-7135

Competitive electricity prices continue to fall **All areas have residential prices below 10 cents per kilowatt hour**

The continuing drop in fuel prices is triggering the lowest residential price offers seen in several years in the competitive areas of the Texas electric market.

“Some customers will save more than 50 dollars a month by choosing a lower price with either a new or their current provider,” said Commissioner Donna Nelson of the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

In Texas, natural gas is the largest source of fuel used to generate electricity. After reaching historic highs in 2008, current natural gas prices are at their lowest levels since 2002. These lower prices allow retail electric providers to pass the savings on to new customers.

As of Thursday every competitive area of the state contains a residential price offer of less than 10 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). For a customer using 1,000 kWh per month, that translates to an electric bill of less than \$100 per month. For a customer using 2,000 kWh, the cost would be less than \$200 per month.

Several retail electric providers are offering rates below 10 cents per kWh under several options including both month-to-month variable plans and longer-term fixed rates. One current month-to-month offer in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is 8.9 cents per kWh.

Texans typically use more electricity during the summer to power air conditioners in the Texas heat. While September usually signals the start of less electricity usage, it’s also a time when bills for summer air conditioning are due. Finding a lower cost provider can be the quickest way to control future electricity costs.

Customers can get immediate pricing information at www.powertochoose.org by entering their zip code. A toll-free phone number, 1-866-797-4839 (1-866-PWR-4-TEX) is available for customers without Internet access.

Before switching to a new provider, customers should check their existing contract to see if they are subject to cancellation or early termination fees from their current provider.

All PUC News Releases are available at www.puc.state.tx.us