

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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

News Release
Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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Households targeted in energy-saving scam **Unauthorized letter delivered to Rio Grande Valley mailboxes**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) is alerting electric customers to an illegal, unauthorized and inaccurate notice that has been sent to Texas households.

The attached falsified letter states it is from the PUC. The notice offers a discount on future electricity bills. It also describes an additional process that encourages the customer to visit a Lowe's or Home Depot store to get a device designed to reduce voltage when attached to an electric meter.

The PUC emphasizes that it does not authorize this discount and has never seen, heard nor received any information about the so-called Electrical Reduction Device, or ERD mentioned in the letter.

The Commission has launched an investigation and is aware of this letter being delivered in the Rio Grande Valley, specifically in the City of Mission.

Customers who have received a copy of this letter or have any information about this fraud are urged to call the PUC toll-free at 1-888-782-8477 (1-888-PUC-TIPS).

All PUC News Releases are available at
http://www.puc.texas.gov/agency/resources/newsfeeds/Puc_News_Rss.aspx



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February 18, 2015

Dear home owner:

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) represents and protects the public interest in regard to public utility rates, operations, and services. The PUC has randomly selected your subdivision for an energy saving project for the state of Texas. Within your subdivision, your home is one of less than 10 homes chosen to participate. The option to participate is strictly up to you, although we believe the benefits to you are substantial.

The first benefit for your participation will be a guaranteed reduction of 75% of your monthly electrical bill for the first 12 months you are enrolled. Each month, simply send an email or write to us at the above address along with a copy of your monthly electric bill, and we will reimburse you for your electricity cost. Example: if your electric bill is \$100, we will reimburse you \$75.

The second benefit will be in the ongoing reduction in your electric bill. This will be done by your participation in the program and with the installation of special equipment (called an Electrical Reduction Device, or ERD) on your electric meter. The ERD is free to you, and is installed by fastening one clamp (furnished with the ERD) around the meter itself. (The current meter will detect its presence, and reconfigure itself automatically.) The ERD may be picked up at any Lowe's or The Home Depot at their respective service desks, simply ask for the PUC ERD, and provide your address. No id is required. (You only need one per house.) This device automatically reduces all voltage to your house as follows: 110V is reduced to 99V, and 220V is reduced to 199V. The ERD is well tested and works flawlessly. Most appliances work well with less than 110V or 220V, and if an appliance is detected that requires a full 110V or 220V, the ERD automatically increases voltage to accommodate this demand, then reduces the voltage after the appliance is turned off.

(This offer is non-transferable, as your home was pre-selected for the street and electrical grid it is on. You must install the ERD within 30 days from the date on this letter, or another house will be randomly selected for participation.)

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr., Commissioner and Senior Vice President for New Technologies