

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Low-Income Electricity Discount to Resume Customers to get 15.5 percent reduction May through August

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) has authorized a 15.5 percent discount effective May 2009 for low-income residential electric customers in areas participating in retail electric competition. The current program is funded through August 2009 and amounts to an average monthly discount of nearly 40 dollars.

Most eligible customers are automatically enrolled through a matching system operated by the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) using data provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and retail electric providers. The PUC estimates approximately 464,000 customers will receive the discount each month.

Customers who qualify for the Low-Income Discount but are not automatically matched are encouraged to apply directly by calling 1-866-454-8387 toll-free. In addition, customers who self-enrolled over the past year need to re-enroll. Self-enrolled customers are required to re-enroll every seven months. Every self-enrolled customer should have received an application and information by mail. Customers who have not received this information should call the above toll-free number. The Website www.puc.state.tx.us/ocp/assist/liteup/index.cfm also contains this information in both English and Spanish.

Completed applications must be mailed with a copy of the most recent electric bill and income documentation to:

**LITE-UP TEXAS
1779 Wells Branch Parkway, Ste. 110B, #320
Austin, TX 78728-7022**

A customer qualifies if family income is at or below 125 percent of federal poverty level guidelines (\$27,563 annually for a family of four), or if the customer receives certain benefits from HHSC, including food stamps or Medicaid.

The customer must have an electric account in an area with retail customer choice. Residents of master or sub-metered apartments cannot get the discount. The discount does not affect eligibility for any other government benefit.

Funding for the discount comes from the System Benefit Fund. The fund collects 65 cents per 1,000 kWh from electric customers in areas of retail electric competition within Texas.

Customers receiving the low-income discount can save more money by shopping for a lower rate. Current price offers are substantially less than last year because of lower fuel prices. Before authorizing a switch, customers should consider existing and new contract terms in addition to deposit requirements. Current prices are available at www.powertochoose.com or by calling 1-866-797-4839 (1-866-PWR-4-TEX) toll-free.

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