

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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News Release
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Independent smart meter testing to begin PUC to direct smart meter review by Navigant Consulting, Inc.

The Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC) on Thursday detailed a multi-pronged evaluation process for the independent testing of smart meters installed in the Texas competitive retail electric market.

“We are committed to a comprehensive review to ensure the accuracy of smart meters,” said PUC Chairman Barry Smitherman. “If any flaws are discovered we will move to correct them immediately.”

Testing and evaluation will begin later this month and will examine customer electricity usage and data both before and after the installation of a smart meter.

The independent review includes:

- Testing and evaluating installed smart meters, individually and side-by-side.
- Reviewing historic customer usage.
- Analyzing customer complaints.
- Evaluating utility smart meter processes, procedures and controls involving system hardware and software.
- Tracking the accuracy of information transmitted from a smart meter to its final destination.
- Sampling customer usage without smart meters to compare information and identify any inconsistencies with customer accounts that have smart meters.

The PUC signed a contract with Navigant Consulting, Inc. (www.navigantconsulting.com) on March 16. Navigant will evaluate work done by the transmission and distribution utilities (TDUs) serving the competitive retail electric regions, Oncor, CenterPoint Energy, AEP Texas Central, and AEP Texas North. An initial estimate indicates approximately 5,000 meters will be tested. The company expects to report results to the PUC in June. Earlier reporting may be done as needed.

More than one million smart meters have been installed in the Oncor and CenterPoint Energy service areas. Eventually more than 6.3 million smart meters will be installed in the Texas competitive retail electric market. The independent testing will not be done in areas of municipal utilities or electric cooperatives because authority over these two utility types comes from a city council or a cooperative board of directors, not the PUC.

More customer information is available on the www.smartmetertexas.com Website.

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