

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Independent smart meter testing underway **Project will test 5,000 meters in competitive regions**

The Public Utility Commission announced on Friday the launch of the independent testing process of smart meters in the competitive electric market of Texas.

Earlier this week an independent testing lab began receiving pre-deployment meters from Oncor and CenterPoint Energy to measure the accuracy of new smart meters delivered to these companies from manufacturers. As of Friday approximately 1,400 pre-deployment meters were tested and all of them meet industry standards for accuracy.

Beginning next week in the Oncor service region, a second testing procedure will begin with the mobile field testing of approximately 500 previously installed smart meters.

A third process, scheduled to begin late next month, will remove previously installed smart meters and deliver them to an independent testing lab for similar accuracy testing. Some of these meters will be measured against previously installed traditional meters in side-by-side testing and subjected to a variety of factors to measure their accuracy under changing weather and load conditions.

The independent testing process goes beyond measuring the accuracy of the smart meter device. The process also will determine the accuracy of information transmitted from a smart meter back through the advanced metering infrastructure that gathers and organizes information to prepare a customer's electric bill. In addition, there will be a review of historic customer usage and customer complaint data to locate any unexpected patterns that can be traced to the deployment or operation of smart meters.

The PUC signed a contract for an independent evaluation of smart meter deployment in Texas with Navigant Consulting (PI) LLC (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.

As of April 1, more than 1.1 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.

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