

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Texas retail electric market keeps top ranking

Comprehensive study rates Texas best in North America

The competitive Texas electric market continues to be the most successful in North America, according to a new report issued by a national electric industry consulting group.

Every year the Distributed Energy Financial Group revises its *Annual Baseline Assessment of Choice in Canada and the United States (ABACCUS)*. The 2010 report puts Texas above New York as the only two markets receiving an “excellent” ranking. Only 14 other states and provinces are worthy of recognition for market ratings either as “good” or “marginal.”

“The Texas electric market continues to get stronger,” said Barry Smitherman, Chairman of the Public Utility Commission. “I urge customers to aggressively shop as we enjoy some of the lowest retail prices since electric competition began almost ten years ago.”

The *ABACCUS* report praises Texas for its many retail providers and numerous pricing plans. The scorecard is designed to showcase best market structures and business practices by researching a wide range of issues.

The availability in Texas of electricity generated by renewable energy and the rollout of smart meters also were cited by the authors of the report.

The Texas competitive retail electric market is about to enter its tenth year of system-wide retail choice. The latest available statistics (as of July 1, 2010) show that more than one-half of residential customers have chosen and remain with a competitive electric provider. At the same time most customers remaining with their legacy provider have moved to a lower-cost pricing plan.

Currently the shopping Website www.powertochoose.org lists price offers as low as 6.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for a variable plan and as low as 7.4 cents per kWh for a fixed plan. These plans translate to a monthly electric bill of \$65 and \$74 for 1,000 kWh.

The *ABBACUS* report and additional related data are available at: <http://www.defgllc.com/news/news.asp?show=VIEW&a=90>.

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