

# Public Utility Commission of Texas

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**News Release**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011**

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## PUC urges Electricity Conservation

The Public Utility Commission continues to urge power conservation in changing Wednesday's conservation alert to RED now that rolling outages are no longer required within the grid system of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

"The Texas electric grid has stabilized for now." However I urge all Texans to conserve power tonight and Thursday until more generation plants return to service," said PUC Chairman Barry Smitherman.

The current conservation alert can be found the PowerfulAdvice section on the PUC Web site by linking to the colored box near the lower right corner of the PUC home page [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us)

**Conservation Critical -  
Power Warning**

On RED days, conservation is critical to avoiding Electricity Emergencies and the potential for rolling outages to be needed to prevent uncontrolled rolling blackouts. RED Alerts will be declared when there is insufficient electricity available or expected to be available to meet customer demand and rolling outages may be needed. Consumers should reduce their consumption of electricity as much as possible to help prevent an emergency. ERCOT has currently entered into Level 2B of its Energy Emergency Alert (EEA), including the deployment of emergency interruptible loads.

On RED days conservation is critical to avoid Electricity Emergencies and rolling outages which could lead to uncontrolled blackouts. Red alerts are declared when all interruptible loads have been deployed. Customers should reduce electricity usage as much as possible to avoid outages. During a RED alert ERCOT will enter into level 2B of its Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) which includes the deployment of emergency interruptible loads.

Limit electricity usage to only consumption that is absolutely necessary. Turn off all unessential lights, appliances, and electronic equipment.

Do not use your dishwasher, laundry equipment, hair dryer, coffee maker, pool pump, or other home appliances between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

When at home, open blinds and shades during sunny days to take advantage of the sun's natural heat. Turn down your thermostat to 68° in the daytime and 55° at night or when you're away from home.

Check out other no- or low-cost conservation tips or other energy efficiency improvements you can make to your home by clicking on the links to the right.

If rotating outages are ordered, they will be limited in duration to between 10 and 45 minutes unless equipment trips due to a power surge during the restoration process.

Customers can minimize the chance that power surges will occur by turning off all appliances, lights, and other electrical equipment. Leave one task light on to determine when power has been restored.

Minimize unnecessary travel as traffic signals may go out of service resulting in traffic jams.

Customers can minimize the chance that power surges will occur by turning off all appliances, lights, and other electrical equipment. Leave one task light on to determine when power has been restored. Minimize unnecessary travel, as traffic signals may go out of service. Go to [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org) to see if you can save money by switching to a lower cost retail electricity provider. Your choice of electric provider does not affect the reliability of your electric service, the frequency or duration of outages, or the time it will take to have your electric service restored if an outage occurs.

Information about bill payment assistance, low-income weatherization and energy efficiency measures is also available on the PUC Website and by phone toll-free at 1-888-782-8477.

*All PUC News Releases are available at [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us)*