

# Public Utility Commission of Texas

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**News Release**  
**Monday, May 20, 2013**

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## **Electric customers reimbursed \$212,500** **Retail provider returning unauthorized enrollment fees**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) has sent \$212,500 among 2,102 retail electric customers who were charged improper enrollment fees.

The reimbursement follows the Commission's approval of the settlement of an enforcement action with the previous owners and management of Prier Energy, Inc. (Prier).

Prier allowed two unauthorized companies, EBC Energy Today and Energy Broker Consultants, to sign up customers and charge them an improper enrollment fee from November 2011 through April 2012. These companies did not have authorization from the PUC to conduct business as a retail electric provider (REP).

Prier also paid a \$30,000 penalty for violating PUC rules.

PUC rules prohibit REPs from charging fees to customers who switch, select or enroll for service. The only exception is when customers switch providers on their own accord and request an out-of-cycle meter read. Registration agents also are prohibited from assessing fees.

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