

Public Utility Commission of Texas

1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326

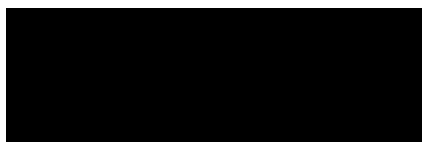
News Release
Monday, July 28, 2008

Contact: Terry Hadley 512-936-7135
Pager: 512-322-1457

PUC Encourages Electricity Conservation

The Public Utility Commission is designating a YELLOW Conservation Alert this week for higher than normal temperatures and a potential record electricity demand for the month of July. The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory for north and northeast parts of Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

While electricity supplies are expected to be adequate, the PUC asks customers to be thoughtful about electricity use to prevent unnecessary demand. 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



On YELLOW days, extra conservation measures are urged because electricity shortages may occur during peak usage hours between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. A YELLOW Alert will be declared for days where temperatures statewide are expected to be extremely hot, leading to record or near-record electricity consumption. A YELLOW Alert also will be declared if unexpected high demand and unexpected outages of power plants occur. During YELLOW alerts there is a potential declaration of Step 1 of ERCOT's Emergency Electricity Curtailment Plan (ECCP), which includes procurement of additional generation. An inability to get more generation could lead to a declaration of ECCP Step 2, which includes interruptible loads, usually to large industrial electric customers. Customers are encouraged to reduce their electricity use as much as possible.

Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances, and electronic equipment.

When at home, close blinds and drapes that get direct sun, set air conditioning thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, and use fans to cool the air.

When away from home, set air conditioning thermostats to 85 degrees and turn all fans off before you leave. Block the sun by closing blinds or drapes on windows that will get direct sun.

Do not use your dishwasher, laundry equipment, hair dryers, coffee makers, or other home appliances.

Avoid opening refrigerators or freezers more than necessary. Use microwaves for cooking instead of an electric range or oven.

Set your pool pump to run in the early morning or evening instead of the afternoon.

Go to 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