

Private Utilities (Electricity, Natural Gas, Telecommunication)

ELECTRICITY

Texas is the only state with its own power grid, making it completely independent from other national networks, where one state's decisions may affect electricity markets in all other states. Additionally, the Texas grid is not subject to federal regulation over electrical transmission, which expedites the regulatory process for new energy development. Texas leads the nation in electricity production and consumption. Texas' electric power industry generates approximately 11 percent of the nation's capacity.

(Source: "Texas Wide Open for Business," Texas Economic Development Division, Office of the Governor)

ELECTRICITY IN TEXAS IS DEREGULATED: CHOOSE YOUR OWN RETAIL ELECTRIC PROVIDER!

Electricity in Texas has been deregulated for over a decade. Therefore, customers throughout Texas may choose their own retail electric provider (REP). Compare prices from a number of REP's to find retail electrical power at the most competitive price.

- Visit [Power To Choose](#) – the official web site of the Texas Public Utility Commission -- where you may enter your zip code to compare offers at no-cost and choose the REP that is best for you!

(Source: [Power To Choose](#), Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Ave., PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326)

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas service is provided by **ATMOS Energy Corporation (ATMOS)**. Headquartered in Dallas, ATMOS is one of the country's largest natural-gas-only distributors, serving approximately 3 million customers from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West.

- Visit the [ATMOS Energy Corporation web site](#), or call ATMOS Customer Service 1-888-286-6700 for more detailed information regarding natural gas service. *(Source: [ATMOS Energy Corporation](#))*

TELEPHONE

Local Service

Over 400 competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC's) are certified to provide competitive local phone services in Texas. A listing of CLEC's conducting business in the Red Oak area may be found by visiting the Public Utility Commission of Texas web site under "[Telephone Companies](#)."

Long Distance Service

Many changes over the years have allowed customers to tailor plans to fit their long distance calling needs and preferences. For long distance service, this could be one company, more than one company, or no company at all. It's your choice. The key to making a good choice is to know what your long distance needs are before you begin shopping for service. The Public Utility Commission of Texas has developed a list of [questions](#) one may ask in order to get answers that will help in choosing a long distance plan. Also, you can learn about how you can lower your [long distance rates](#).

(Source: [Public Utility Commission of Texas](#), 1701 N. Congress Ave., PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326)

BROADBAND

A listing of Broadband providers for selected areas may be interactively viewed by visiting the "[Connected Texas](#)" web site and entering the applicable zip code.

(Source: [Connected Texas](#), Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Tel: 1-877-846-7710, info@connectedtx.org)