



Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Public Utility Commission of Texas Celebrates 50 Years of Serving Texans

Highlights Milestones and Memories in New Online Exhibit

AUSTIN, Texas – The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) today officially marks 50 years of service to the State of Texas. The PUCT was created by the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1975. On Sept. 2, 1975, the first three PUCT commissioners were sworn in and held the Commission’s first meeting.

“The Public Utility Commission of Texas has played a vital role in the life of every Texan for 50 years, ensuring safe, reliable, affordable utilities that power our way of life,” PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. “It is our honor to have served Texas over the last half-century, and we are proud to share our history of service in a new online exhibit.”

[Explore 50 Years of PUCT History](#)

The PUCT has published an online exhibit of milestones and memories commemorating its first half century, featuring a timeline, curated photos, historical documents, and on-camera interviews with past and present chairmen.

Notable milestones include:

- The agency’s first rate case in 1976, filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone
- Restructuring of the Texas electricity market and the launch of consumer electric choice
- Response to Winter Storm Uri, navigating rapid population growth, and intensifying the agency’s focus on reliability and resiliency



Today, the PUCT regulates power generators, retail electric providers, and transmission and distribution companies, and oversees the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which manages the Texas electric grid delivering power to 27 million people. The PUCT also regulates rates and service reliability for thousands of privately-owned water and wastewater utilities across the state. And while the telecommunications industry is largely deregulated, the PUCT maintains some oversight, including administering the Texas Universal Service Fund.

About the Public Utility Commission of Texas

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state's electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <https://www.puc.texas.gov>.