



## Filing Receipt

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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-22-00990  
PUC DOCKET NO. 53679**

<b>APPLICATION OF AEP TEXAS INC. TO</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>STATE OFFICE</b>
<b>ADJUST ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>OF</b>
<b>RECOVERY FACTOR AND RELATED</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS</b>
<b>RELIEF</b>	<b>§</b>	

**AEP TEXAS INC'S RESPONSE TO TEXAS ENERGY ASSOCIATION FOR MARKETERS'**  
**FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**JULY 18, 2022**

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**AEP TEXAS INC.'S RESPONSE TO  
TEXAS ENERGY ASSOCIATION FOR MARKETERS'  
FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**Question No. TEAM 1-1:**

Please identify the budgeted amounts included in the Application for residential demand response (RDR) programs that will be offered during program year 2023 (a) through retail electric providers (REP); (b) in partnership with REPs; or (c) through third party providers that are not REPs.

**Response No. TEAM 1-1:**

There are no budget amounts included in AEP Texas' application for RDR. AEP Texas is not offering RDR programs during Program Year (PY) 2023.

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Sponsored By: Robert Cavazos

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**Question No. TEAM 1-2:**

For any RDR program that will be offered during program year 2023, please identify any cap on the number of customers permitted to participate in the program and explain how the cap was determined as well as the reason for the cap.

**Response No. TEAM 1-2:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-1.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-3:**

For any Residential Load Management program, please describe how customers can be enrolled in the program and the process by which a customer can be unenrolled within the same program year. For instance, if a customer is enrolled by a third party provider in AEP's Residential Load Management program but withdraws their consent with the third party provider and wishes to enroll in such program through their REP, is there a process by which that can be done? If so, please describe that process. If not, please explain why not.

**Response No. TEAM 1-3:**

AEP Texas does not offer a Residential Load Management program.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-4:**

Please admit or deny that AEP offers a Residential Smart Thermostat Program.

**Response No. TEAM 1-4:**

Deny. Although AEP Texas does not offer a Residential Smart Thermostat Program, the following AEP Texas energy efficiency programs do provide for the installation of smart thermostats: the Residential Standard Offer Program, the Hard to Reach Standard Offer Program, the High Performance New Home Market Transformation Program, and the Targeted Low Income Energy Efficiency Program.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-5:**

If the response to TEAM 1-4 is admit, please provide:

- a. the budgeted amount included in the Application and actual amounts expended for the Smart Thermostat Program for program years 2018-2022;
- b. the number of Smart Thermostats included within the budgets;
- c. the dollar amount or range provided per Smart Thermostat;
- d. the percentage of each Smart Thermostat paid for by the program if each thermostat is not paid in full;
- e. documentation of research regarding of the appropriate level payments toward or for Smart Thermostats; and
- f. the current agreement and/or other documents AEP requires REPs and third parties to execute to participate in the program.

**Response No. TEAM 1-5:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-4.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-6:**

If the response to TEAM 1-4 is deny, please explain whether AEP has plans to implement a Smart Thermostat Program and the amounts spent to date on research and development of same.

**Response No. TEAM 1-6:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

Currently, AEP Texas does not have a plan to implement a Residential Smart Thermostat Program. AEP Texas has not conducted any research and development on such a program.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-7:**

Please admit or deny that AEP offers a Commercial Smart Thermostat Program as part of its EECRF Program.

**Response No. TEAM 1-7:**

Deny.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-8:**

If the response to TEAM 1-7 is admit, please provide:

- a. the budgeted amount included in the Application and actual amounts expended for the Commercial Smart Thermostat Program for program years 2018-2022;
- b. the number of Smart Thermostats included within the budgets;
- c. the dollar amount or range provided per Smart Thermostat;
- d. the percentage of each Smart Thermostat paid for by the program if each thermostat is not paid in full; and
- e. the current agreement and/or other documents AEP requires REPs and third parties to execute to participate in the program.

**Response No. TEAM 1-8:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-7.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-9:**

If the response to TEAM 1-7 is deny, please explain whether AEP has plans to implement a Commercial Smart Thermostat Program and the amounts spent to date on research and development of same.

**Response No. TEAM 1-9:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

AEP Texas has no plan to implement a Commercial Smart Thermostat Program at this time. As such, AEP Texas has not expended any funds on research and development toward such a program.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-10:**

For any RDR program that will be offered during program year 2023, including a Smart Thermostat program, please identify the categories of customer information AEP requires to enroll the customer. For each category identified, please explain how the information is used and why it is needed.

**Response No. TEAM 1-10:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-1 and TEAM 1-4.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-11:**

In the last seven years, has AEP studied, analyzed, or otherwise researched offering RDR programs solely through REPs rather than third party vendors?

**Response No. TEAM 1-11:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process. In addition, the question seeks information related to years not at issue in this docket.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

No.

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Title: EE & Cons Prog Compl Coord Prin

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**Question No. TEAM 1-12:**

If the response to TEAM 1-11 is yes, please describe the types of RDR programs researched and provide all documents relevant to the study, analysis, or research including emails or information prepared by a third party retained by AEP for the purpose of researching residential demand response programs.

**Response No. TEAM 1-12:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-11.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-13:**

In the last seven years, has AEP studied, analyzed, or otherwise researched a program that includes working with competitive entities (e.g., REPs or back-up home generation companies) to deploy at-home generators or power stations to residential customers or a subset of residential customers (e.g., medically vulnerable or low-income customers)?

**Response No. TEAM 1-13:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process. In addition, the question seeks information related to years not at issue in this docket.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

No.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-14:**

If the response to TEAM 1-13 is no, does AEP have any plans to research this type of program?

**Response No. TEAM 1-14:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

No.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-15:**

If the response to TEAM 1-13 is yes, please provide all documents relevant to AEP's research.

**Response No. TEAM 1-15:**

Please see the response to TEAM 1-13.

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**AEP TEXAS INC.'S RESPONSE TO  
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**Question No. TEAM 1-16:**

In the last seven years, has AEP studied, analyzed, or otherwise researched a program that includes working with REPs to deploy Smart Thermostats and obtain customer consent for REP or third party control of the thermostat (with the customer retaining the right to override)?

**Response No. TEAM 1-16:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process. In addition, the question seeks information related to years not at issue in this docket.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

AEP Texas has not studied, analyzed, or otherwise researched a program that includes working with REPs to deploy Smart Thermostats and obtain customer consent for REP or third party control of the thermostat with the exception of the Reliant Residential Demand Response Pilot Program discussed below in AEP Texas' response to TEAM 1-19.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-17:**

If the response to TEAM 1-16 is no, does AEP have any plans to research this type of program?

**Response No. TEAM 1-17:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

No.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-18:**

If the response to TEAM 1-16 is yes, please provide all documents relevant to AEP's research.

**Response No. TEAM 1-18:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process. In addition, the question exceeds the scope of this proceeding as it seeks information related to years not at issue in this docket. Further, the request is overly broad and unduly burdensome because it requires the Company to identify and produce information that exceeds the periods at issue in this proceeding. The burden and expense of such discovery does not outweigh the benefits considering the needs of the case, the amount in controversy, the parties' resources, the importance of the issues at stake in the litigation, and the importance of the proposed discovery in resolving the issues.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

AEP Texas has been unable to locate any responsive documents relating to the Reliant Residential Demand Response Pilot Program, which was offered in PY 2016.

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**Question No. TEAM 1-19:**

Please identify the number of RDR programs, including pilot programs, that AEP has offered in the last seven years and provide the following by program year:

- a. the name of the program;
- b. a brief description of the program;
- c. the program years during which the program was offered; and
- d. the reason for discontinuing the program if it is no longer offered.

**Response No. TEAM 1-19:**

AEP Texas believes the request seeks information that is outside the scope of this EECRF proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Order Adopting Amendments to § 25.181 as Approved at the September 28, 2012 Open Meeting at pages 141-42 in Project No. 39674, which discusses the difference between the scope of an EECRF proceeding and the scope of the energy efficiency implementation project process. In addition, the question seeks information related to years not at issue in this docket.

Without waiving its right to challenge similar questions in the future, in order to reduce discovery disputes, AEP Texas responds as follows:

AEP Texas has offered two RDR programs in the last seven years. These programs are described in detail below.

- 1.) a. Whisker Labs Residential Thermostat Demand Response Pilot Market Transformation Program.
- b. Whisker Labs used their Connected Savings platform to deliver an Integrated Demand Side Management ("IDSMS") aggregation program that provided residential energy and demand savings. On the days AEP Texas requested demand response services be implemented, Whisker Labs optimized the control of participants thermostats to reduce HVAC load. The load reduction period was for a duration of no more than three hours with at least an hour notice prior to the desired event start time.
- c. This program was offered in PY 2016 and PY 2017.
- d. AEP Texas decided to conclude the program at the end of PY 2017.

- 2.) a. Reliant Residential Demand Response (DR) Pilot Program.
- b. The Reliant Residential Demand Response Market Transformation Program was implemented by Reliant Energy Retail Services ("Reliant"), an ERCOT Retail Electric Provider. Reliant had a demand response program called Degrees of Difference, which was a thermostat-based peak-time rebate program. Reliant used its base of Degrees of Difference customers in the AEP Texas Central Division ("TCD") service area to respond quickly to TCD requests for demand reduction with approximately 30 minutes advance notice, by reducing each customer's air conditioner usage for a limited duration, thus creating a 1-4 hour load reduction for TCD.
- c. This program was offered in PY 2016 .
- d. AEP Texas determined there was insufficient interest to continue the program for a second year.

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