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If consumers change their electricity usage patterns, either by using less or shifting from the high-cost periods to lower-cost, off-peak periods, market clearing prices could drop – with potential savings of \$90 million or more per year.

Benefits and Savings for Texas Consumers

Potential Benefits to Consumers with an Energy InSightSM Smart Meter

- Monitor and manage energy consumption with in-home devices and/or web portal
- Conserve energy and save money with timely information on electricity use
- Save additional dollars with new rate plans that may be offered by Retail Electric Providers (REPs), such as dynamic pricing and time-of-use rates
- Easier transactions, such as connecting service, managing moves and switching REPs
- Faster power restoration, with new meters that can pinpoint outage locations

Potential Benefits and Savings for All Consumers

- Based on pilot programs from across the country, customers with a smart meter can significantly reduce their power consumption during peak periods.
- Reduced peak period demand could translate to lower electricity costs for all consumers.

Example:

- A consumer with a typical 2,000 square-foot house, a 4-ton air conditioning unit and maximum power consumption of about 4 kilowatts (kW) per month might save 1 kW during summer peak conditions.
- Even if as few as 250,000 Houston-area consumers with a smart meter were to save 1 kW during summer peak conditions, this would equate to a 250 megawatt (mw) reduction in demand.
- According to ERCOT, 1 mw of electricity powers 500-700 average homes under normal conditions in Texas, or about 200 during hot weather when air conditioners are running for longer periods. Reducing demand by 250 mw is the equivalent of avoiding generation for 125,000 to 175,000 homes during normal conditions in Texas, or 50,000 homes in the summer.
- Furthermore, society would benefit from building two-to-four fewer peaking power plants, avoiding both the construction costs and the environmental concerns associated with those plants.
- When combined with other price responsive behavior over the rest of the year, annual market savings could yield approximate annual power savings of between \$90 million and \$120 million, depending on the actual amount of energy conservation achieved.

Savings:

- All end-use residential customers, even those with no change in energy usage could save about \$3.35 per 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of consumption.
- The savings could be even greater for those who reduce energy usage.

For More Information

Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyInSight for the latest information on smart meters, including deployment maps for 2009 – 2012.