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TEXAS ENERGY POLICYMAKERS TO ADDRESS 2011 TEPA CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Conference to address recent and future developments in Texas energy market

DALLAS – Oct. 18, 2011 – The annual [Texas Electricity Professionals Association \(TEPA\)](#) conference, which will be held from Nov. 2 – 4 at the Ritz-Carlton in Dallas, will feature some of the state’s top energy policymakers to speak on the latest policies and trends affecting the Texas electricity market. Speakers include state Rep. Byron Cook, Chairman of the House State Affairs Committee; the Honorable Barry Smitherman, Texas Railroad Commissioner; H.B. “Trip” Doggett, president and chief executive officer of Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT); and Sheri Givens, Public Counsel for the Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC).

“Our team has assembled a diverse group of energy experts and policymakers to speak at our annual conference this year,” said Paul Smolen, president of TEPA. “We’ll learn about issues facing our industry from the perspective of top policy and business thought leaders, as well as acclaimed authors and researchers. I’m confident our speakers are going to give attendees some fresh ideas and insight into the future of Texas energy.”

State representative Byron Cook (R-Corsicana) will share his thoughts on legislative issues that affect the electric industry. He will also address some of the challenges Texas companies and policymakers are currently facing. Chairman Cook’s committee, House State Affairs, handles all legislation dealing with electricity and the deregulated marketplace. Cook also serves on the House Calendars Committee, and has served as Chairman of the House Committee on Environmental Regulation and the House Committee on Civil Practices. In addition, Cook has served as a member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, which works to reduce waste and increase the effectiveness of state government.

The Honorable Barry Smitherman, Texas Railroad Commissioner, will address this year’s conference attendees. His experience includes a variety of leadership responsibilities and affiliations including seven years with the Public Utility Commission (PUC). He currently serves on the Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee, Board of Directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC), and is a member of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment (ERE).

Energy Policy Leaders to Speak at Annual TEPA Conference (2/3)

“The future of the Texas energy market needs to be addressed now,” said Smitherman. “I applaud TEPA for identifying the issues and opportunities of the future of the energy market in Texas and tackling them head-on. Our discussions will showcase why Texas is a leader of the energy market. I’m looking forward to being a part of this year’s program.”

Also speaking at this year’s conference is H.B. “Trip” Doggett, president and CEO of ERCOT. With 29 years of experience in the electric power industry, Doggett has exceptional knowledge and information to offer at this year’s conference. Having spent seven years as an independent consultant in the ERCOT market, he is an expert in consulting and project management services related to transitioning to a nodal energy market.

As part of the conference, Sheri Givens, Public Counsel for the OPUC, will be moderating a workshop on Smart Meters on Friday morning at Sambuca Restaurant in Dallas. As Public Counsel, Sheri’s objective is to ensure that the best interests of Texas electricity consumers are represented by the OPUC. Sheri is a member of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and serves as ex officio on the boards of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and the Texas Reliability Entity.

The speaker schedule also includes:

- Robert Bryce, author of “Power Hungry: The Myths of ‘Green’ Energy” and “The Real Fuels of the Future”
- Michael Osborne, Special Assistant to the General Manager for Energy Development at Austin Energy and author of “Beyond”
- Brandon Schwertner, CEO of Sumer Capital Partners
- David Royslance, Principal at Prism Energy Solutions
- Young Kim, Assistant Director, KEMA
- Michael Harris, CEO of Unified Energy Services

For more information or to register for the conference, please visit www.tepatexas.org/about-tepa/2011-fall-conference/.

(more)

Energy Policy Leaders to Speak at Annual TEPA Conference (3/3)

About Texas Electricity Professionals Association

The Texas Electricity Professionals Association (TEPA) is a 501 (c)(6) organization that establishes a standardized code of conduct, serves as an educational resource, and advocates legislative initiatives for the Texas deregulated energy market. TEPA members include Aggregators, Brokers, and Consultants (ABCs), Retail Electricity Providers (REPs) and affiliate members. TEPA members exhibit expertise, ethical practices and a high level of professionalism to help consumers buy electricity in the restructured Texas marketplace.

To learn more about TEPA, visit <http://www.tepatexas.org> or contact Aaron Cook at acook@tprm.com / (214) 520-3430, ext. 302.

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