



Background.

Texas Coalition for Affordable Power has procured electricity for its members since the beginning of retail electric deregulation in Texas in 2002. In the recent past, it has become evident that the electric market and the mix of available sources and supplies have changed dramatically. While the current electric fixed price/fixed term contract has worked well, TCAP believes that a more optimum program—called Strategic Hedging Program (SHP)—will now be offered to its members. In recent years, the United States has become the world’s largest supplier of oil and natural gas, particularly with the development of fracking technology. The DOE production estimate through 2050 shows a well-supplied market and stable price outlook. There has also been a tremendous growth in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

What is SHP?

Instead of buying electricity through a fixed price longer term contract, SHP will procure one twelfth of the annual supply each month, two years forward year-to-year. This provides the lowest market pricing to reduce carrying charges and risk premiums that longer term contracts must charge. Pricing will never be out of the market. SHP features an ultra-competitive RFP process of 20+ vetted creditworthy suppliers. At least 4 suppliers will be in each TCAP portfolio at all times. Prices will be known to members well prior to fiscal year budgeting needs. It avoids the “all-in” guess of a single fixed price multi-year deal. It also provides members with twice a year periodic off ramps if a member desires to revert to a traditional fixed price/fixed term contract.

What action needs to be taken and when?

In order to prepare for an electric supply contract beyond the 2022, it is necessary for members to have their governmental bodies pass the enclosed resolution to approve the Professional Services Agreement and the Commercial Electricity Service Agreement. The resolution authorizes TCAP to function as a procurer of energy in addition to serving as an agent in negotiating contracts. *However, it is important that members intending to participate in SHP do so by September 30, 2020 in order to be included in the monthly auctions beginning in January 2021.*