UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS LUFKIN DIVISION

EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC		PLAINTIFI
COOPERATIVE, INC.		
	CASE NO.	
VS.		

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Removing party, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI"), hereby files this Notice of Removal, respectfully showing this Court:

- 1. Removing party is a defendant in the above-entitled action.
- 2. Plaintiff filed its Original Petition and the above-entitled action was commenced against the removing party in the District Court of Nacogdoches County, Texas, Cause Number C1228891, and is pending in that court.
- 3. On February 8, 2013, the registered agent for service for ETI was served with a Citation and Plaintiff's Original Petition, and this Notice is filed within thirty days of that date and thereby timely.
- 4. The above-entitled action is removable to federal court as this Court has original jurisdiction over claims contained in Plaintiff's Original Petition which arises under the Federal Power Act ("FPA"), 16 U.S.C. § 791a et seq. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441(a).
- 5. Under the artful pleading doctrine, a plaintiff cannot "defeat removal by omitting to plead necessary federal questions in a complaint." *Franchise Tax Bd. v. Construction Laborers Vacation Trust*, 463 U.S. 1, 22 (1983). "Federal jurisdiction may be found from a complaint if adjudication of a state claim would turn on a federal constitutional or other important federal question, even where only state law issues have been pled." *Pet Quarters, Inc.*

- v. Depository Trust & Clearing Corp., 559 F.3d 772, 779 (8th Cir. 2009). The artful pleading doctrine provides that federal jurisdiction exists where either: (1) federal law creates the cause of action, or (2) the plaintiff's right to relief necessarily depends on resolution of a substantial question of federal law. Christianson v. Colt Indus. Operating Corp., 486 U.S. 800, 808 (1988).
- 6. A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") tariff is equivalent to a federal regulation and claimed violations of that tariff, or challenges to the requirements and operations of the tariff, are controlled by federal law. *See, e.g., Indeck Maine Energy, L.L.C. v. ISO New England, Inc.*, 167 F. Supp. 2d 675, 687 (D.Del. 2001); *see also Cahnmann v. Sprint Corp.*, 133 F.3d 484, 489-90 (7th Cir. 1998) (telecommunications tariff). Section 825p of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825p, prescribes that the district courts of the United States have **exclusive jurisdiction** "of all suits in equity and actions at law brought to enforce any liability or duty created by...any rule, regulation, or order" issued under the Act.
- 7. As alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition, this lawsuit involves the alleged breach of multiple agreements, including the Agreement for Special Requirements Wholesale Electric Service entered into in 1996; the First Amendment to the Agreement for Special Requirements Wholesale Electric Service entered into in 1998; the Agreement for Partial Requirements Wholesale Electric Service entered into in 2004; and the Amended and Restated Agreement for Partial Requirements Wholesale Electric Service entered into in 2009. Each of these agreements was filed with and approved by the FERC. Plaintiff asserts that ETEC agreed to take and pay monthly for all electric service furnished under the agreements at the rates and on the terms and conditions set forth in the agreements and rate schedule. ETEC alleges that ETI violated the 1996, 1998, 2004 and 2009 agreements and seeks to change the rates agreed to by ETEC and approved by FERC.

8. Plaintiff's Original Petition therefore presents a federal question, and removal of the action to this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

- 9. Pursuant to Local Rule CV-81(c), attached are:
 - a) Exhibit 1: Identifying information including the name and address of the court from which the case is being removed, a list of all parties, and a complete list of attorneys involved in the removed action.
 - b) Exhibit 2: Copies of the State court docket sheet, process, pleadings and orders served on the removing party in the removed action.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES, CONSIDERED, Entergy Texas, Inc. respectfully requests that the parties and the 145th District Court of Nacogdoches County take notice of the removal of this case to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division. Entergy Texas, Inc. requests such other and further relief to which it may show itself entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

By: /s/ Paul A. Scheurich

Paul A. Scheurich, SB #17745470 Christine S. Shannon, SB #00791666 Its Attorneys P. O. Box 2951 Beaumont, Texas 77704-2951 (409) 981-3000 Fax (409) 981-3016

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing instrument was forwarded to all known counsel of record pursuant to the *Texas Rules of Civil Procedure* on this the 8th day of March, 2013.

____/s/ Paul A. Scheurich
Paul A. Scheurich

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil decket sheet. ASE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
(b) County of Residence of (EX	First Listed Plaintiff EA	AST TEXAS ELECTION COOPERATIV	E, INC. NOTE: INLAND CO.	of First Listed Defendant ## U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O. NDEMNATION CASES, USE THOSE LAND INVOLVED.	f)
(c) Attomeys (Firm Name, A CURTIS (CURT) W. FENI P. O. BOX 450 / 224 E. Li (936) 634-3346	LEY, III, FENLEY & BA	ATE, L.L.P.	ENTERGY TEXAS	ICH & CHRISTINE S. SE , INC. EAUMONT, TX 77704	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in Or	ne Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	
1 U.S. Government	. Government 🔀 3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases Only) P1	F DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
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7 2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citizen of Another State	2 7 2 Incorporated and P of Business In A	
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 /3 3 Foreign Nation	1 6 11 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					
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Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	O 340 Marine O 345 Marine Product	Injury Product	LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury	PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 7 385 Property Damage Product Liability	710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 75) Family and Medical Leave Act	O 861 HIA (1395ff) O 862 Black Lung (925) O 863 DIWC-DIWW (405(g)) O 864 SSID Tale XVI O 865 RSI (405(g)) O 895 F	380 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 293 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 886 Arbitration
REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	Medical Malpractice CVU RIGHTS 1 440 Other Civil Rights 1 441 Voting 1 442 Employment 1 43 Housing/ Accommodations	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 3 463 Alien Detainee 3 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence D 530 General	790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retarement Income Security Act	PROFESSION TO STATE OF STATE O	899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON 28 U.S.C. §§ 133 Brief description of c	31, 1441(a)	e filing (Do not che jurisdictional su		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		S IS A CLASS ACTION		CHECK YES onl	y if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CAS					
		JUDGE	MARKEY OF BEAUDIT	DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE			TORNEY OF RECORD		
03/06/2013		Tour L	. Dohauriel		

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS LUFKIN DIVISION

EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC		PLAINTIFF
COOPERATIVE, INC.		
	CASE NO.	
VS.		

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

DEFENDANTS

Local Rule CV-81 Required Information

1. State Court filing: Cause No. C1228891

In the District Court of Nacogdoches County, Texas

101 W Main St, # 120 Nacogdoches, TX 75961 Phone: (936) 560-7730

2. Status of State Original Petition filed and served on Defendant.

Court filing: Discovery Level 3 requested.

3. Jury Trial requested: No

4. Parties to the case: Plaintiff: East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Defendant: Entergy Texas, Inc.

5. Attorneys: Plaintiff: Curtis (Curt) W. Fenley, III

State Bar Number: 06902010

Fenley & Bate, L.L.P.

P. O. Box 450 224 Lufkin Ave.

Lufkin, Texas 75902-0450

(936) 634-3346

Fax: (936) 639-5874

Email: cfenley@fenley-bate.com

Mark Davis

State Bar Number: 05525050

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Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 472-1081

Fax: (512) 472-7473

Email: mdavis@bbrsaustin.com

Defendant: Paul A. Scheurich

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Entergy Texas, Inc. P. O. Box 2951

Beaumont, Texas 77701

(409) 981-3000

Fax: (409) 981-3016

Email: pscheur@entergy.com

Christine S. Shannon

State Bar Number: 00791666

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Beaumont, Texas 77701

(409) 981-3000

Fax: (409) 981-3016

Email: cshann1@entergy.com

FILED
HAGOGOPHUS COUNTY
12X.S

IN THE DISTRICT OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY 28 PM 3: 29

STATE OF TEXAS

DISTRICT CLERK

EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Plaintiff

No.

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VS.

CAUSE NO. <u>C1228891</u>

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC. Defendant

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., Plaintiff in the above-entitled and numbered cause, and files this its Original Petition complaining of Defendant, ENTERGY TEXAS, INC., and in support thereof would respectfully show the Court as follows:

I. DISCOVERY LEVEL

Plaintiff asserts that discovery should be conducted under Level 3 T.R.C.P.

II. PARTIES

Plaintiff, EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (hereinafter "ETEC"), is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County, Texas.

Defendant, ENTERGY TEXAS, INC., is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Beaumont, Texas. Defendant may be service through its registered agent for process, Paul A. Scherich, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701.

III. VENUE AND JURSIDICTION

This suit is brought in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas for the recovery of damages to Plaintiff resulting directly and proximately from the Defendant's breach of contract. Specifically, Defendant breached a contract between Plaintiff and Defendant that was performable in Nacogdoches County, Texas. A substantial portion or part of the transaction between Plaintiff and Defendant giving rise to the claim occurred in Nacogdoches County, Texas, Tex. CPRC §15.002(a)(1). Further, the relationship between Plaintiff and Defendant arose under a contract requiring performance to be made in whole or in part in Nacogdoches County, Texas, Tex. CPRC §15.035. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because the actions of Defendant were expected and intended to reach Plaintiff in Nacogdoches County, Texas so that the Court may exercise personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, pursuant to Chapter 17 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

IV. BACKGROUND

- 1. ETEC's mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable wholesale power to its three Generation and Transmission (G&T) members and their respective ten distribution cooperative member organizations, to which ETEC provides load of approximately 1,873MW to serve 320,000 consumers in 46 counties.
- 2. ETEC owns portions of a number of power plants that satisfies the majority of this load; however, ETEC also purchases smaller amounts of wholesale power through Partial Requirements contracts ("PR Contracts") to meet the remainder of ETEC's power supply needs.
- 3. On or about September 26, 1996, ETEC entered into an Agreement for Special Requirements Wholesale Electric Service with Entergy Gulf States, Inc., a predecessor of

Defendant. The 1996 Agreement provided for the amendment of an Interchange Agreement dated September 26, 1988 between Plaintiff and Entergy Services, Inc., providing that ETEC agreed to take and pay monthly for all electric service furnished under the agreement at the rates and on the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement and rate schedule.

- 4. On or about August 21, 1998, ETEC and Entergy Gulf States, Inc., predecessor of Defendant, agreed to the First Amendment to the Agreement for Special Requirements Wholesale Electric Service between Entergy Gulf States, Inc. and ETEC. The First Amendment was filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") on December 11, 1998.
- 5. On or about January 2001, ETEC was approached by, and began negotiating with, Reliant Energy Renewables Inc. ("Reliant") regarding the addition of a 5MW cogeneration project at the existing Security Landfill. Under the Project proposal, Reliant would generate electric power at the Security Landfill to be purchased by ETEC at the Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Sam Houston") terminal site for distribution by ETEC. Sam Houston is a distribution cooperative member of one of the three G&Ts served by ETEC.
- 6. On or about April 25, 2002, ETEC entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Reliant Energy Renewables Security, LP, continuing the right but not the obligation of ETEC to purchase power from Defendant. The Agreement was amended on or about February 1, 2005.
- On or about December 10, 2002, Reliant Energy Renewables Security, LP, entered into an Interconnection and Operating Agreement with Sam Houston to permit Reliant Energy Renewables Security, LP to utilize the distribution facilities of Sam Houston to interconnect with the Sam Houston distribution system.
- 8. The Reliant Security Generation plant ("Reliant Security Plant") went online on or about February 27, 2003. ETEC received and paid for power produced by Reliant and Reliant's

successors in interest, from the initial date of generation to the present. On or about October 20, 2004, Reliant changed the name of its various power generation companies, including Reliant Energy Renewables Security, LP, to Reliant Energy Texas Renewables, LP. On or about July 13, 2005, Reliant sold Reliant Energy Renewables, Inc., including Reliant Energy Texas Renewables, LP, to Viridis Holdings (US), Inc. ("Viridis"). On or about February 22, 2011, Viridis Energy (Texas), LP changed its name to TX LFG Energy, LP, and the name of the general partner Viridis Energy, LLC changed its name to MH Energy, LLC. Today the facility is commonly known as the Montuak Facility.

- 9. On or about April 1, 2004 ETEC and Entergy Gulf States entered into an Agreement for Partial Requirements Wholesale Electric Service to provide partial supply of bulk power to ETEC for transmission to its members. In recognition of the agreements of ETEC for supply of power from third party sources, the Agreement of April 1, 2004 provides in Article 5, Section 5.1.1 that Entergy Gulf States shall "provide the energy requirements of ETEC not met by deliveries of energy to ETEC from its Baseload Resources and third party purchases."
- 10. On or about October 29, 2009, ETEC and Entergy Texas, Inc. entered into an Amended and Restated Agreement for Partial Requirements Wholesale Electric Service. Defendant, Entergy Texas, Inc. is the successor to the prior agreements identified above. Pursuant to the agreement Defendant was to sell and deliver and ETEC was to purchase, receive and pay for energy at the Delivery Points.
- 11. Pursuant to the agreements, Defendant was required to submit bills to ETEC for the power delivered to ETEC as measured at the Delivery Points.
- 12. Beginning with the initiation of service by Reliant until November 2012, Defendant illegally read and recorded the total amount of energy ETEC purchased from the Reliant Security

Plant meter – a location that was not a Delivery Point as defined by the contracts – and fraudulently added it to the measurement of ETEC's load at the Security Delivery Point in violation of the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2009 agreements.

13. The actions of Defendant result in damage to ETEC in an amount of approximately \$8,000,000.00.

V. BREACH OF CONTRACT

Plaintiff is entitled to bring this action against the Defendant as a party to a written contract for goods purchased by Plaintiff. Specifically, Defendant breached the contract by illegally reading, recording, and charging ETEC for the total amount of energy ETEC purchased from the Reliant Security Plant meter – a location that was not a Delivery Point as defined by the contracts – and added that energy calculation back and onto the amount ETEC was supposed to pay at the Security POD in violation of the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2009 agreements. In other words, each month over a period of approximately nine years, Defendant failed to comply with the contract regarding the appropriate Delivery Point and with the inteded result that ETEC paid Defendant for an amount of energy that ETEC had already purchased from the Reliant Security Plant. The damage caused to Plaintiff by Defendant's breach under the Agreement exceeds the amount of \$8,000,000.00. Plaintiff has fully performed its obligations under the Agreement. Furthermore, the Defendant has failed and refused to process the requested audit of the work or to provide any justification for its failure to pay the amounts due and owing.

VI. NEGLIGENT BREACH OF CONTRACT

15. The aforesaid damage to Plaintiff as herein described was a direct and proximate result of the negligent performance of Defendant in that the Defendant failed to exercise that degree of care which would have been exercised by a reasonable and prudent person in the exercise of ordinary care under the same or similar circumstances in reading the appropriate Delivery Point meter. Defendant's acts or negligence constituted a proximate cause of the damages resulting from said purchase of power by the Plaintiff.

VII. UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 16. On or about May 31, 2012, ETEC discovered that Defendant had fraudulently and deceitfully represented to ETEC that Defendant was accurately calculating and providing to ETEC a correct accounting of the metering for the Reliant Security Facility and was utilizing qualified personnel for the meter reading, when, in fact, Defendant was not, and had never been, appropriately reading and calculating the service, failing to utilize best efforts to calculate and make ETEC whole for the power produced and already purchased by ETEC from the Reliant Security Facility. In fact, Defendant was in no manner authorized to perform the calculations for energy at the Reliant Security Facility. Defendant falsely represented that the calculations had been made at the appropriate locations of Delivery Points and that the amounts submitted were properly netted to credit the energy ETEC had already purchased from the Reliant Security Plant.
- 17. ETEC has repeatedly demanded that Defendant repay ETEC the sum and amount of \$8,000,000.00 ETEC paid to Defendant. However, to date, Defendant has failed and refused to repay any part of that amount. In essence, over the last nine years, ETEC's approximately

320,000 retail ratepayers have unknowingly and unjustly enriched Defendant's shareholders by approximately \$8,000,000.00.

- 18. As a result of defendant's false representations, and failure to perform the services promised to ETEC, ETEC has suffered severe financial loss in the operation of its business, in that ETEC has paid twice: ETEC has paid for the power generated by the Reliant Security Plant while also paying Defendant for the excess amounts already provided by the Reliant Security Plant. Instead of Defendant properly reading the appropriate meter and crediting ETEC for the power already purchased, Defendant and its shareholders have been unjustly and unfairly enriched in the amount of \$8,000,000.00. ETEC is entitled to restitution and recovery of that sum, in that Defendant failed to perform proper netting to credit ETEC for the power provided, and indeed, failed in performing the services at the proper facility location and Destination Point originally promised by Defendant, yet Defendant refuses to return ETEC's \$8,000,000.00 payment for the services. It would be unconscionable to allow Defendant to retain these funds, in that the contract was paid twice by ETEC, and Defendant did not provide the power reflected by the payments made by ETEC.
- 19. Requiring Defendant to make restitution of the funds for which Defendant improperly received payment will not result in a material change in the Defendant's position in reliance on the payment, in that Defendant has been properly compensated for the power provided under the Contract.

VIII. DAMAGES

20. As a result of the actions of Defendant as set out above ETEC has suffered damages in an amount of approximately \$8,000,000.00

As a result of Defendant's breach of the contracts and actions as set out above, ETEC has been required to seek the services of the undersigned attorneys. ETEC has presented to Defendant written request for payment of ETEC's claim, which Defendant has wholly failed or refused to pay. Therefore, plaintiff seeks reasonable attorney's fees and costs in addition to the amount owed under the contract pursuant to Sections 38.001 et seq. of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., prays that Defendant, ENTERGY TEXAS, INC., be cited to appear and answer and that upon final trial hereof, Plaintiff have judgment against Defendant for the full amount of damages in the sum of \$8,000,000.00, plus interest from the date of the March 30, 2003 at the legal rate. Further, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- an order compelling Defendant to make available at the earliest possible date, and in any event no later than September 28, 2012, a complete and accurate accounting of all meter readings, calculations and amount utilized for calculating the power products from the Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Inc. Security Pod utilizing the Reliant Security Plant, and all basis for the amounts asserted and amounts paid by Plaintiff to Defendant; and,
- judgment against Defendant for the damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of Defendant's breach and/or conduct as set out above; and,
- 3. attorney's fees incurred by Plaintiff necessitated by Defendant's conduct; and. together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, costs of court, in this behalf expended, and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

CURTIS (CURT) W. FENLEY, III FENLEY & BATE, L.L.P.

P.O. BOX 450

224 E. LUFKIN AVENUE LUFKIN, TEXAS 75902-0450

TPN: (936) 634-3346 FAX: (936) 639-5874 SBN: 06902010

E-mail: cfenley@fenley-bate.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF, EAST TEXAS ELECTRC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Case 9:13-cv-00052-RC-ปีเลือ เป็นเกิดสาน 1-4 Filed 03/08/13 Page 4 อิโก 1- Page ID #: โล้ HIBIT 2 CAS101

CASE # C1228891

COURT: 145TH DISTRICT COURT

03/01/2013

CAUSE: CONTR-OTHER CONTRACT

STYLE: EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC

COOPERATIVE, INC.

VS ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

PLAINTIFF

NAME ATTORNEY EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC FENLEY, CURTIS W., III COOPERATIVE, INC. ATTORNEY AT LAW P. O. BOX 450 LUFKIN, TX 75902-0450 936-634-3346 DEFENDANT

NAME ATTORNEY ENTERGY TEXAS, INC. D TRANSACTIONS FOR ALL PARTIES 1 1 THRU / / 12/28/2012 PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION/JMH EAST TEXAS ELECTRI 12/28/2012 CIVIL WITH CITATION SERVED 320.00-EAST TEXAS ELECTRI CHARGED/SRB 12/28/2012 CIVIL WITH CITATION SERVED 320.00 EAST TEXAS ELECTRI PAID/SRB 01/18/2013 CERTIFIED MAIL CITATION ISSUED TO ENTERGY TEXAS, I EAST TEXAS ELECTRI NC/JMH 02/11/2013 CERTIFIED MAIL CITATION TO ENTERGY TEXAS, INC RET'D EAST TEXAS ELECTRI SERVED 2/8/13 BY OLIVIA STEWART/BXR