

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Weatherford Electric Rates Among Lowest of Municipal Electric Systems in the State**

The City of Weatherford's Municipal Utility System, Weatherford Electric (WE), now holds some of the lowest rates of municipal electric systems in the State of Texas.

Through the work of McCord Engineering, RW Beck, the Weatherford Municipal Utility Board and city staff, a natural gas management strategy plan was created and put into action offering lower and more stable electric rates. According to City of Weatherford Chief Financial Officer Janina Jewell, May 2010 rates were 4.04 cents less per kWh for a 1,000 kWh residential user than May 2009 and June 2010 is down 3.25 cents from June 2009. "I believe one of the most notable differences is that this year's June rate is 25% lower than last year for a 1,000 kWh average residential user and, down 49% from the June 2008 rate," stated Jewell.

According to Steve Moffitt, of McCord Engineering, Inc., the City's consultant for generation and power supply planning, Weatherford's rate is among the lowest of municipals in the state. "I work with several municipals across the State of Texas and have used Weatherford as a test case to my clients when suggesting the utilization of a natural gas management strategy," Moffitt told Utility Board Members at Thursday's board meeting.

In the fall of 2008, the Board and city staff began work on a natural gas risk management policy with the help of McCord Engineering. At the March 2009 meeting of the Utility Board, the policy was approved and staff began implementation. That summer, the Board and city staff began working with RW Beck to revise the natural gas risk management policy as well as establish a natural gas management strategy. The revised policy and strategy were approved by the Board in January of this year, and electric rates have continued to decrease as a result.

Sharon Hayes, Assistant City Manager of Utilities reiterates, "Our focus is service; from the costs of service to the delivery of service. Our rate stabilization fund and natural gas management strategy enable us to deliver competitive rates while continuing to provide superior customer service."

"The thing that seems to have gotten lost in the last couple of years is the long history of WE providing reliable, low-cost energy to the residents of Weatherford," commented Jerry Blaisdell, City Manager of Weatherford. "Mr. McCord's comments reflect the standard of service provided by Weatherford Electric for well over 50 years."

Blaisdell went on to say, "I understand that the spike in energy cost in 2008 had a significant impact on our customers and was unacceptable; however, this was one event out of many decades of providing outstanding service. Assistant City Manager Sharon Hayes and Director of Electric Utilities Joe Farley should be commended for their leadership in managing the service through a very difficult time. Our current service provides rates that are below both TXU and Tri-County. This has been an outstanding achievement."

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