

## **Industry Leaders Form the Texas Electricity Professionals Association**

**(Houston, Texas January 24, 2006)** Eleven leading electric power brokers and consulting firms have launched the Texas Electricity Professionals Association (TEPA). Rapid growth in a very competitive retail power brokerage and consulting industry creates the need to establish standards for participants in the sector. TEPA is the focal point for the fulfillment of these efforts.

Founding members include Amerex Retail Energy Services, Axiom Energy, Choice Energy Services, Curtis & Clark Engineering, Eisenbach Consulting, Gulf States Energy, ESI, Poco Energy Group, Power Brokers, Public Utility Brokers, and TES Energy Services.

Given the relative newness of the retail markets and the highly specialized nature of the services these firms provide, there is a recognized need to establish standards for which firms may gain certification. The Association will promote standards and programs to benchmark the industry at the highest levels of training, operational procedures, ethics, and professionalism. The Association will endeavor to promote a vibrant forum for self-regulation and discussion of important issues to the advancement of the industry. The continued development of working relations with retail suppliers and governmental agencies to promote continued expansion of competitive markets while facilitating consumer's choice in deregulated markets is an important facet of TEPA.

The stated goal of TEPA is to “establish standards and enhance knowledge of the indirect sales channel industry participants (aggregators, brokers and consultants) while upholding the integrity of the Texas retail electricity market”. Through the TEPA initiative, retail electric providers (REP's) will now have a resource to qualify aggregators, brokers, and consultants. All industry participants are encouraged to join and make application for TEPA certification. Associate memberships are available for certified retail electric providers (REP's) and the following firms have pledged their support of TEPA: Constellation New Energy, Gexa Energy, Mpower Retail Energy, StarTex Power and Reliant Energy.

## **About the Texas Electricity Professionals Association**

The Texas Electricity Professionals Association is a non profit industry association dedicated to the development of the deregulated retail electric industry. Standards and certification are available as a part of a comprehensive program offered to the membership. More information is available by contacting David C. Weirs via [info@tepatexas.org](mailto:info@tepatexas.org) or via <http://www.tepatexas.org>.