



## BASIC SERVICE IS BACK

### Important Information for Residential Electric Customers

On March 1, 2005, electric service in Massachusetts will change in accordance with the Electric Restructuring Act. By law, electricity customers who currently receive Standard Offer Service will be transferred to Basic Service.

This change will happen automatically. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTRIC COMPANY OR TAKE ANY ACTION TO CHANGE YOUR SERVICE TO BASIC SERVICE.** Most importantly, there will be no disruption in your electric service.

Look at the "Supplier Services" section of your Last electric bill. It will indicate whether you are currently receiving Default Basic Service.

On March 1, 2005, Standard Offer Service will no longer exist. A state law called the [Electric Restructuring Act](#) created Standard Offer Service. This law was passed to promote competition in the electricity market. In order to protect consumers, the law created a seven-year period to transition from electricity sold under a monopoly system to electricity sold in a competitive market. Standard Offer Service provided a discounted rate for electricity to those who were customers of their electric company as of March 1, 1998. On February 28, 2005, the seven-year transition period ends. **On March 1, 2005, all Standard Offer Service customers will automatically be transferred to Basic Service and will pay market rates for electricity.**

Basic Service is priced differently than Standard Offer Service. Under Standard Offer Service, your electric company purchased electricity using long-term contracts. Under Basic Service, your electric company will purchase your electricity supply on the open market.



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