

Chairman Barry Smitherman Public Utility Commission of Texas

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News Advisory
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New electric car comes to Houston **PUC Chairman becomes early adopter**

One of the first customer deliveries of a mass-produced plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) in Houston happens this week when the Chairman of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) receives a new 2011 Chevrolet Volt he has bought from a local dealership. Media are invited to attend.

PUC Chairman Barry Smitherman will be available for interviews on Tuesday, March 22, between 4 and 5:30 p.m. at Norman Frede Chevrolet in the Clear Lake Area of Houston. The dealership is located approximately 1.6 miles east of Interstate 45 from exit 26 along Bay Area Blvd. The address is 16801 Feathercraft Lane.

“As gasoline prices continue to rise and electric rates keep going down, the Texas electric grid is an increasingly attractive fit for plug-in vehicles,” said Chairman Smitherman. “My Volt will use electricity generated by Texas lignite, natural gas, nuclear fuel and wind power when I recharge overnight at my Austin-area home. I encourage all Texans to take a good look at plug-in vehicles.”

A market forecast by Pike Research projects that nearly 40,000 PEVs will be sold in the Houston area by 2017.

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