

**MIRS Capitol Capsule**  
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**Electric Choice Down Again In '07**

Michigan's electric choice market last year was down to its lowest levels since its inaugural year in 2001 having reported only four percent of energy sales, down from six percent in 2006, according to a Public Service Commission (MPSC) today.

The number of choice customers and the amount of energy those customers used was down 33 and 14 percent, the report stated, which is a slower decline than the two previous years.

MPSC Chair Orjiakor **ISIOGU** said this wasn't surprising considering the higher wholesale prices for electricity and the uncertainty surrounding Michigan's electric choice law. But David **WAYMIRE** from the Customer Choice Coalition (CCC) said a major reason for the fewer number of choice customers is that government-imposed policies are making it harder and more expensive for customers to choose alternative providers.

In comparison to the country's 10 largest states, Michigan had lower retail electricity rates in 2007 and its residential and commercial electric rates were below the national weighted average.

Compared to the 20 other states with restructured electric markets, Michigan's retail rates were seventh lowest in the residential sectors, sixth lowest in the commercial sector and seventh lowest in the industrial sector. Since 2000, Michigan's ranking compared to other states have improved.