

For Immediate Release

Metro East Aggregation Group Issues Statement Clarifying Electric Supply Questions for Customers

(Metro East, Illinois) November 25, 2022 - Electricity customers in the Illinois Metro East municipal aggregation program - a group of communities that benefit from the buying power of purchasing electricity together – recently received a letter from Ameren that caused some confusion about their electricity supplier.

In order to clarify the confusion, Good Energy, the aggregation firm that works with the communities, issued the statement below. The core message is that Metro East customers currently participating in the aggregation program that expires in December do not need to do anything in order to continue to receive the benefits of municipal aggregation including reliable, stable, and cost-effective rates.

Urgent Notice Regarding Your Electric Bill!!!

Please read immediately!!!

Residents should do nothing if they wish to continue to receive the benefits of the Metro East electricity municipal aggregation program.

Many residents in the Metro East electricity service area have received confusing communications suggesting that they must soon make a choice to change their supplier.

This is not accurate.

To be clear: **Your communities have already selected a competitive supplier, Constellation NewEnergy, to recommence the electricity aggregation program starting in February 2023.** Constellation's rate will be a 22 month term at \$0.12100 compared to Ameren's Basic Service Rate of \$0.12236. An Opt-out letter for the new program will be sent out in the next few weeks. Please see below for full list of communities in this Metro East buying group.

Metro East customers participate in a **municipal aggregation program** that includes more than 150 communities in Illinois in order to secure reliable, stable and cost-effective electricity rates for

nearly 400,000 homes. Since May, Metro East customers have saved about \$60 per month in the program.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In December, the supplier contract with Homefield Energy for the municipal aggregation communities expires. This month, Ameren Illinois sent a letter to customers stating that they need to choose a new electricity supplier within two months. Currently participating residents in the Metro East aggregation program have received the letter from Ameren Illinois with the heading “ELECTRIC SUPPLIER CHOICE EXPIRING.”

The statement is confusing, since a new supplier, Constellation NewEnergy, has already been chosen for all customers currently participating in the municipal aggregation program within their community. Constellation NewEnergy starts providing power in February 2023.

For two months, until February 2023, all customers will be returned to the Ameren Illinois basic service. In February, customers will be re-enrolled into the Metro East municipal aggregation program and be assured of reliable, stable and cost-effective electricity rates, at the same level of service as Ameren Illinois.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In mid-December, customers will receive an introductory opt-out letter from the new electricity supplier, Constellation NewEnergy, describing their services and rates, (\$0.12100 per kWh compared to Ameren's current rate of \$0.12236 per kWh).

Then, in January, Ameren Illinois will send a letter to customers confirming their supplier choice. **It is very unlikely that a customer will get a better rate than the large group rate. Other suppliers may have hidden fees, costs, and pass-through charges that increase their final rate.**

The best option is to do nothing and stay in the aggregation program come February, and if the Ameren Illinois basic rate drops below the aggregation rate then you can simply opt-out of the aggregation with no penalties or fees. You CANNOT do that with most other contracts with alternative suppliers without early termination fees.

Every community participating in the electricity aggregation buying group, has paid less for electric supply rates since the inception of the programs nearly 11 years ago, compared to Ameren Illinois rates. It's the safest and the most legitimate way to buy electric supply. The aggregation program provides residents with a fixed rate that will not change during the course of the contract of \$0.1210 per kWh, therefore providing insurance to protect residents from the higher cost of electric supply and the volatility in the energy market.

At this time of sharply rising energy costs and turmoil in the markets, Metro East customers enjoy stable, reliable and cost-effective rates by participating in their communities' municipal

aggregation program. Now, more than ever, this program provides important benefits for our communities, customers, and families.

Those residents currently not participating in the program may opt-in to the program beginning in February 2023.

For more information, visit www.csimuniagg.com.

City of Edwardsville

City of Alton

City of Jerseyville

City of Madison

City of Pittsfield

Village of East Alton

Village of Godfrey

Village of Hartford

Village of Pontoon
Beach

Village of Roxana

Village of South Roxana

City of Granite City

City of Jacksonville

City of Troy

City of Venice

City of Wood River

Village of Bethalto

City of O'Fallon

City of Belleville

City of Columbia

Town of Trenton

Village of Albers

Village of Glen Carbon

Village of Hamel

Village of Maryville

Village of New Baden

Village of Shiloh

City of Centralia