

Upcoming Voter Referendum: **Municipal Aggregation**

On the March 20, 2012 ballot, the City of Rockford will be asking residents:

“Shall the City of Rockford have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?” **YES or NO**

Background

Appearing on the March 20th ballot will be a referendum regarding the City of Rockford’s municipal aggregation of residential and small business Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) accounts. Currently, 19 communities in Illinois are buying their electric power from a supplier other than ComEd. On average, residents in those municipalities are saving 10-30% on their electric supply rates. Additionally, over 200 Illinois communities will also be pursuing municipal aggregation on the March 20th ballot.

What is Municipal Aggregation of Electricity?

Municipal aggregation is a program that allows a municipality to purchase its electric supply at cheaper rates for residential and small business customers with a peak demand of 100kW or less from a supplier other than ComEd. The goal of the City’s program is to secure lower electric supply rates for residential and small business owners in our community. Customers have the **opportunity to save between 10-30% on their electric supply rates!**

How it Works

If the referendum is approved through a majority vote, the City will create a Plan of Operation and Governance and hold at least two public hearings to discuss this plan. Once the plan is in place, the City may choose to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with various municipalities in our region to jointly solicit proposals and bids from suppliers who are licensed as alternative electric suppliers in the State of Illinois. Once bids are reviewed, the City will determine if and who it will enter into an agreement with for energy supply. If favorable pricing does not exist, the City will not enter into an agreement and remain with ComEd.

If the referendum is not approved, all residents currently purchasing their power supply from ComEd will remain with ComEd. **REMEMBER TO VOTE ON MARCH 20TH!**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can the City purchase electric power at a lower cost?

A: The State of Illinois has deregulated energy markets, allowing municipalities to seek competitive bids for energy and move to other suppliers if their pricing is more attractive.

Q: How does municipal aggregation benefit me?

A: Eligible customers have the opportunity to save between 10-30% on their electric rates.

Q: Who is eligible to receive the discounted rates?

A: Residents and small businesses with a peak demand of 100 kW will be automatically enrolled in the City's aggregation program.

Q: Who is not automatically enrolled?

A: Large businesses (over 100 kW), accounts with hourly billing, accounts on bundled hold with ComEd, and accounts under contract with a retail electric supplier do not qualify for the program. Additionally, residents and small businesses with electric heat are excluded, as they do not benefit from municipal aggregation.

Q: What if I do not want to participate in this program?

A: Residents will have multiple opportunities to "opt out" of the program, which is your right by law. Customers will also have the option to opt back in at any given point for a fee.

Q: What exactly is the Plan of Operation and Governance?

A: It is the basic guide that explains how the City's individual program works. The city has the power to decide the following: bid parameters, agreement terms, fees/charges, billing, eligibility/exclusions, action to be taken for customers who move within/in/out of the municipality, liability, and roles of ComEd and the chosen supplier.

Q: How do I, as a citizen and customer, get a voice in this process?

A: Before the plan of Operation and Governance is finalized, the City is required by state statute to hold two public hearings for citizen input. The public hearings provide a chance for you, as both a citizen and customer, to tell us what you want in an electric supplier before the City even goes out to bid.

Q: Why would the City want to engage in a "joint" bidding process?

A: Utilizing a joint bidding process with other municipalities allows us to maximize purchase power.

Q: What is ComEd's involvement in the program?

A: It is important to understand that ComEd supports deregulation and aggregation programs. Regardless of the electric supplier chosen, ComEd will remain the utility provider delivering electricity to homes and businesses. Customers would continue to receive a bill from ComEd as well as contact ComEd in case of service outages. The only difference would be a change in the supply rate of the electricity bill.