

# City of Salem, Illinois

*(Members of the Central & Southern Electric Aggregation Group)*

For Immediate Release:

## **Central & Southern IL Electric Aggregation Group Issues Statement Clarifying Electricity Supplier Confusion for Central & Southern IL Customers:**

**SALEM, IL – DECEMBER 11, 2022** - Electricity customers in the Central & Southern IL 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 Central & Southern IL 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 Central & Southern IL electricity municipal aggregation program.**

Many residents in the Central & Southern IL 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 \$0.1189 compared to Ameren's Basic Service Rate of \$0.12236. An Opt-out letter from the municipality with details of the new program will be sent out very soon.

Central & Southern IL 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, Central and Southern IL 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 Central & Southern IL 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 Central & Southern IL 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, (\$0.1189 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 12 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 \$0.1189 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, Central & Southern IL 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](http://www.csimuniagg.com).