

Village of Bensenville Electric Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a November 6, 2012 referendum by a majority of voters, the Village of Bensenville contracted to procure lower-cost electric supply for residents and small businesses. In the first three-year term which expires March 2016, the average participating homeowner saved approximately \$360, for a cumulative Village-wide savings of \$1.7 million – with essentially no change to electric service.

The Village sought competitive bids to renew the program and contracted a 24-month term with Constellation Energy Services. The new rate is fixed at 6.395¢ per kWh for the term March 2016 to March 2018.

Village of Bensenville Program vs. ComEd rate in cents per kilowatt hour

| | <i>Supply + transmission</i> | <i>PEA fee¹</i> | <i>Effective / Average rate</i> |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Com Ed rate² 3/2016 – 5/2016 6/2016 – 3/2018 | 6.987¢ unknown | + /- 0.5¢ | 6.487¢ to 7.487¢ unknown |
| Village of Bensenville 3/2016 – 3/2018 | 6.395¢ | none | 6.395¢ |

All residents and small commercial retail accounts located within the Village limits will automatically be enrolled unless they:

- 1. Choose to opt out as directed in the opt out notice; or**
- 2. Have already switched to another Supplier; or**
- 3. Participate in the Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) hourly-rate program**

Opt out notices will be mailed to eligible ratepayers on January 8, 2016, with an opt out response deadline three weeks later, January 29, 2016. If you do not opt out, you will be enrolled in the program at your March 2016 meter reading. There is no enrollment fee and no early termination fee to vacate the program at any time. Informative opt-in notices will also be mailed to all ratepayers currently enrolled with a supplier other than the Village’s program. They may enroll at any time during the 24-month program.

Residents already enrolled with another Alternative Retail Electric Supplier will receive an informative notice with directions how to enroll if they choose to do so. Because these ratepayers are already engaged in a contract with a Supplier, they will not be automatically enrolled in the Village’s program but must call Constellation at 1-855-875-9839 to opt in.

¹ The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) is variable and ranges as high as 0.5¢ per kWh. There is no PEA charge from Constellation.

² The ComEd Price to Compare is 6.987¢ and will be re-set on June 1, 2016. Current rates may be found at www.pluginillinois.org by adding the Electric Supply Charge and the Transmission Services Charge.

Residents will continue to receive one bill from ComEd to include the electric supply charges from Constellation. ComEd will continue to charge for delivery. The way you pay your bill, such as budget billing or automatic payment will not be affected.

This program presents several benefits: ratepayers enjoy the flexibility to join or leave the program with no termination fee at any time; residents receive a fixed, known rate versus the ComEd PTC which is re-set at least twice annually and can further change with the PEA charge that may vary from month to month; residents are likely to save money versus the ComEd rate.

Electric deregulation has been met with great success in the State of Illinois, saving ratepayers billions of dollars: Residents were charged 9¢ per kWh for electric supply in the summer of 2010, and Illinois rates were near the highest levels in the nation in the 1990s and through the early 2000s. However, today Illinois electric rates are among the lowest in the nation, with many Midwestern states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, paying higher rates than in Illinois.

Electric Aggregation Program FAQs

1. How can I enroll in the program?

During the initial three-week opt out period, you need do nothing if you have an eligible resident or small commercial electric account; you will automatically be enrolled unless you opt out. After the initial opt out period, any residential or small business ratepayer may enroll by simply calling Constellation at 1-855-875-9839 and asking for the Village of Bensenville rate of 6.395¢.

2. What is an eligible resident or small commercial account?

Any resident who is currently with ComEd and has not already switched to an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) or who is not enrolled in a special Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program is eligible, and small commercial accounts are eligible. You must also have a residence or business located in the Village of Bensenville.

3. What is a “small commercial account?”

A small commercial account is a business rate class account that consumes less than 15,000 kWh per year.

4. What if I don’t want to be in the program?

You are free to opt out before the program begins or after you are enrolled, and will never be charged a fee for doing so. Eligible resident and small commercial accounts will receive an opt out letter to which they must respond by the deadline stated if they do not want to be in the program. Otherwise, they will automatically be enrolled. If you want to leave the program after having been enrolled, simply call Constellation to be moved back to ComEd at any time.

5. I am located in Bensenville’s Village limits, have already switched to another Supplier, but would like to join the program. Can I do this?

Yes. You will receive an informative notice with information on how to enroll, should you choose to do so. Or call Constellation at 1-855-875-9839 to enroll and provide them with your ComEd account number. We suggest you check your individual contract to review any early termination fees you may be liable for; you may wish to wait for your current contract to expire before enrolling in the aggregation program. You may join the program at any time during the 24-month contract, for no fee.

6. Why is the Village doing this?

A Municipal Electric Aggregation Program was approved by a simple majority in a voter referendum allowing the Village to seek pricing from an ARES for residents and small commercial accounts.

7. How can Village of Bensenville get rates competitive with ComEd rates?

The State of Illinois has opened energy markets to price competition. Exelon is no longer the sole electric supplier as many new, competing suppliers now offer electricity. Also, new technologies in electricity procurement have driven prices lower over the last decade.

8. What is the current ComEd rate?

The effective ComEd rate is 6.987¢ plus or minus a Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) of 0.5¢ and will be reset in June 2016. It includes two fixed charges (supply and transmission services) plus a variable charge, the PEA. For more information, visit pluginillinois.org. The ComEd rate fluctuates from month-to-month.

9. How will the new supplier's rate compare with the ComEd rate under "Electric Supply Services" on my bill?

You will have one fixed rate that covers both electric supply and transmission services, and no other charge for that portion of your electric bill. You are never charged a Purchase Electricity Adjustment by Constellation.

10. Will I get two bills, one from ComEd and another from the new supplier?

No. ComEd will continue to bill you for electric supply, delivery and taxes. ComEd delivers electricity, and will continue to bill you for that, but they no longer supply it. They will pass along the fees you pay for the supply of your energy to the new supplier. ComEd will retain the fees you pay them for delivery.

11. Will that affect my ComEd electric service?

No. ComEd has not generated electricity since 2007. A government agency, the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) has contracted your electric supply for you. Now you can choose a new supplier.

12. Whom do I call if I have service problems?

Always call ComEd with reports of outages or downed power lines at 800-334-7661. For questions about your supply, you can call the customer service number for Constellation. It is listed under "Electric Supply Services" on your ComEd bill.

13. I was on ComEd's special space heating rate. How do I benefit?

The Residential Electric Space Heat rate offered by ComEd was discontinued in June 2013, so your savings and benefits now equate to that of ratepayers in the non-space heat rate class.

14. If I am automatically enrolled in the program now, can I leave the program at any time?

Yes, you can later leave the program and move your account back to ComEd or another alternative supplier. There is no early termination fee to leave the program at any time.

15. What is ComEd's six-month "stay" or "bundled hold" requirement?

Please note State Regulations that prohibit some switching. If your account was with an alternative supplier and you switch back to ComEd, you have two billing cycles in which you must move to another supplier or be subject to a six-month "bundled hold" status, during which you may not

switch back to that *same* supplier. However, you may switch at any time to a *different* supplier than you just left.

16. Who is the new supplier?

Constellation's parent company, Exelon, is a FORTUNE 200 company with approximately \$33 billion in annual revenues. Constellation's affiliates are leading suppliers of energy products and services to electric and natural gas customers in 47 states and Washington D.C. Constellation is the supplier for 50 municipal aggregation programs in Illinois, serving over 150,000 electric accounts.

17. I am enrolled in a low-income assistance program. Will that be affected?

No. If you currently receive assistance via PIPP or LIHEAP, that status will not change and you can continue to get these benefits for your ComEd bill.

18. I'm on ComEd's budget billing plan. Will that change?

No, you can stay on the budget-billing plan.

19. Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account as I do now?

Yes. The way you pay your ComEd bill will not change.

20. Will someone come to my home or call to sign me up?

PLEASE NOTE: No one from Constellation or the Village will ever visit your home to sign you up, or call you to enroll. Neither will ComEd ask you to reveal your account number. If someone calls or visits your home claiming to be the Village's power supplier, please report such activity to Village Hall or file a complaint with the ICC at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint>. You should never reveal your ComEd account number and other information to a solicitor unless you are certain you wish to enroll with that supplier.

21. Will ComEd's viability be threatened by the loss of all these accounts?

No. Since 2007, ComEd no longer generates electricity, but is responsible for delivery of electricity. ComEd rates are delivery rates only. Your new supplier rates are for the supply services only.

22. Will ComEd raise its delivery rates?

ComEd must request a rate hike from State of Illinois regulators. No matter whom you select as your supplier, it won't affect whether or not ComEd increases its delivery rates.

23. What happens if I move?

If you stay within the Village limits, you can remain in the aggregation program but must call Constellation to re-enroll at your new address. If you move away, you will never be subject to an early termination fee. Check your new community to find out if they have a municipal electric aggregation program which you can join. New residents moving into the community after the program begins will not be automatically enrolled in the program, but may contact Constellation to enroll, at no fee.

24. Is my electric supply at risk now that deregulation has opened markets to new suppliers?

No. ComEd remains the Provider of Last Resort (POLR), so if there is an issue with securing electric supply, ComEd will be required to deliver it, regardless.

25. Will my utility tax change?

The aggregation program will not impact your utility tax due. You are taxed on energy usage in kilowatt-hours, not the dollar cost of supply.

26. Does the energy supply include any renewable “green” energy sources?

Yes. Your energy supply meets, at minimum, the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard, which is ten percent for the Energy Year June 2015 to May 2016. Thus a portion of your electric supply is sourced from renewable resources such as solar and wind and may be represented through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

The Illinois Commerce Commission offers more information about energy deregulation in Illinois and energy supply choices at www.pluginillinois.org.

For specific questions about your own electric account, do not call Village Hall; call the Village of Bensenville’s aggregation program supplier: Constellation at 1-855-875-9839.

If you require additional assistance, call NIMEC at 800-727-3820 to leave your question and callback number. You will be contacted within 24 hours regarding the issue.

To report an electrical outage, or for questions pertaining to your ComEd bill, call ComEd at 800-334-7661.

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