



Willowbrook Electric Aggregation Referendum

Alternative Residential Electricity Supply Services
Referendum Question on April 9, 2013 Ballot

On August 10, 2009, Governor Quinn signed into law Public Act 096-0176 which amended the Illinois Power Agency Act to allow municipalities to arrange for the supply of electricity to residential and small business customers by alternative electric suppliers (instead of ComEd). Under the new law, a municipality may seek bids for the supply of aggregate electricity service to residential and small business customers, in hopes that the negotiated rate will be lower than the standard rate offered by ComEd. The legislation also includes an “opt-out” provision in which all residential and small business customers would be given an opportunity to decide not to participate in this program and continue service through ComEd or another provider.

In order to seek competitive prices for an opt-out aggregation program, the Village must first obtain approval from residents through a referendum which will occur on Tuesday, April 9.

In November 2012, the Village Board approved a resolution to authorize placement of a referendum question regarding an opt-out electricity aggregation program on the April 9, 2013 consolidated general election ballot (The referendum question, as it will appear on the ballot, can be seen on page 2 of this mailing). Voters will be asked if the Village should be given the authority to seek competitive bids for electricity supply and to enter into a single contract that would include residents and small businesses, that have not elected to opt-out, if lower electric bills can be realized.

If the referendum is approved by Willowbrook voters on April 9th, bids can be solicited for the community’s aggregated electricity load. The bids will be compared to ComEd’s current rates, and the Village only intends to approve a bid that will result in electricity rates that are below the prevailing ComEd rates. Approval of the referendum does not obligate the Village to implement an opt-out electricity aggregation program. If a program is implemented, all residential and small business customer accounts will automatically be moved to the new supplier, unless they chose to opt out of the program. Information will be provided in advance of the change to residents and small business customers who may then choose whether or not to transfer their account to another supplier and instead remain with ComEd.

Please note that, under an opt-out electricity aggregation program, ComEd will remain the distributor of electricity in the Village; the selected alternative supplier will merely provide the electric power for ComEd’s distribution. Additionally, customers will continue to receive one bill from ComEd which will include distribution charges from ComEd and electric supply charges from the new alternate supplier. ComEd will remain responsible for all distribution system issues, including power outages.

For more information or any questions, please contact the Village Hall at (630) 323-8215 or visit the Village’s website at www.willowbrookil.org.

Electric Aggregation Information

Electric Aggregation Frequently Asked Questions

In November 2012, the Willowbrook Board of Trustees approved Resolution 12-R-53 authorizing that the following question regarding electric aggregation be placed on the April 9, 2013 election ballot:

“Shall the Village of Willowbrook 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?”

As a Willowbrook resident, you may be wondering what this question means, and how it may or may not impact you. Below are several Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will help you to better understand electric aggregation and what it means for consumers.

What is electric aggregation?

On August 10, 2009, Governor Quinn signed into law Public Act 096-0176 which allows municipalities to arrange for the supply of electricity to residential and small commercial retail customers by alternative electric suppliers (i.e. suppliers other than ComEd). Under the new law, the Village may seek bids for the supply of aggregate electricity service to these customers, in hopes that the selected rate will be lower than the prevailing rate offered by ComEd.

Electric aggregation combines the electric loads of customers, in this case potentially thousands of customers within the community. Combining the electrical loads leverages the buying power of thousands of residents and small businesses.

What is the referendum on the April 9, 2013 consolidated general election ballot?

Voters will be asked whether the Village of Willowbrook should have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small business customers who have not opted out of such a program.

Should the Referendum pass, the Village will then seek competitive bids in an effort to obtain a proposal that would secure a lower electrical rate for residents and small business customers. Once bids are received and it is determined that savings can be realized for consumers, a contract will be negotiated to lock in the rate. Once the contract is approved, the Village will work with ComEd and the new provider to ensure that all individuals eligible for the new rate are automatically transferred to the new

supplier unless they have previously opted out.

If the Referendum does not pass, residents will continue to be supplied electricity through ComEd. In this case, residents and small business owners still have the option to choose an alternative electric supplier through an “Opt-In” program. An Opt-In program is when an individual resident or small business contracts directly with an alternative electricity supplier for their electric needs.

If approved, how will an aggregation program impact me as a resident?

The primary impact residents will see resulting from the aggregation program will be a lower electric rate on their monthly bill. ComEd will continue to bill all residents on a monthly basis, and continue to be the utility provider delivering electricity to homes and businesses. Residents would continue to receive a ComEd bill and would continue to call ComEd in case of an outage or service need.

Are other municipalities engaging in municipal aggregation programs?

Yes, over one million residents in northern Illinois have switched to new, lower cost power suppliers through municipal aggregation programs. Neighboring municipalities that have contracted for lower electric supply rates through an aggregation program include: Clarendon Hills, Countryside, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, La Grange Park, Lisle, Oak Brook, Westmont, and Woodridge.