



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF COLUMBIA ANNOUNCES CONTINUATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM

COLUMBIA, IL November 8, 2022 – The City of Columbia is pleased to announce the continuation of the municipal electric aggregation program with a new supplier, Constellation NewEnergy. The primary goal of this initiative is to protect residents and small businesses from volatility in electric supply rates.

Since June 2019, City residents and small businesses have been charged a stable, fixed rate of 4.39¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh). During this same timeframe, the Ameren Illinois rate has changed 12 times, fluctuating from a low of 4.396¢/kWh to a high of 12.236¢/kWh (the current Ameren Illinois rate). Unfortunately, the City's current agreement with Homefield Energy expires with the January 2023 reading. The City's buying group (comprised of other municipalities from Southwestern Illinois, including Belleville, O'Fallon, Edwardsville, Troy, Glen Carbon, and several others across central and southern Illinois) has secured a fixed rate contract with Constellation NewEnergy for a 22-month term beginning February 2023 through December 2024. The new rate has been set at 12.10¢/kWh.

To provide residents and small businesses the lowest possible long-term rate, there will be a two-month "gap" until the contract is effective with Constellation NewEnergy. During these two months, participants' electric supplier will revert to Ameren Illinois. The process is as follows:

Supplier	Date	Rates per kWh	Action Required?
Homefield Energy	Contract Ends December 2022	4.29¢	NO ACTION REQUIRED
Ameren Illinois	December 2022 – February 2023	Default Rate 12.236¢	NO ACTION REQUIRED
Constellation NewEnergy	February 2023 – December 2024	12.10¢	NO ACTION REQUIRED

Over the next 90 days, participating residents and small businesses will be receiving two letters from Ameren Illinois, and one letter from Constellation NewEnergy:

1. Letter from Ameren Illinois – Notifying participants that Homefield Energy contract ends December 2022.
2. Letter from Ameren Illinois – Stating Ameren Illinois will be participants' provider beginning January 2023.

3. Letter from Constellation NewEnergy – Notifying participants that Constellation New Energy will be participants’ provider beginning February 2023 to December 2024.

AGAIN, NO ACTION IS REQUIRED FROM PARTICIPANTS.

Participants are reminded if the default Ameren Illinois rate drops below the aggregation rate, residents and small business owners may switch back to Ameren (or any other vendor) at any time. After two billing cycles on Ameren’s supply rate, the customer account is on “utility hold” for 12 consecutive billing cycles. Customers will not be able to switch electricity suppliers until the hold expires, even if rates increase during that time.

Residents and small businesses considering an alternative retail electricity supplier are encouraged to visit www.pluginillinois.org to compare offers. Those with questions about the municipal aggregation program may contact City Hall.

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