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### **Glen Ellyn Signs New 3-Year Electricity Contract: New Rates Still Lower than ComEd's**

Glen Ellyn, IL – The Village of Glen Ellyn's Board of Trustees voted last Monday to approve a three-year contract with FirstEnergy as the Village's new energy supplier after receiving multiple bids from energy companies through the Electric Aggregation Program. The new rate that goes into effect on August 1 will be 7.5¢/kwh, which compared to the latest ComEd rates, is still estimated to save the average household about \$30/year.

ComEd's latest published rate, which fluctuates monthly, is anticipated to average 7.93¢/kwh, which is comprised of the ComEd fixed rate of 7.596¢/kwh, plus a variable fee that has averaged 0.33¢/kwh for the last 36 mo. Importantly, the Village's new contract with First Energy is not subject to the additional variable fee.

The Village approved the new three-year contract because its current (18-month) municipal electric aggregation contract, with Verde Energy, expires on August 1. The Verde contract that went into effect in February 2013 provided an excellent rate of \$0.4981/kwh for all participating residential and small businesses in Glen Ellyn---which by the end of the contract term will have saved the average participating consumer approximately \$205.00 versus the ComEd rates---for a Village-wide cumulative savings of over \$1.75 million.

According to Village Manager Mark Franz, “[The Village’s] previous contract was approved at a very favorable time when rates were at a 10-year low. [Electricity] pricing in the market place, unfortunately, has been climbing ever since. Although residents will see an increase in their electric bill, the new contract rate is still the lowest and most competitive that is currently available in the market”.

Like the expiring contract, the new FirstEnergy contract will continue to promote “green energy” through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's), which will represent 100% of the Village's electric energy use.

Residents who do not wish to utilize First Energy as an energy supplier will have the ability to “opt out” at any time if they wish to select an alternate energy supplier. Those who are currently in the Municipal Electric Aggregation Program for Glen Ellyn, as well as ratepayers currently receiving power supply through ComEd, will receive a letter in the mail from First Energy during the last week of June that will explain the details on how to continue participation in the program, or how to

opt-out. According to Village Manager Franz, “An important feature of this contract is that it still affords residents the power of choice----to shop the market and opt out at any time---or stay the course and continue in the program”.

Residents who wish to learn more about their electricity choices and market pricing may visit [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org). Information regarding the Village’s Electric Aggregation Program can also obtain more information from the Village’s website at [www.glenellyn.org](http://www.glenellyn.org).

Also, the *Chicago Tribune* recently featured an article about the Illinois Commerce Commission’s on-going (ICC) investigation of electric suppliers concerning allegations of price gouging. Some suppliers offer a floating, market rate, which can have low introductory rates. But the cold winter in the Midwest caused rates to jump precipitously---and those high rates were passed on to residents with this variable rate structure. In some cases, customers under these types of contracts were charged up to 13¢/kwh by certain suppliers. According to Village Manager Franz, “All of our resident aggregation pricing has a fixed rate, so participating residents and businesses would not be subject to the type of variable pricing contracts that the ICC is currently investigating”.

Residents should be aware of direct calls, mailings, and door to door marketing. The Village does not send people door to door or call residents to sign up for energy suppliers. Door to door marketing requires a solicitor’s permit. The Village highly encourages residents who choose to select their own energy provider to initiate first contact with the provider after comparing all rates and options.

Just as before, residents will still continue to receive one monthly bill generated by ComEd, and will continue to receive electricity delivery services from ComEd. Any outages should continue to be reported directly to ComEd.

Residents with questions related to Glen Ellyn’s current electric aggregation contract can call Verde at (800) 241-0295 or NIMEC (the Village’s electric aggregation consultant) at (800) 727-3820. If a resident calls NIMEC, they should leave their question and call back number and they will be contacted within 24 hours. Anyone with additional questions regarding the Electrical Aggregation Program can call Assistant Village Manager Al Stonitsch at [astonitsch@glenellyn.org](mailto:astonitsch@glenellyn.org) or (630) 469-5000.

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