

***To be placed on Village Letterhead and Posted on their website***

**Village of Hartville Electric Aggregation Program Participants**

Letters detailing the offer for the next term of our electric aggregation program are scheduled to mail the week of July 18th. Our program will see a significant increase from the historic low rate of 4.87 cents/kWh that we have enjoyed for the past 3 years. We wanted to use this opportunity to provide additional context for the new offering, and to remind you of the alternatives available to you.

It should come as no surprise to anyone who has shopped for groceries, gasoline, clothing, a car, a home, etc., that inflation has taken its toll on our pocketbooks. In the past year it has also contributed to higher electric prices which we must now deal with. Also, energy prices have been adversely impacted by a number of other factors, such as, government policies, exports of our fuel resources to markets overseas, above normal temperatures this summer, and conflict in eastern Europe to name a few. The new electric program rate is a reflection of those factors. While no one is happy with paying higher rates, it is the current reality for energy prices. We tested the market, invited all eligible suppliers to bid on our program, and we have selected the option that we believe is best under the current circumstances.

The aggregation program has proven to be an excellent option over the years. When energy prices were low, we have acted in a prudent manner and locked-in longer-term rates. Now with prices being high, and expected to decline in the coming year, the decision was made to select the shortest-term option allowable for aggregation programs, that being a 1-year term.

Given these market conditions, serious consideration was given to placing our program on hold until prices retreated. That option, however, was rejected because participation in our program is voluntary and voters requested this program be made available as another option to consider - in good times and in bad. We remind you that the aggregation program is simply another option for you to consider, and it is important that you make yourself aware of the other options available to you, specifically:

- The Public Utility Commission of Ohio provides a list of other publicly available offers on their website, [www.energychoice.ohio.gov](http://www.energychoice.ohio.gov). Our program rate, while higher than anyone wishes, does fair well against those comparable alternatives. Anyone considering these supply offers should be aware of any early termination penalties, fixed monthly charges, or automatic renewal provisions that can quickly offset any perceived savings. Our program includes none of the above.
- The utility's default supply rate is a variable rate option worth considering at this time. It has trended upward recently, lags current market conditions, and is expected to take a significant jump during the term of our 1-year offer. That rate, also known as your Price to Compare, is currently below the new program offer, but there are no guarantees that it will remain lower until September 2023.

Again, we would like to remind people that the program is simply another option for our residents and small businesses to consider in their efforts to manage their energy costs in these trying times.

Current participants in our program can expect an opt-out letter from the program supplier, Energy Harbor. Please read that letter carefully, among other things, it will explain the 3-means of opting out over a 3-week period. For those not opting out, a second letter will come from the utility, Ohio Edison, giving you another 7-days to rescind your enrollment. Our voluntary program also allows residents to leave free-of-charge at any time for any reason without penalty.

If you have any questions regarding your letter or your participation in the electric aggregation program please contact the program supplier, Energy Harbor, at 866-636-3749.