



1216 Lexington Ave. Suite 301  
Mansfield, OH. 44907  
www.trebelllc.com

December 9, 2019

Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

**CASE # 17-2551-GA-GAG**

**RE: Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator Renewal Application — Monroe Township,  
Clermont County, OH.**

Monroe Township is pleased to submit its renewal application for natural gas governmental aggregator. The original application has been notarized and signed by an authorized official.

Material provided for review:

- Application for Governmental Aggregations and Affidavit
- Exhibit B-1 Authorizing Ordinance reflecting voter authorization;
- Exhibit B-2 Plan of Operation and Governance;
- Exhibit B-3 Automatic Aggregation Disclosure
- Exhibit B-4 Opt-Out Notice
- Exhibit B-5 Experience

Should you have any questions or additional needs, please call me at (614) 425.4885.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Belcastro  
Principal  
614.425.4885  
scott@electricssuppliers.org

Enclosure



# Public Utilities Commission

PUCO USE ONLY - Version 1.07		
Date Received	Renewal Certification Number	ORIGINAL GAG Case Number
		17 - 2551 - GA-GAG

## RENEWAL CERTIFICATION APPLICATION OHIO NATURAL GAS GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATORS

Please type or print all required information. Identify all attachments with an exhibit label and title (*Example: Exhibit B-1 - Authorizing Ordinance*). All attachments should bear the legal name of the Applicant. Applicants should file completed applications and all related correspondence with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

This PDF form is designed so that you may directly input information onto the form. You may also download the form by saving it to your local disk.

### SECTION A - APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### A-1 Renewal Applicant information:

Legal Name Monroe Township, Clermont County, OH  
Address 2828 State Route 222, Bethel, OH 45106  
Telephone No. 513-734-6462 Web site address  
Current PUCO Certificate Number 16-638G(1) Effective Dates January 27, 2018 - January 27, 2020

#### A-2 Contact person for regulatory or emergency matters:

Name Scott Belcastro Title Principal  
Business Address 1216 Lexington Ave., Suite 301, Mansfield, OH 44907  
Telephone No. 614-425-4885 Fax No. 614-417-0410 Email Address scott@naturalgassuppliers.org

#### A-3 Contact person for Commission Staff use in investigating customer complaints:

Name Scott Belcastro Title Principal  
Business address 1216 Lexington Ave., Suite 301, Mansfield, OH 44907  
Telephone No. 614-425-4885 Fax No. 614-417-0410 Email Address scott@naturalgassuppliers.org

#### A-4 Applicant's address and toll-free number for customer service and complaints:

Customer service address 1216 Lexington Ave., Suite 301, Mansfield, OH 44907  
Toll-Free Telephone No. 877-861-2772 Fax No. 614-417-0410 Email Address scott@naturalgassuppliers.org

(Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator Renewal) Page 1 of 3

## SECTION B - APPLICANT AUTHORITY AND AGGREGATION PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED

- B-1 Exhibit B-1 "Authorizing Ordinance," provide a copy of the adopted ordinance or resolution that reflects voter authorization to form a governmental aggregation program pursuant to Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B-2 Exhibit B-2 "Operation and Governance Plan," provide a copy of the applicant's plan for operation and governance of its aggregation program adopted pursuant to Sections 4929.26(C) or 4929.27(B) of the Revised Code. The Operation and Governance Plan should include all information pursuant to Rule 4901:1-28-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- B-3 Exhibit B-3 "Automatic Aggregation Disclosure Notification," if the aggregation program provides for automatic aggregation in accordance with Section 4929.26(A) of the Revised Code, provide a copy of the disclosure notification required by Section 4929.26(D) of the Revised Code.
- B-4 Exhibit B-4 "Opt-Out Notice," provide a draft copy of the applicant's opt out notice that comports with the Opt-Out disclosure requirements pursuant to Rule 4901:1-28-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code. *(Ten days prior to public dissemination, the applicant shall docket with the Commission, the finalized Opt-Out notice that provides or offers natural gas aggregation service.)*
- B-5 Exhibit B-5 "Experience," provide a detailed description of the applicant's experience and plan for: providing aggregation services (including contracting with consultants, broker/aggregators, retail natural gas suppliers); providing billing statements; responding to customer inquiries and complaints; and complying with all applicable provisions of Commission rules adopted pursuant to Section 4929.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and contained in Chapter 4901:1-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

*Darlene Juvera, Mexico Sup. Trustee*  
Applicant Signature and Title *Chair*

Sworn and subscribed before me this *14* day of *Oct* Month *2019* Year

*Charles L Ford*  
Signature of official administering oath

*Charles L Ford*  
Print Name and Title

My commission expires on

*Jan 6, 2020*



# The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation  
Affidavit Form  
(Version 1.07)

In the Matter of the Application of )

Monroe Township, Clermont County, OH )

for a Certificate or Renewal Certificate to Provide )  
Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Service in )  
Ohio. )

Case No. 17-2551 -GA-GAG

County of Clermont  
State of Ohio

Monroe Township

[Affiant], being duly sworn/affirmed, hereby states that:

- (1) The information provided within the certification or certification renewal application and supporting information is complete, true, and accurate to the best knowledge of affiant.
- (2) The applicant will timely file an annual report of its intrastate gross receipts and sales of hundred cubic feet of natural gas pursuant to Sections 4905.10(A), 4911.18(A), and 4929.23(B), Ohio Revised Code.
- (3) The applicant will timely pay any assessment made pursuant to Section 4905.10 or Section 4911.18(A), Ohio Revised Code.
- (4) Applicant will comply with all applicable rules and orders adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio pursuant to Title 49, Ohio Revised Code.
- (5) Applicant will cooperate with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and its staff in the investigation of any consumer complaint regarding any service offered or provided by the applicant.
- (6) Applicant will comply with Section 4929.21, Ohio Revised Code, regarding consent to the jurisdiction of the Ohio courts and the service of process.
- (7) Applicant will inform the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio of any material change to the information supplied in the certification or certification renewal application within 30 days of such material change, including any change in contact person for regulatory or emergency purposes or contact person for Staff use in investigating customer complaints.
- (8) Affiant further swears/affirms that:

Affiant Signature & Title

Darlene Jowers, Monroe Twp. Trustee Chair

Sworn and subscribed before me this 22 day of Oct.

Month 2019 Year

Signature of Official Administering Oath

Print Name and Title

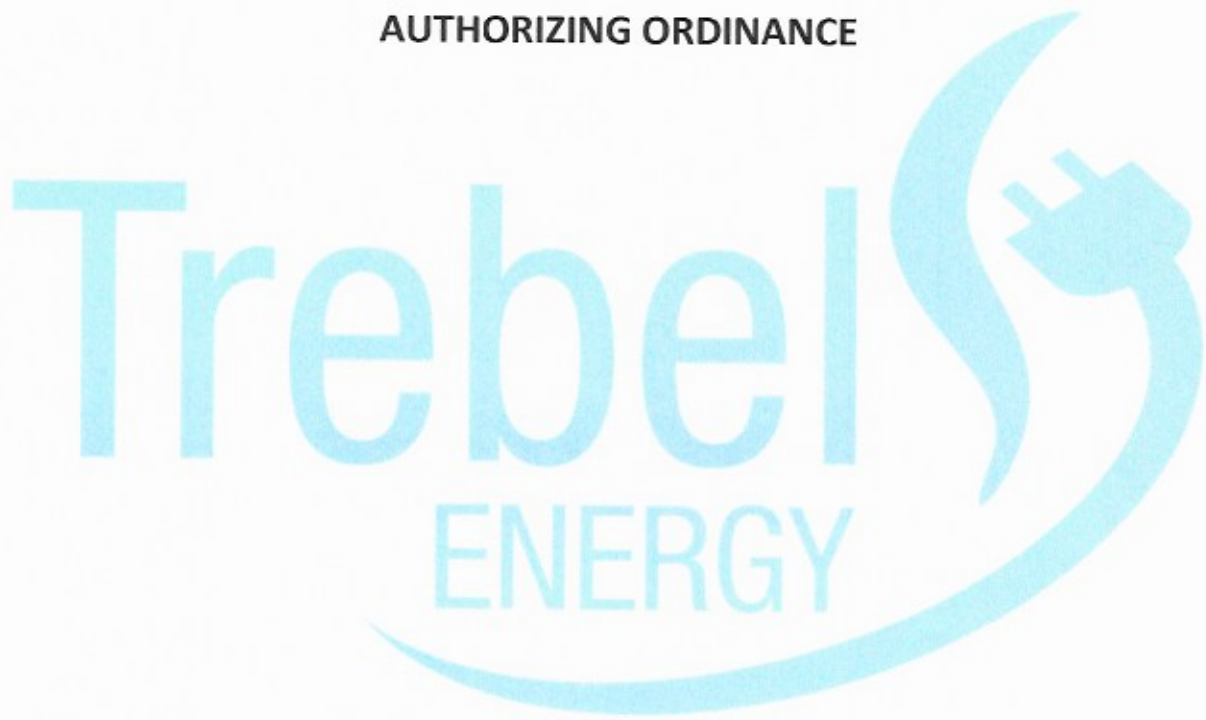
My commission expires on

Dec 4, 2020

(Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator Renewal) Page 3 of 3

**EXHIBIT B-1**

**AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**



**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-81**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OHIO REVISED CODE AND DIRECTING THE CLERMONT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Legislature enacted Chapter 4929, Ohio Revised Code, which authorized the legislative authorities of municipal corporations, townships, and unincorporated areas of the county, to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located within the respective jurisdictions and to enter into service agreements to facilitate the purchase and sale of the service for the retail natural gas loads; and

WHEREAS, such legislative authorities may exercise said authority individually or jointly with any other legislative authorities; and

WHEREAS, governmental aggregation provides an opportunity for residential and small business consumers to participate collectively in the potential benefits of natural gas service deregulation through lower natural gas rates, which would not otherwise be available to those customers individually; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Monroe Township ("Trustees") seeks to establish a governmental aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, for the residents, businesses and other natural gas consumers within the unincorporated areas of the Township, and may be in conjunction with any other legislative authorities in the State of Ohio, as permitted by law (the "Aggregation Program").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Monroe Township, Clermont County, Ohio that:

Section 1: The Board finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the unincorporated areas of the Township, its residents, businesses and other retail natural gas consumers located within the unincorporated areas of the Township to establish an Aggregation Program within the unincorporated areas of the Township. Provided that the Aggregation Program is approved by the electors of the Township pursuant to Section 2 of this Resolution, the Board is hereby authorized to automatically aggregate, in accordance with Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, the retail natural gas loads located within the unincorporated areas of the

Township, and, for that purpose, to enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of natural gas service. The Board may exercise such authority jointly with any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio to the full extent permitted by law, which may include use of an energy broker/consultant/aggregator, so long as the broker/consultant/aggregator is certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The aggregation, subject to Section 4929.26(A)(2)(a) and (b), Ohio Revised Code, and the opt-out rights described in Section 3 of this Resolution, will occur automatically for the retail natural gas loads located within the unincorporated areas of the Township and for which there is a choice of supplier, a rule or order has been adopted or issued under Chapter 4905, Ohio Revised Code, or an exemption granted under Sections 4929.04 to 4929.08, Ohio Revised Code.

Section 2: The Board of Elections of Clermont County is hereby directed to submit the following question to the electors of the Township at the election on November 7, 2017:

Shall the Board of Trustees of Monroe Township have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located within the unincorporated areas of the Township and for which there is a choice of supplier of that service, and for that purpose, enter into services agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas service, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt-out, in accordance with Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code and Resolution No. 2017-81 adopted by the Board of Trustees?

The [Administrator/Clerk/Fiscal Officer] of this Board is instructed to immediately file a certified copy of this Resolution and the proposed form of the ballot question with the Clermont County Board of Elections not less than ninety (90) days prior to the election to be held November 7, 2017. The Aggregation Program shall not take effect unless approved by a majority of the electors voting upon this Resolution and the Aggregation Program provided for herein at the election held pursuant to this Section 2 and Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: Upon approval of a majority of the electors voting at the election provided for in Section 2 of this Resolution, this Board, individually or jointly with

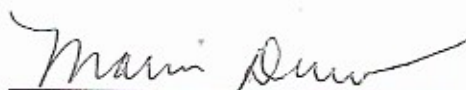
any other political subdivision, may develop a plan of operation and governance for the Aggregation Program. Before adopting such plan, this Board shall hold at least two public hearings on the plan. Before the first hearing, notice of the hearings shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the unincorporated areas of the Township. The notice shall summarize the plan and state the date, time, and place of each hearing. No plan adopted by this Board shall aggregate any retail natural gas load within the unincorporated areas of the Township unless it, in advance, clearly discloses to the person whose retail natural gas load is to be so aggregated that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program and will remain so enrolled unless the person affirmatively elects by a stated procedure not to be so enrolled. The disclosure shall state prominently the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of enrollment. The stated procedure shall allow any person enrolled in the Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt-out of the program at least every two years, without paying a switching fee. Any such person who opts out of the Aggregation Program pursuant to the stated procedure shall default to the natural gas company providing distribution service for the person's retail natural gas load, until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

Section 4: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that the deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Date: 7-13-2017

  
Trustee

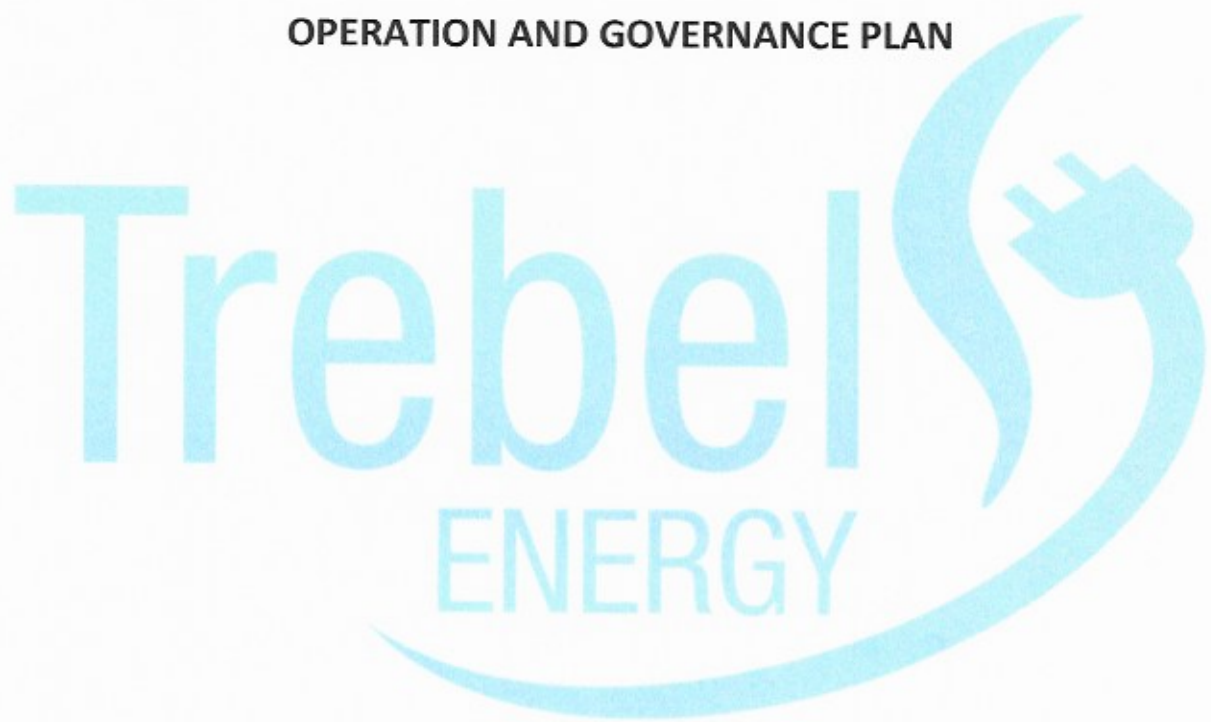
  
Trustee

  
Fiscal Officer

  
Trustee

**EXHIBIT B-2**

**OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE PLAN**



**MONROE TOWNSHIP**  
**NATURAL GAS**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION**  
**PROGRAM**  
  
***OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE***  
***PLAN***

Prepared by:



**Adopted on December 20, 2017**

## **I. Overview**

In November 2017, a majority of voters authorized Monroe Township (Township) to create a form of natural gas governmental aggregation known as “opt-out” aggregation and to create an opt-out natural gas governmental aggregation program (Aggregation Program) as provided under Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code. Under the opt-out Aggregation Program, all eligible natural gas consumers within the Township's limits will be automatically included in the Aggregation Program initially. However, all consumers will be given the opportunity to opt out of or decline participation in the Aggregation Program as detailed herein. Additionally, Participants who leave the Aggregation Program and wish to return, consumers who affirmatively choose to participate in the Aggregation Program, and consumers who move into the Township after the initial opt-out period will be afforded the opportunity to enroll in the Aggregation Program on an opt-in basis.

The purpose of the Aggregation Program is to represent local consumer interests in emerging competitive natural gas markets by combining natural gas needs within the Township's limits and negotiating affordable, reliable natural gas supplies and other related services on behalf of local consumers. The Township may pursue this purpose individually or in cooperation with other legislative authorities.

Many small commercial and residential natural gas consumers lack the knowledge, expertise, and bargaining power to effectively negotiate gas supply rates and services. A governmental aggregation program provides these consumers with an option for expert representation and the bargaining power of a larger, more diverse consumer group that may be more attractive to suppliers, allowing them to effectively participate in the competitive process and achieve the benefits of retail natural gas competition.

The Aggregation Program is designed to combine natural gas requirements in order to obtain the best natural gas supply rate available for those who participate in the Aggregation Program, and to gain other favorable economic and non-economic terms in supply agreements. The Township and its Consultant, Trebel LLC, will not buy and resell natural gas, but will act as agents for the Aggregation Program, representing the collective interests of the consumers in the Township to establish the terms and conditions for service. Through a negotiation process, the Township and its Consultant will develop a contract with a Competitive Retail Natural Gas Services Provider (CRNGS Provider) or Providers for firm, all-requirements natural gas service. The contract will run for a fixed term.

The Aggregation Program covers the natural gas supply portion only of a Participant's natural gas bill. The natural gas utility, Duke Energy of Ohio (Duke), will continue to deliver natural gas to Aggregation Program Participants' homes and businesses through its natural gas utility functions regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Aggregation Program Participants should continue to call Duke if they experience an issue with their natural gas service or if they have billing questions. The PUCO will continue to oversee natural gas safety and reliability service standards.

## **II. Process**

Under an opt-out aggregation program, each eligible consumer within the Township's boundaries initially will be automatically included in the Aggregation Program on a non-discriminatory basis. However, prior to actual enrollment, each consumer for whom natural gas rates, terms, and conditions have been negotiated will receive a notice from the Township detailing the Aggregation Program's rates, terms, and conditions.

Each consumer will then have a 21-day period to opt out of or decline to participate in the Aggregation Program without additional fees charged. Consumers opting out of the Aggregation Program will remain on Duke's Standard Choice Offer until such time as they select an approved CRNGS Provider. If the term of the Aggregation Program is longer than two years, a similar opt-out period will be offered every two years during which time consumers can leave the Aggregation Program without paying an early termination fee or penalty.

Participants who leave the Aggregation Program and wish to return, consumers who affirmatively choose to participate in the Aggregation Program, and consumers who move into the Township after the initial opt-out period will be afforded the opportunity to enroll in the Aggregation Program on an opt-in basis. However, the Township cannot guarantee rates, terms, and conditions to consumers enrolling in the Aggregation Program after the initial 21-day opt-out period. Opt-in Participants enrolling in the Aggregation Program will execute a contract with the selected CRNGS Provider delineating the rates, terms, and conditions prior to being placed into the Aggregation Program. Consumers may contact the Township's Consultant or CRNGS Provider to obtain current enrollment information and applicable contract.

Participants who relocate within the Township's limits and retain the same natural gas account number will be allowed to continue in the Aggregation Program at their new location under the same terms and conditions as at their former location, provided the utility rate classification is the same at both locations, and subject to any switching fees imposed by the utility.

The Township, through its Consultant, will negotiate a contract with a CRNGS Provider to implement and operate the Aggregation Program. Contracts for natural gas supply and other related services will be negotiated, recommended, and monitored for compliance by the Township's Consultant on behalf of local consumers.

The Township developed this Plan of Operation and Governance in compliance with Ohio law regarding governmental aggregation programs and opt-out governmental aggregation of natural gas consumers.

After adoption of this Plan of Operation and Governance by resolution or ordinance pursuant to Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Township will file such Plan with the PUCO and will likewise maintain its certification as a governmental aggregator

with the PUCO and its registration as a governmental aggregator with the applicable natural gas utility.

### **III. Plan of Operation and Governance**

#### **A. Definitions**

1. **Aggregation:** Combining the natural gas requirements of multiple customers for the purpose of supplying or arranging for the supply of competitive retail natural gas service to those customers.
2. **Aggregation Program Manager or Consultant:** The individual or company retained by the Township to oversee the operation and management of the Township's Aggregation Program.
3. **Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service (CRNGS):** A component of retail natural gas service that is deemed competitive under the Ohio Revised Code or pursuant to an order of the PUCO. This includes, but is not limited to, the services provided by competitive retail natural gas service providers, marketers, aggregators, and governmental aggregators.
4. **Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service Provider (CRNGS Provider):** A person or entity certified by the PUCO and registered with natural gas utility which supplies or offers to supply competitive natural gas supply/service over a natural gas utility's transmission and/or distribution system.
5. **Consumer:** Any person or entity that is an end user of natural gas and is connected to any part of the applicable natural gas utility's transmission or distribution system within the Township's boundaries.
6. **Delivery Charge:** Charge imposed by the natural gas utility for delivering natural gas to a consumer's home or business. The charge includes meter reading, billing, maintaining system reliability and responding during emergencies and outages.
7. **Distribution:** The delivery of natural gas to a consumer's home or business through a natural gas utility's infrastructure and other equipment. Natural gas utilities' distribution system operations are regulated by the PUCO.
8. **Natural Gas Supply Charge:** All charges related to the supply of natural gas by the CRNGS Provider.

9. **Governmental Aggregator:** An incorporated Township or city, township, or county acting as an aggregator for the provision of a CRNGS under authority conferred by Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code.
10. **Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC):** OCC was established by the Ohio Legislature in 1976 to represent the interests of Ohio's residential utility customers served by investor-owned utilities in proceedings before the PUCO, other regulatory agencies, and in the courts.
11. **Participant:** An eligible consumer enrolled in the Township's Aggregation Program.
12. **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO):** The state agency charged with assuring that all residential and business consumers have access to adequate, safe, and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices.
13. **Standard Choice Offer:** The natural gas service a consumer will receive from its default natural gas service provider if the customer does not choose a CRNGS Provider.

#### **B. Aggregation Program Management**

Due to the complexity of the natural gas utility industry, the Township has entered into an Energy Management and Consulting Agreement with the Consultant to provide the necessary expertise to represent the Township's interests in legislative and regulatory matters and to serve as the Aggregation Program Manager. Such services may include, but are not limited to, overall management of the Aggregation Program, facilitating consumer enrollment and the opt-out process, assisting with consumer education, addressing consumer questions and concerns, providing reports on program operation, negotiating CRNGS Provider contracts, providing analysis and review of the Township's natural gas service usage and costs, and providing consulting services to aggregate and procure natural gas and/or related services, products, and accounts, and representing the Township in dealings with CRNGS Providers, the Ohio Legislature, the PUCO, and the OCC.

The CRNGS Provider's rates will include an administrative fee, which shall be paid to the Township or its Consultant to fund the implementation and administration of the Township's Aggregation Program, including consulting fees. The administrative fee may be adjusted annually to cover the Township's cost of administering the program.

Oversight of the Aggregation Program will be the responsibility of the Township's Consultant, in consultation with the Township. The Consultant, in consultation with the Township, will have the authority to develop specifications

for the Aggregation Program. The CRNGS Provider will work under the direction of the Consultant with the advice and counsel of the Township.

**C. Selection of a CRNGS Provider and Contract**

Neither the Township nor its Consultant will buy and resell natural gas to Aggregation Program Participants. The Township, through its Consultant, will negotiate with potential CRNGS providers to provide affordable, reliable natural gas supply, and other related services on behalf of local consumers. The Township will consider cooperating with other governmental aggregators if it appears beneficial to do so.

Through a negotiation process driven by its Consultant, the Township will develop a contract with a CRNGS Provider or Providers for firm, all-requirements service. Each Aggregation Program Participant shall be individually bound by the terms and conditions found in the opt-out notice and the contract and shall be solely responsible for payment and performance. The Township will contract only with a CRNGS Provider that possesses, at a minimum, the following criteria:

1. Is certified as a CRNGS Provider by the PUCO;
2. Is registered with the applicable natural gas utility;
3. Has entered into a service or supply agreement with the applicable natural gas utility as established by the PUCO;
4. Will maintain a database of Aggregation Program Participants, which will include all necessary information for the CRNGS Provider, Township, and Consultant to serve and manage the Aggregation Program;
5. Meets standards of creditworthiness established by the Township at the Township's discretion;
6. Has or has arranged for a customer call center capable of effectively handling Participants' questions, concerns and disputes in a timely manner using a toll-free telephone number;
7. Holds the Township harmless from any financial obligations arising from offering natural gas and/or related services to Aggregation Program Participants; and
9. Will assist the Township and its Consultant with the filing of reports required by Ohio law and the PUCO.

The CRNGS Provider's contract will run for a fixed term and contain all pricing, charges, switching fees, etc. in clear and easily understandable terms.

The Township will require any CRNGS Provider to disclose any subcontractors that it uses in fulfillment of the services described herein.

**D. Natural Gas Supply Charges**

The Township, through its Consultant, will aggregate natural gas requirements within the Township's applicable boundaries (including Township facilities if appropriate) and negotiate mutually agreeable pricing, terms, and conditions of service with the CRNGS Provider for affordable, reliable natural gas supplies and other related services on behalf of Participants. The Township may pursue this purpose individually or in cooperation with other entities. CRNGS Providers will supply information on natural gas supply charges by utility customer rate classification or other appropriate pricing category as approved by the Township. All natural gas supply charges will be fully and prominently disclosed in consumer enrollment materials, the opt-out notice, and will be subject to approval by the Township.

**E. Duke's Regulated Customer Classifications and Rates**

The natural gas utility, Duke, assigns customer rate classifications, character of service, and associated regulated rates subject to PUCO-approved tariffs. In addition to the CRNGS Provider's supply charges, consumers will continue to be billed for the natural gas utility's service and delivery charges. Although the Township may participate in regulatory proceedings and represent the interests of consumers regarding these regulated rates, it cannot assign or alter customer rate classifications.

It is the intention of the Township to offer its Aggregation Program to all eligible customers for which the CRNGS Provider can offer potential savings and/or other benefits compared to the natural gas utility's avoidable costs or price to compare.

**F. Developing the Pool of Eligible Accounts**

The Township or its Consultant shall request the natural gas utility to provide current customer information for all customers within the Township's boundaries. The provided information shall include the following:

- Customer name;
- Customer service address;
- Customer billing address;
- Natural gas utility customer account number;
- Natural gas utility rate code;
- Natural gas utility PIPP code;
- Customer usage data;
- Whether or not a customer has a present contract with a CRNGS Provider; and
- Whether or not a customer has a special service contract with the natural gas utility.

From this information, the Township, its Consultant, and the CRNGS Provider will develop the pool of customers eligible to participate in the Aggregation Program, for which the CRNGS Provider can offer potential savings and/or other benefits

**G. Initial Consumer Notification and Enrollment**

After contract approval by the Township and its Consultant, the CRNGS Provider will work with the Township, its Consultant, and the natural gas utility to identify all eligible consumers within the Township's boundaries.

All eligible consumers will be notified in writing of the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of participation in the Aggregation Program and that they will be automatically enrolled in the Aggregation Program unless they opt out of, or decline participation in, the Aggregation Program. Consumers will be given 21 days from the postmark date of the opt-out letter in which to notify the Township that they wish to opt out of, or decline participation in, the Aggregation Program without penalty fees. Consumers opting out of the program will remain on the applicable utility's Standard Choice Offer until such time as they select an approved CRNGS Provider.

Consumers may opt out of the Aggregation Program by returning a post card or form, by calling a toll free number, or by other means as provided in the opt-out letter.

After the initial 21-day opt-out period has elapsed, all eligible consumers who have not notified the Township of their desire to opt out of the Aggregation Program will be enrolled automatically by the CRNGS Provider at the earliest date practicable. No other affirmative steps will be required of consumers in order to be included in the Aggregation Program as Participants.

Consumers ineligible to participate in the Aggregation Program include those customer accounts that are located outside the Township's boundaries, customers who are already in contract with a CRNGS provider, nonresidential customers who qualify as "mercantile customers" under PUCO rules, Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) consumers or consumers taking service under a similar or successor program, and consumers whose accounts are not current with their present natural gas utility, as appropriate. The aggregation of PIPP customers is under the direction of the State of Ohio.

Eligible consumers enrolled in the Aggregation Program by the CRNGS Provider will receive a letter from their natural gas utility notifying them of their enrollment. Consumers will have seven calendar days to notify the natural gas utility of any objection to their enrollment in the Aggregation Program. The applicable natural gas utility will notify the CRNGS Provider of consumer objections or any reason that a consumer was not enrolled in the Aggregation Program and the CRNGS

Provider will maintain a list of customers who have opted out under the Aggregation Program rules.

The CRNGS Provider will report to the Township the status of the Aggregation Program enrollment on at least a quarterly basis.

#### **H. Leaving the Aggregation Program**

In addition to the initial opt-out period described above, each Participant will be given an opportunity to opt out of the Aggregation Program every two years without paying an early termination fee or penalty as required by law and PUCO rules. Consumers who choose to opt out of the Aggregation Program at any time other than during the initial 21-day opt-out period or during subsequent opt-out periods offered by the Township may be subject to an early termination fee and may not be served under the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to other customers served by the natural gas utility.

Any consumer who opts out of the Aggregation Program during the initial opt-out period or subsequent opt-out periods will be returned to their natural gas utility's Standard Choice Offer until such time as the consumer selects another approved CRNGS Provider.

#### **I. CRNGS Provider Responsibilities**

The CRNGS Provider will build and maintain a database of all Aggregation Program Participants. The database will include the name, address, utility service identification number, and other pertinent information as agreed upon by the Township, Consultant, and the CRNGS Provider. Such information may include the CRNGS Provider's account number (if different from utility account number), rate code, rider code (if applicable), most recent 12 months of natural gas consumption, and meter reading cycle. The Aggregation Program database will be updated at least quarterly. The Township and/or its Consultant will have the right to access information in the database for purposes of auditing.

The CRNGS Provider will provide and maintain the required computer system to effectively process Aggregation Program enrollments, opt outs, billing, etc., with the applicable natural gas utility.

The CRNGS Provider will provide a local or toll-free telephone number for Participant questions or concerns about enrollment, opt-out provisions, billing, and other Aggregation Program issues.

The CRNGS Provider will develop internal controls and processes to help ensure that the Township remains in good standing as a governmental aggregator that complies with all laws, rules, and regulations regarding the same as they may be periodically amended.

**J. New and Returning Participants**

Participants who leave the Aggregation Program and wish to return, consumers who affirmatively choose to participate in the Aggregation Program, and consumers who move into the Township after the initial opt-out period will be afforded the opportunity to enroll in the Aggregation Program on an opt-in basis. However, the Township cannot guarantee rates, terms, and conditions to consumers enrolling in the Aggregation Program after the initial 21-day opt-out period. Opt-in Participants enrolling in the Aggregation Program will execute a contract with the selected CRNGS Provider delineating the rates, terms, and conditions prior to being placed into the Aggregation Program. Consumers may contact the Township's Consultant or CRNGS Provider to obtain current enrollment information and applicable contract.

Participants who relocate within the Township limits and retain the same natural gas utility account number will be allowed to continue in the Aggregation Program at their new location under the same terms and conditions as at their former location, provided the natural gas utility rate classification is the same at both locations, and subject to any switching fees imposed by the consumer's natural gas utility. The CRNGS Provider will comply with all local, state and federal rules and regulations regarding discontinuing service to Aggregation Program Participants.

**K. Billing**

At this time, the Township plans to utilize the applicable natural gas utility's consolidated billing service in which each consumer account receives one bill itemizing the CRNGS Provider's natural gas supply charges and the natural gas utility's delivery and other PUCO-approved charges. The billing statement will be consistent with applicable PUCO rules and regulations. The Township will consider other billing options, including CRNGS Provider consolidated or dual billing, if and when they become available and if it appears advantageous to do so.

**L. Questions and Concerns**

The Aggregation Program only impacts natural gas supply. The applicable natural gas utility will continue to deliver the natural gas purchased through the Aggregation Program to Participants' homes and businesses through its transmission and distribution system.

Participants with questions or concerns regarding service delivery or safety, such as a service problem or the odor of gas, should continue to contact Duke. Meter reading or other billing questions should also be directed to Duke. Questions regarding Aggregation Program enrollment and opting out should be directed to the CRNGS Provider. Any other general questions regarding the Aggregation Program should be directed to the Township's Consultant.

Question or Concern	Contact	Phone Number
Service interruption or safety concern	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Connect/disconnect service	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Meter reading/billing	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Enrollment in or opting out of Aggregation Program	CRNGS Provider OR Township's Consultant, Trebel LLC	1-888-XXX-XXXX 1-877-861-2772
Aggregation Program Questions or Concerns	Township's Consultant, Trebel LLC	1-877-861-2772
Unresolved disputes	PUCO	1-800-686-7826 (voice) 1-800-686-1570 (TDD)

#### **M. Reliability and Indemnification of Consumers**

Natural gas service reliability is essential to Aggregation Program Participants. The Township will strive to provide high-quality service and reliability through provisions of the CRNGS Provider contract, through traditional proceedings related to your natural gas utility's regulated transmission and distribution services, and through direct discussions with your natural gas utility concerning specific or general problems related to quality and reliability of its transmission and distribution system.

If for any reason a CRNGS Provider fails to provide uninterrupted service, the Township and its Consultant will attempt to acquire an alternative natural gas supply. If this attempt fails, Participants will default to the applicable natural gas utility's Standard Choice Offer. In no case will Participants be without natural gas as a result of the CRNGS Provider's failure to provide the supply of natural gas. The Township and its Consultant will seek to minimize this risk by contracting only with reputable CRNGS Providers that have demonstrated reliable service. The Township, through its Consultant, also intends to include conditions in its CRNGS Provider contract that will indemnify Participants against risks or problems with natural gas supply service.

**N. Participant Rights**

All Aggregation Program Participants shall enjoy the protections of law afforded to consumers as they currently exist or as they may be amended from time to time. These include rights to question billings or service quality or service practices. All consumers shall also enjoy the individual right to decline participation in the Aggregation Program subject to the terms and conditions contained herein.

All Aggregation Program Participants will be treated equitably. They will be guaranteed the rights to raise and resolve disputes with the CRNGS Provider, be provided all required notices and information, and always retain the right to opt out of the Aggregation Program or switch suppliers subject to the terms and conditions contained herein.

All consumers within the Township's boundaries shall be eligible to participate in the Aggregation Program on a non-discriminatory basis, subject to the terms and conditions described herein, Ohio law, PUCO rules and regulations governing natural gas service, and the applicable natural gas utility's approved tariffs.

Service under the Aggregation Program shall be available to all eligible customer classes. CRNGS Provider contracts shall also contain non-discrimination provisions to ensure the equitable treatment of all customer classes.

Low-income consumers shall remain subject to all provisions of Ohio law and PUCO rules and regulations as they may be amended from time to time regarding their rights to return to the applicable natural gas utility's Standard Choice Offer and participation in the Aggregation Program.

**O. Participant Responsibilities**

Aggregation Program Participants are subject to the same standards and responsibilities as other natural gas consumers, including payment of billings and access to metering and other equipment necessary to carry out utility operations.

**P. Termination of the Aggregation Program**

The Aggregation Program may be discontinued upon the termination or expiration of the CRNGS Provider contract without any extension, renewal, or subsequent contract being executed. In the event of Aggregation Program termination, each Participant will receive written notification of the termination at least 60 days prior to such program termination and will have the option to return to the applicable natural gas utility's Standard Choice Offer or select another approved CRNGS Provider.

**EXHIBIT B-3**  
**AUTOMATIC AGGREGATION DISCLOSURE**

**&**

**EXHIBIT B-4**  
**OPT-OUT NOTICE**

**Trebel**  
**ENERGY**

1-1-12345-0 -  
TEST CUSTOMER  
6100 EMERALD PKWY  
DUBLIN OH 43016

October 26, 2018

**Government Entity Natural Gas Government Aggregation Program with IGS Energy**

Dear Monroe Township Resident or Small Business Owner,

Monroe Township is providing you with the opportunity to join with other residents and small businesses in the Township's natural gas aggregation program. In government aggregation Township officials bring together citizens to gain group-buying power for the purchase of natural gas from a retail supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Township voters approved this program in November 2017.

During the past few months, we have researched options for competitive natural gas pricing for you. We have chosen IGS Energy (IGS) of Dublin, Ohio to provide you with natural gas for the term of January 2019 through your December 2020 billing period.

**You will be automatically enrolled in the Township's Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program unless you choose to "opt out"**—that is, affirmatively choose not to participate. If you wish to be excluded from the program you must return the enclosed "Opt-Out" form by **November 16, 2018**. Otherwise, you will be included in the aggregation program. If you do not opt out at this time, you will receive a notice at least once every 2 years asking if you wish to remain in the program. However, you do not need to do anything to participate. There is no cost for the enrollment and you will not be charged a switching fee.

IGS Energy has offered to provide natural gas to Aggregation Members at a monthly variable rate equal to: the NYMEX month end close multiplied by the current BTU conversion factor plus \$0.069 per CCF through the December 2020 billing period (refer to "Price" section in accompanying Terms and Conditions for full details of pricing). The township has also negotiated the ability to secure a fixed rate to provide price certainty should a favorable opportunity present itself. In addition, there are no early termination penalties if you decide to leave this offer.

After you become a participant in the Township's natural gas aggregation program, Duke will send a letter confirming your selection of IGS Energy as your natural gas provider. As required by law, this letter will inform you of your option to cancel your enrollment with IGS Energy within seven business days of its postmark date. To remain in the Township's government aggregation program, you don't need to take any action when this letter arrives. You will be automatically enrolled.

Duke will always be responsible for ensuring the distribution of natural gas to your premises and will continue to maintain your meter, the monthly reads and the lines that deliver natural gas to your home. Your natural gas bill will also continue to come from Duke. The only change you'll notice is the name of your new gas supplier, IGS Energy, included on your bill. If you have any questions, please call IGS Energy toll free at 1-877-353-0162, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Regards,

*Monroe Township Trustees and IGS Energy*

*P.S. Remember to return the "Opt-Out" form only if you do not want to participate in the Monroe Township Natural Gas Aggregation Program.*

If the home or small business for which you have received this letter is not located within the Monroe Township limits, you have received this letter in error. Please contact IGS Energy at 1-877-353-0162 to be removed from the aggregation list.

**You are not eligible to participate in this program if you are currently enrolled in the PIPP program.**

11 digit account number as it appears on your Duke Energy natural gas bill.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

I wish to opt out of the Monroe Township Natural Gas Aggregation Program.

(Check box to opt out.)

☐

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**Term:** The community's opt-out government aggregation program (the "Program") and my service with Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. (elsewhere referred to as "IGS Energy") and the consumer will be referred to in the first person, "my", "me" or "I" as my supplier on the Program will begin within one to two billing cycles after my enrollment or rate change is confirmed with the utility company and shall continue through my December 2020 utility billing cycle, unless notified otherwise. IGS Energy will supply the commodity portion of my natural gas and Duke Energy will be my Natural Gas Distribution Company ("NGDC"). I can contact the IGS Energy choice department by phone at 1-877-353-0162, by fax at 1-800-584-4839, in writing at P.O. Box 9060, Dublin, OH 43017, or through their web site at <http://www.igsenergy.com>.

**Regulatory:** The NGDC's choice program and the government aggregation for my community are subject to ongoing Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) jurisdiction, and I understand that if the choice program or this Program is terminated, this Agreement may be terminated, without penalty to either party.

**Price:** My price will be calculated each billing cycle by multiplying the then current BTU conversion factor for my NGDC times the applicable weighted NYMEX price(s), as determined and agreed to by both my community and IGS, plus \$0.069 per CCF, which does not include applicable taxes and NGDC charges, through my December, 2020 billing cycle. If the NYMEX price of gas is not otherwise determined by my community and IGS then the NYMEX price, to which the adder shall apply, will automatically be determined by the closing commodity natural gas futures price of gas, on the fifteenth (15th) day of the preceding month, for each corresponding utility billing month. I am responsible for applicable taxes and all charges assessed by the NGDC for gas transportation and all other applicable charges and adjustments by NGDC for delivery of gas. The adder is effective unless a fixed price is established by my Community, in which case the fixed price will be the effective price for the effective periods. IGS may at its option, at any time, lower the price effective for a portion of or the remainder of the term of this agreement without notice to me.

**Renewal:** If my community's governmental aggregation continues, at least every two years from the establishment of this Program the government aggregator or its supplier shall provide me notice of my right to opt out of the aggregation without penalty. The process for providing me with notice of my right to opt-out shall include a provision for me to return a post card or similar notice to the governmental aggregator or the supplier. For renewals, I will have at least twenty-one days from the post mark date on the written notice to choose to opt out of the Program, and my return post card or notice that is post marked before the opt out deadline has elapsed shall count as timely sent. The notice will follow the procedures established for the initial opt-out notice set forth in this rule and shall prominently disclose to customers all changes to the terms and conditions associated with the aggregation. I am entitled to opt-out of the government aggregation program at least every two years from the commencement date of the Program, without a penalty. If I am in the Program when the Program is renewed and I do not exercise my right to opt-out, I will be continued in the Program.

**Rescission Period:** I will have 21 days from the post mark date of my opt-out notice to exercise my right to opt-out of my community's Program. If I do not opt-out of the Program, IGS Energy will submit my enrollment to the NGDC and if I am new to the Program or a new customer to IGS Energy I will have 7 business days from the post-mark date of the confirmation notice sent by the NGDC to rescind my enrollment. I can rescind my enrollment by contacting the NGDC in writing or by telephone at the number provided on the confirmation notice within that 7 day period. Otherwise, I can cancel this agreement as detailed below.

**Cancellation:** Either party can cancel this Agreement within the first 30 days of enrollment with IGS Energy by providing the other with notice of cancellation, with no cancellation fee. At any other time either party can cancel this agreement with notice to the other, without a cancellation fee. Cancellation notices provided after the NGDC deadline may result in additional month(s) of service beyond the cancellation notice date, as the effective date of all cancellations are subject to NGDC guidelines and I agree to continue to pay for my service with IGS Energy for all periods billed with IGS Energy. I understand that if I switch my service to another supplier or back to the NGDC an NGDC switching fee may apply under the NGDC's tariff and the NGDC may charge a price other than the NGDC commodity rate.

**Contact and Dispute Resolutions:** In the event of a billing dispute or issues regarding volume or metering, I should contact the NGDC at the number listed on their bill. For other questions or concerns about pricing, I can contact the IGS Energy choice department by phone weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST at 1-877-353-0162, by fax 1-800-584-4839, in writing at P.O. Box 9060, Dublin, OH 43017, or through their web site at [www.igsenergy.com](http://www.igsenergy.com). Also, I can contact IGS Energy through e-mail at [choice@igsenergy.com](mailto:choice@igsenergy.com). If my questions or concerns are not resolved after I have called IGS Energy, or for general utility information, residential and business customers may call the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) toll free at 1-800-688-7826 or for TDD/TTY toll free at 1-800-688-1570, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays, or visit the PUCO website at [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov). The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) represents residential utility customers in matters before the PUCO. The OCC can be contacted toll free at 1-877-742-5622 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays or visit [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).

**Billing:** For my convenience I will receive only one bill, which will be issued by the NGDC each month and will contain IGS Energy's gas price plus applicable taxes and all of the NGDC's transportation and other applicable charges, including any late fees assessed by the NGDC. I agree to continue to pay the NGDC for the entire gas bill under the NGDC's payment terms and conditions. If I pay under the budget bill payment plan, I understand that this service is available and will remain available. IGS Energy reserves the right to issue an invoice to me directly, such invoice would contain IGS Energy's gas price and may also contain applicable taxes and all of the NGDC's transportation and other applicable charges. If IGS Energy invoices me directly and I fail to pay within the terms specified on the invoice(s) a late fee of 1.5% per month on all past-due amounts will apply. If IGS Energy bills me directly for services provided, IGS Energy may terminate this Agreement with fourteen (14) days written notice should I fail to pay the bill or meet any agreed-upon payment arrangements. If I fail to pay my invoices timely which include IGS Energy charges, the NGDC may disconnect my service, according to tariff guidelines. I may request, at no charge, up to 24 months of my payment history for services rendered by IGS Energy. Other than for operation, maintenance, assignment and transfer of my account or, where IGS Energy is performing billing services, or for commercial collections, IGS Energy will not disclose my account number to any other third party without my affirmative written consent or electronic authorization or pursuant to a court or Commission order and that, other than for credit checking and credit reporting, if IGS Energy is performing billing services, IGS Energy will not disclose my social security number without my affirmative written consent or pursuant to court order. I authorize IGS Energy to obtain my billing payment and usage history from the NGDC.

**Assignment:** This contract is assignable by IGS Energy without my consent subject only to required regulatory approvals. IGS will use its best efforts to give the NGDC and me thirty (30) days written notice prior to any assignment.

**Moving/Termination:** I understand that this contract will automatically terminate, without penalty, if I relocate outside my community aggregation Program boundaries, or if the requested service location is not served by the NGDC. Also, I understand that I have the right to terminate this Agreement, without penalty, if I relocate inside the NGDC service territory and the NGDC does not have contract portability and if IGS Energy agrees to allow me to continue. In such instances, I would have to enroll with IGS Energy under a new agreement, as this Agreement is only valid for opt-out government aggregation. I understand that I am not entitled to the pricing or service from IGS Energy hereunder at my new location until such time as the NGDC accepts my enrollment with IGS Energy at my new location and/or transfers my contract to my new location and that the pricing hereunder will not be extended for additional months that I was not with IGS Energy, unless agreed to in writing by IGS Energy. Except as provided in this Agreement, if IGS Energy returns me to the NGDC's sales service, this Agreement will terminate without penalty to me.

**Eligibility / Limitation of Liability / Jurisdiction:** This Agreement is for residential and small commercial customers that use 5,000 CCF a year and are otherwise eligible for opt-out government aggregation programs. IGS Energy and my community shall use its best efforts to ensure that only eligible customer accounts within its governmental boundaries and customers who have not opted out are included in its aggregation. If ineligible accounts, accounts from outside of the governmental aggregator's governmental boundaries, or accounts for customers who opted out of the aggregation are switched to the governmental aggregation, as soon as IGS Energy is aware of such event the governmental aggregator (or IGS Energy) will promptly contact the natural gas company to have the customer switched back to the customer's former supplier, and will pay any switching fee imposed by the NGDC for such switch. Participation in the program is subject to the rules of the NGDC and the rules established in Ohio Administrative Code 4901:1-28. Customers are sometimes terminated or not enrolled in the program due to NGDC issues. In such instances, I can contact the NGDC to correct the problem and be reinstated or enrolled in the Program. Regardless of the reason for termination, in no case will the original term be extended for months that I was unable to participate nor will IGS Energy have any liability for any early termination or for any months that I was unable to participate in the Program. IGS Energy assumes no liability or responsibility for losses or consequential damages arising from items associated with the NGDC including, but not limited to: operations and maintenance of their system; any interruption of service; termination of service; or deterioration of service, nor does IGS Energy assume responsibility or liability for damages arising from any in-home or building damages and in addition shall not be responsible for any indirect, consequential, special or punitive damages whether arising under contract, tort (including negligence or strict liability) or any other legal theory. The parties agree that if the customer is unable to resolve its issues through the PUCO as detailed under "Contract and Dispute Resolution" above or if suit is filed, any legal action involving this Agreement shall be brought only in a court of the State of The Parties shall not pursue any claims arising under this Agreement on a class or other representative basis and will not seek to coordinate or consolidate any legal actions arising under this Agreement with any other proceeding. The parties agree that this Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of Ohio, regardless of Ohio's choice of law provisions.

#### NOTICE

Return the "Opt-Out" form only if you do not want to participate in the Monroe Township Natural Gas Aggregation Program.

Return by **November 16, 2018** to:

Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program

PO Box 9060

Dublin, Ohio 43017-0960

## Exhibit B-5 "Experience"

### Applicant's Experience and Plan for Providing Aggregation Services:

Due to the complexity of governmental aggregation, the applicant Monroe Township "Township" will rely on the energy consulting services of Trebel, LLC to assist them in designing, implementing and maintaining the Program. Trebel, LLC is a PUCO certified Electric Aggregator/Broker (certificate #14-867E and Natural Gas Aggregator/Broker (certificate #12-267G). Trebel, LLC has experience in managing numerous governmental programs in the Ohio market.

Below is a detailed summary of services being provided:

Broker shall provide energy related Services, including but not limited to the following:

- Assist with the preparation and submission of Governmental Aggregation application for the Public Utilities of Ohio ("PUCO");
- Assist with preparation of resolutions, public notices, Plan of Operations and Governance, and communications with residents;
- Evaluate existing electric and or natural gas costs and rates and provide market expertise;
- Where applicable prepare Request of Proposal (RFP);
- Assist with usage data collection and verification;
- Pre-screen all energy suppliers and act as point of contact;
- Work directly with suppliers to meet all requirements related to local governments aggregation plan. This includes preparation of all notifications required to be sent to participants;
- Act as an exclusive sourcing agent with the suppliers;
- Assist with preparation of ongoing reporting requirements of the PUCO; and

Trebel, LLC is a national energy consulting company serving commercial, governmental, small business and residential clients primarily throughout the deregulated energy markets. Our primary mission is to help clients by lowering their energy supply cost, increase site efficiency and leverage state and federal incentive opportunities.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**12/20/2019 11:13:09 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-2551-GA-GAG**

Summary: Application Renewal electronically filed by Mr. Scott Belcastro on behalf of  
MONROE TOWNSHIP CLERMONT COUNTY OH