

June 30, 2020

Chief of Docketing Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Docketing Division, 11th Floor 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

RE: Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator Certification Renewal Application for the Village of Brewster (Case Number 02-1722-GA-GAG)

Attached please find the renewal application for certification as a Governmental Aggregator of Natural Gas for the Village of Brewster.

Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. is providing aggregation consulting services to the Village of Brewster and is filing this application on their behalf.

If you have any additional needs or questions, please call me at 330-995-2675 or email me at <u>aburns@naturalgas-electric.com</u>

Sincerely,

Andrew Burns

Andrew Burns Government Aggregation Manager

Attachments



PUCO USE ONLY – Version 1.07 OhioPublic Utilities
CommissionPUCO USE ONLY - Version 1.07
Date ReceivedPublic Utilities
Date ReceivedRenewal Certification
Number **ORIGINAL GAG Case Number** 02 - 1722 - 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	Village of Brewste	er				
Address	302 Wabash Ave. S, Brewster OH 44613					
Telephone No.	330-767-4214		Web site address	brewsterohio.com		
Current PUCO Ce	ertificate Number	02-016G(9)	Effec	ctive Dates 8/16/2018 - 8/16/2020		
				4		

A-2 Contact person for regulatory or emergency matters:

Name	Andrew Burns	Т	Title	Govt. Agg Manag	er, Independent Energy Consultant
Business	s Address 215 W Garfield Rd, S	TE 210, Aurora OH 44202			
Telepho	ne No. 330-995-2675	Fax No. 800-574-4508		Email Address	aburns@naturalgas-electric.com

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

Name	Andrew Burns		Title	Govt. Agg Manager, Independent Energy Consu	t: +
Business a	ddress 215 W Garfield Rd, S	STE 210, Aurora OH 44202			
Telephone	No. 330-995-2675	Fax No. 800-574-4508		Email Address aburns@naturalgas-electric.com	Ĺ

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

Customer service address 215 W Garfield Rd, STE 210, Aurora OH 44202

Toll-Free Telephone No.	888-862-6060	Fax No. ⁸⁰⁰⁻⁵⁷⁴⁻⁴⁵⁰⁸	Email Address	info@naturalgas-electric.com
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(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** <u>Exhibit B-1 "Authorizing Ordinance</u>," 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** <u>Exhibit B-3 "Automatic Aggregation Disclosure Notification</u>," 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** <u>Exhibit B-5 "Experience</u>," 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.

Applicant Signature and Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this 24th day of June Month 2020

arin R. King

Signature of official administering oath

Print Name and Title

Karin K. King

Mothad Miller, Administrator

My commission expires on

18 March 2024

Year





The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Affidavit Form (Version 1.07)

In the Matter of the Application of)
Village of Brewster) Case No. 02-1722 -GA-GAG
for a Certificate or Renewal Certificate to Provide	Case No. $02-1722$ -GA-GAG
Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Service in Ohio.)
County of Stark State of Ohio	
Mike Miller, Village Administrator	[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 sayeth naught.

Affiant Signature & Title Michael Miller, Administrator	
Sworn and subscribed before me this 26^{Th} day of 5000 Month 2020 Year	
Karin K. King	
Signature of Official Administering Oath Print Name and Title	
My commission expires on 18 March 2024	
(Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator Renewal) Page 3 of 3	

Village Of Brewster

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RECORD OF ORDINANCES

	Depicen Legel Hienk, Inf-	an a	I'mm Miz, Kilpi,I
	Ordinance No31-2002	Passed July 8,	20_02
	GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL	IZING ALL ACTION NECESSAR GAS AGGREGATION PROGRA TO LAW AND DECLARING AN	M WITH OPT-OUT
·	aggregate customers within their jur	sed Code (ORC) Section 4929.26, mu isdiction in order to secure lower cost collective purchasing of natural gas so	natural pas services
thet	provisions, according to law, for the	stablish a governmental aggregation p residents, businesses and other nature is service and distribution service from	l cas consumers in the
262	WHEREAS, the ballot question, and majority of the vote cast at the May,	horized by Ordinance //- 2002, has 2002 election; and	received at least a
From Kris Colvillage Prove 330	Program Plan of Operations and Gov reappearing pursuant to Section 4929 other natural gas consumers in the V	dopt the Village of Brewster Natural vernance, attached hereto and incorpo 9.26, Ohio Revised Code, for the resid- illage and in conjunction jointly with er political subdivision of the State of	rated herein as if fully lents, businesses and any other municipal
27.4500	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORE Ohio; two thirds (2/3) all members e	AINED by the Council of the Villag lected thereto concurring:	e of Brewster, State of
Phone NICO A	residents, businesses and other nature and who receive commodity sales se establish an opt-out Aggregation Pro hereby authorized to aggregate in acc	termines that it is in the best interest of al gas located within the corporation levice and distribution service from Co gram in accordance with law in the V cordance with Section 4929.26, Ohio natural gas usage located within the V	innits of the Village olumbia Gas of Ohio to Village. The Village is Revised Code or as
Levi	Section 2. That the Mayor is hereby selected natural gas supplier through	authorized and directed to enter into a a competitive bidding process.	as agreement with the
	Village to adopt the Village of Brewn	termines that it is in the best interest of al gas consumers located within the or ster Natural Gas Aggregation Program incorporated herein as if fully reapper to	Plan of Operations
	that all deliberations of this Council	mined that all formal actions of this C tion were adopted in an open meeting and of any of its committees that resul- sublic, in compliance with all legal rea Code.	of this Council, and
	Section 5. That this resolution is here preservation of the public peace, heat necessary to contract consulting servi provided it receives the necessary aff the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effe	th, safely, thereof, for the reason that iccs for advice in a rapidly changing t inmative votes as required by the pass	it is immediately echnical area, and
a 	Wherefore, this ordinance shall be in by the Mayor.	full force and effect from and after its	s passage and approval
	n		(

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VILLAGE OF BREWSTER NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM

PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE

For additional information contact: Andrew Burns, Govt. Agg Manager Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. Ph: (330) 995-2675



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(A) Introduction

This aggregation plan has been developed in compliance with Ohio Revised Code, Section 4929.26 regarding governmental aggregation of natural gas service.

The Village of Brewster ("Village") passed the necessary resolution to place the issue of Opt-out Governmental Aggregation of natural gas on the 5/7/2002 ballot. The ballot issue subsequently passed. The Village will follow the Plan of Operation and Governance ("Plan") outlined below. The Plan was adopted after two public hearings were held in accordance with section 4929.26 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

(B) Operation and Governance Plan Detail

(1) Description of Services and Professional Assistance

The Village Aggregation Program ("Program") seeks to aggregate the retail natural gas loads of consumers located in the Village to negotiate favorable rates for the supply of Natural Gas. Favorable shall mean rates lower than those available to individual residents at the time. The Village may also select an offer based on beneficial terms and conditions not available through the regulated utility. Fixed-rate pricing that would provide stability, particularly during the heating season, would be an example of a beneficial condition.

With a Village population of approximately 2,100 the Program has the potential to combine residential accounts and small commercial accounts into a buying group that will be attractive to Certified Retail Natural Gas Service (CRNGS) suppliers. Participation in the Program is voluntary. Any individual customer ("Member") has the opportunity to decline to participate in the Program through an opt-out process and to return to Columbia Gas of Ohio (COH) supply or to enter into a service contract with any CRNGS supplier.

The Village will administer an opt-out aggregation program that will automatically include all eligible natural gas accounts within the Village boundaries.

Residential and small commercial natural gas customers often lack the ability to effectively negotiate natural gas supply services. The Village's Program provides them an opportunity to benefit from professional representation and bargaining power achieved through an aggregation program. The aggregation Program is designed to reduce the amount Members pay for natural gas and to gain other favorable terms of service such as price stability.

Due to the complexity of deregulation of the Natural Gas utility industry, the Village has entered into contract with Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. (Independent Energy Consultants), a PUCO certified broker and aggregator of natural gas and electricity. Among other things, Independent Energy Consultants will provide these consulting services:

- Draft and assist in maintaining the Plan of Operation and Governance.
- Lead any required Public Hearings and attend Village Council meetings upon request.

- Assist the Village in the day-to-day administration of program (problem resolution, press releases, PUCO compliance, supplier liaison, contract review, etc.)
- Administer the Request for Proposal process, analyze supplier responses and provide recommendations for the supply agreement
- Review customer data provided by COH that would serve as the basis for an Opt-Out Notice
- Track the performance of the selected supplier, report on program participation and provide an analysis of current and future market conditions
- Write/prepare reports on a quarterly/annual basis to the Village, PUCO and Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

The Village through its consultant, Independent Energy Consultants, will seek bids and negotiate with CRNGS suppliers. The Village will not assume title to natural gas. It will not buy and resell natural gas to the Members of the program. Instead, the Village will competitively bid and negotiate a contract with a Competitive Retail Natural Gas supplier to provide natural gas supply to the Members of the aggregation program. Similarly, the Village will not handle billing or scheduling of natural gas. Those responsibilities rest with COH and selected supplier.

Only Suppliers meeting strict criteria will be considered.

- Suppliers will need to be certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- Registered with COH to do business in their service territory. Both the certification and registration ensure that Suppliers possess the managerial, technical, and financial competence to perform the services they offer.
- Successfully completed Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) computer system testing with COH to support Governmental Aggregation Program transactions.
- Agree to hold harmless the Village from any financial obligations arising from the Program.
- The selected CRNGS suppliers will need to agree to notify the Village and negotiate with the Village at least 60 days in advance of attempting to terminate the agreement for any reasons other than (i) the scheduled end date or (ii) Force Majeure.
- The Village shall review the creditworthiness of the selected CRNGS supplier. Should the Village have concerns about the CRNGS supplier's current or projected financial stability at the time a contract is entered, the selected supplier may be required to demonstrate its creditworthiness by providing:
 - a Letter of Credit; or
 - a Parental Guaranty from a company that is deemed creditworthy; or
 - a Surety Bond.

Details of the credit type and amount will be subject to negotiation.

(2) Determination of Rates

Through the efforts of its consultant, Independent Energy Consultants, Inc., the Village will seek proposals from CRNGS suppliers. The request for proposals shall require the CRNGS suppliers to offer firm, full-requirements natural gas supply. CRNGS suppliers will

bid by COH customer rate schedule or customer class. CRNGS suppliers will be encouraged to bid on as many natural gas accounts as possible, but it is recognized that from a practical standpoint it is not likely that bids will be received for larger commercial and industrial accounts that require individual price analysis. Furthermore, commercial and industrial customers consuming more than 5000 Ccf/year are classified as mercantile customers and are ineligible to participate in a governmental aggregation program.

The prices to be charged to Members in the Program will be set by the Mayor or his/her designee, with prior authorization from the Council. The Mayor will set prices following negotiations with the selected CRNGS supplier and receipt of a favorable offer. Members will be notified of the rates and terms of the Program through a direct mailing sent to each eligible resident and business within the Village limits. Once offers are found a table similar to the one shown below will be populated to reflect the offer rates.

	Rate	Supplier Offer	Ŧ
Customer Class	Schedule	(\$/Ccf)	Term
Residential Sales Service	RS	0.4053/Ccf	through Sept 2020
General Sales Service	GS	0.4053/Ccf	through Sept 2020

Neither the Village nor the selected supplier will impose any terms, conditions, fees, or charges on any Member served by the governmental aggregation unless the particular term, condition, fee, or charge is clearly disclosed to the Member at the time the Member chose not to opt-out of the aggregation.

Members may terminate their agreement without penalty if they relocate outside of the Village. Members that leave for other reasons may be assessed an early termination fee by CRNGS supplier. Early termination fees are standard in most natural gas contracts. The Village will negotiate with the CRNGS supplier to ensure that any early termination fee assessed is reasonable and clearly stated in the opt-out disclosure notice.

There is no switching fee for Members leaving COH supply service to select a CRNGS supplier. Members will remain responsible for all other billable charges, such as, taxes, COH transportation charges, monthly service charge, etc.

The Village of Brewster will not accept a CRNGS supplier offer that is not favorable at the time for the majority of Members of a given customer class or rate schedule. It is, however, the individual Member's responsibility to carefully review the price, terms and conditions of an offer to determine if the offer is in their best interest. The Village will not be responsible for any Member's decision to remain in or opt-out of the Program.

(3) Plan for Providing Opt-Out Notice

When a successful supply offer is found the Village shall order the eligible customer list from COH. COH shall turn over the list to the Village or its consultant upon request. Once the list

is obtained, it will be shared with the selected CRNGS supplier and they will have 30 days from the Village's receipt of the data to mail the Opt-Out Notices to all eligible Members receiving an offer.

The selected CRNGS supplier and the Village will agree upon the format of the Opt-Out Notice and will docket a sample with the PUCO at least ten days prior to mailing it to eligible Members.

The selected CRNGS supplier will be required to pay for printing and mailing of opt-out disclosure notices. The notices will be mailed to the owner or occupant residing at the natural gas account mailing address shown on COH's customer list. A Village official's name will be on the notice and it will contain the Village's name and/or logo visible on the outside of the mailer to clearly indicate to the recipient that it is a notice from the Village.

Prior to mailing Opt-Out Notices a thorough review will be performed to see that all eligible Members receiving an offer are sent the notice. The review process will include the efforts of numerous parties and utilize a number of resources as specified in section four of this plan.

Following acceptance of an offer by the Village, the CRNGS supplier will mail Opt-Out Notices to eligible Members receiving a favorable offer. Members will have 21 days from the postmark date on the notice to postmark the return opt-out card if they do not wish to participate in the Village's program. Members may also call the CRNGS supplier's toll-free recorded phone number to opt-out. The selected CRNGS supplier will not enroll those accounts opting out from the Program.

In the event that an eligible Member is inadvertently not sent an Opt-Out Notice and is omitted from the Program, the CRNGS supplier shall, upon request, enroll the eligible Member at the group rate for the remaining term.

All members of the Program will also be given an opportunity to opt-out without penalty at least once every two years.

(4) Process for Determining the Pool of Customers

Under the opt-out aggregation provisions, all eligible natural gas consumers within the Village will be automatically included in the Program. However, such customers will be given prior notice entitling them to affirmatively elect not to be part of the Program.

Prior to mailing Opt-Out Notices a thorough review will be performed to see that all ineligible customers are excluded. The review process will include the efforts of numerous parties and utilize a number of resources:

- COH will query their customer database using best efforts to capture all accounts within the Village limits.
- The Village's consultant working with the CRNGS supplier, available Village resources and publicly available material shall screen out customers who are not located within the Village limits. Those resources may include any or all of the following: Property records, water and/or sewer records, fire and/or police department address records, 911 address records, street listings, Village maps, internet maps, county parcel mapping databases, and geographical information systems (GIS).
- Ineligible accounts will be screened out based on codes provided in the COH data.

• The data shall be reviewed to see that all zip codes have been included, all streets included, all customer classes, all customer rate codes, and finally that an expected total for a community of this population was turned over.

Any potential Member who suspects they were inadvertently omitted from the Program will likely have to contact COH for an explanation. The COH customer list provided to the Village will not include customers who are already served by a CRNGS supplier, participate in PIPP, are classified as mercantile, or are in arrears with their bill payment. Because of this, the Village, its consultant, and CRNGS supplier will not be able to determine if a potential Member is ineligible or was inadvertently omitted.

Customers who have opted-off the standard customer information list are required to be included in an opt-out program assuming they meet the other eligibility requirements. If needed, the Village will request a separate list of those customers from COH so they can be given an opportunity to participate in the Program.

Customers who meet the following criteria will become Members of the aggregation program:

- Are up to date with their bill payment;
- Have not opted-out of the program;
- Are currently supplied natural gas through COH's Standard Service Offer (SSO)
- Have not chosen a natural gas supplier;
- Are not mercantile customers;
- Have not exercised their right of rescission; or
- Are not part of the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP).

(5) Customer Billing Procedures

The Village will utilize the coordinated billing services of COH and the selected CRNGS supplier. Most customers are expected to receive a single bill from COH that itemizes among other things, the cost of natural gas provided by the CRNGS supplier. In some instances, particularly for commercial accounts, the CRNGS supplier may request that dual billing be used. In this case the supplier would issue a bill for their supply service and COH would issue a bill for their delivery services.

Members currently on budget billing will continue to be budget billed. COH's process will remain the same. Members wishing to start budget billing should contact COH. The process will take place in accordance with COH's policy and is not unique to the Village's Program.

Members are required to remit and comply with the payment terms of COH and/or their supplier if dual billing is used. This Program will not be responsible for late or no payment on the part of any of its members. Furthermore, slow or no payment on the part of some Members will not adversely impact the rates charged to other Members. The selected

supplier shall not charge more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent per month for overdue balances owed to the selected supplier.

(6) Credit and Deposit Policies

Collection and credit procedures remain the responsibility of COH, the selected supplier and the individual Member. Members are required to remit and comply with the payment terms of COH. This Program will not be responsible for late or no payment on the part of any of its Members. The Village will have no separate credit or deposit policy.

(7) Governmental Aggregator's Customer Service Procedures and Dispute Resolution

Members will have multiple means of addressing complaints. As a general rule, concerns regarding service reliability and billing should be directed to COH. They continue to read meters, handle billing and generally have the most information about a customer's account. Questions regarding the Program administration should go to the Village or Independent Energy Consultants. Unresolved disputes between Members and the supplier or COH should be directed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for residential accounts. Listed below is a table of local or toll-free numbers for Members to call for assistance.

Nature of Complaint	Contact	Phone Number
Service interruptions or emergencies	СОН	1-800-344-4077
Service turn on/off	СОН	1-800-344-4077
Billing disputes – Delivery charges	СОН	1-800-344-4077
Billing disputes – Supplier charges	Volunteer	1-800-977-8374
Joining/Leaving Program	Volunteer	1-800-977-8374
Aggregation Program questions	Village of Brewster Independent Energy Consultants	330-767-4214 1-888-862-6060
Unresolved disputes	Public Utilities Comm. (voice)	1-800-686-7826
Unresolved disputes	Public Utilities Comm. TDD/TTY	1-800-686-1570
General information – residential	Ohio Consumers' Counsel	1-877-742-5622

(8) Members Moving Into/Within the Aggregation (New Customer)

Utility rules require that people moving into a different residence, new construction or otherwise, be assigned a new account number and be served for at least one month by the local utility before they can switch to a new supplier. The above-mentioned is an example of utility rules approved by the PUCO that will impact the operation of Brewster's aggregation program.

Residents and businesses that move into the Village will <u>not</u> be automatically included in the Village's Program. The Village cannot guarantee the rates, terms and conditions to Members enrolling after the initial 21-day opt-out period. Members wishing to affirmatively enroll into the Program may contact the Village or the CRNGS supplier to obtain enrollment information. There is, however, no guarantee that customers requesting such enrollment at a date outside of an opt-out enrollment period will receive the same price, terms and conditions as did the initial participants. The selected CRNGS supplier's

decision whether or not to extend an offer will be based, in part, on the market prices at the time of request.

Members who move within the Village limits and are assigned a new account number by COH will be treated in the same manner as a new resident. They will not be automatically enrolled, but may contact the CRNGS supplier concerning re-enrollment. Once again, there is no guarantee that the CRNGS supplier will extend an offer, or an offer that is the same as that of the initial enrollees.

(9) Members Moving Within the Aggregation (Same Account Number)

The selected CRNGS supplier shall continue service at the same rate and under the same terms and conditions for any Member who relocates within the Village prior to the expiration of the contract term, providing that the Member notifies the CRNGS supplier of their desire to do so with thirty (30) days written notice. Moving within the Village may cause the Member to be served for a brief period of time by the local utility.

(10) Joining the Program at a Later Date

Members desiring to join the program at a later date during the midst of an ongoing supply agreement will be treated similar to Members moving into the Village. They will need to contact the Village or its supplier to obtain enrollment information. They will follow a standard enrollment approach. There is however, no guarantee that customers so doing at a later date will receive the same price, terms and conditions as did the initial Members. Suppliers are unable to hold price offerings for an unlimited amount of time, and if the community asks for such a requirement, the price offering received from suppliers will be higher to reflect the greater risk. Residents affirmatively enrolling into the Village's program will be responsible for knowing if there is a switching fee for leaving their current supplier.

In the event of a high rate of attrition from the Program or population growth within the Village, the Village may request the selected CRNGS supplier to conduct a subsequent opt-out campaign during the term of a supply agreement. If this were to occur, the Opt-Out Notice would be sent to newly eligible Members and would not be sent to anyone who had previously opted-out of the current supply agreement.

(C) Availability of Plan of Operation and Governance

The Village will maintain a copy of this Plan of Operation and Governance on file at its Administrative office. This Plan will be kept available for public inspection. It will, upon request, be copied for any existing or potential Members of the aggregation in accordance with the Village rules for copying public documents.

(D) Altering the Plan of Operation and Governance

The Village will not alter its Operation and Governance Plan in any way that would materially affect the customers of the aggregation without first providing notice to all affected Members and providing these Members the opportunity to opt-out of the aggregation

according to the procedures established for the initial opt-out disclosure notice set forth in rule 4901:1-28-04 of the Administrative Code. In the event of a material change, the Village will provide a notice explaining the changes to the plan, and informing the Members of their right to opt-out of the aggregation without penalty, and identifying the method and time frame for the customer to opt-out.

(E) Certification Prior to Sending Opt-Out Notices

The Village will become certified as a Governmental Aggregator of natural gas (by the PUCO) prior to sending opt-out disclosure notices to potential Members of the Aggregation Program.

(F) Opt-Out Disclosure Policies

Prior to including a customer's natural gas account or accounts in an aggregation, the Village in cooperation with the selected CRNGS supplier, will provide each eligible Member a written Opt-Out Notice conforming to the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4901:1-21-17.

The Village, in cooperation with the selected CRNGS supplier, will provide each Member the opportunity to leave the program, free of charge, at least once every two years. The notice will follow the format and requirements of the initial opt-out notification and will include any changes to the price or terms and conditions of the program.

(G) Cooperation Between Natural Gas Companies and Governmental Aggregators

The success of the Village's Aggregation Program relies in part to the cooperation it receives from COH. In addition to other tasks, COH must turn over accurate customer data and perform the customer switching process in a timely manner. The Village will comply with O.A.C. section 4901:1-28-05, and will hold COH to its obligations under the same.

(H) Termination of the Aggregation Program

The Natural Gas Aggregation Program may be terminated upon the termination or expiration of the supply contract without any extension, renewal or subsequent supply contract being negotiated. Each individual Member receiving natural gas supply service under the Program will receive notification 45-90 days prior to termination of the Program. In the event of termination, Members in the Village aggregation program would either return to COH supply service or choose a CRNGS supplier on their own.

If the Village is unable to find a satisfactory offer at the end of an existing supply agreement, they have the option of maintaining their status as a Governmental Aggregator while they continue to seek offers for their Members.

The selected CRNGS suppliers will need to agree to notify the Village and negotiate with the Village at least 60 days in advance of attempting to terminate the agreement for any reasons other than (i) the scheduled end date or (ii) Force Majeure.

Village of Brewster Exhibit B-3 "Automatic Aggregation Disclosure Notification"

Section 4929.26 (D) of the Ohio Revised Code states that "no legislative authority or board, pursuant to an ordinance or resolution under divisions (A) and (B) of this section, shall aggregate any retail natural gas load located within its jurisdiction 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 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 the opportunity to opt out of the aggregation every two years, without paying a switching fee. Any such person that opts out of the aggregation 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."

The Opt-Out Notification for Brewster's program will include language similar to the following and proceed as shown below.

Village of Brewster officials are acting on behalf of natural gas consumers who are participating in the program to negotiate a gas supply contract with eligible suppliers. Both Brewster and <CRNGS Supplier> are certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to provide this service. This program has been authorized by our Council through an ordinance and voter approval on May 7, 2002. This phase of our aggregation program will begin with your <Month Year> billing cycle and end with your <Month Year> billing cycle.

You will be automatically enrolled in Brewster's Natural Gas Aggregation Program unless you choose to "opt out" – that is, to <u>not</u> participate. There is no cost for enrollment and you do not need to do anything to be included. If you choose to opt-out of this program, you will revert to service by Columbia Gas of Ohio, unless and until you choose another supplier.

If you want to be excluded from the Brewster Natural Gas Aggregation Program you must return the enclosed "Opt-Out" form to the <CRNGS Supplier>. The return form must be postmarked no later than 21 days from the postmark on this notice. You may also optout by calling <CRNGS Supplier>, toll free, at 1-XXX-XXXX. If you do not opt out at this time, you will be enrolled in the program until it expires in <Month Year>. At that time, you will again have the chance to opt out of the program with no penalty. Every participant will be allowed to leave the program at least once every two years without incurring any penalty.

Please note that newly eligible members remaining in the aggregation group, will receive a letter from Columbia Gas of Ohio advising you of your impending transfer to <CRNGS Supplier>, and advising you to contact Columbia Gas of Ohio within 7 days if you do not want to be in the Program. Again, if you have not changed your mind about participating in the Aggregation Program, you do not have to do anything with that letter.

Warning: If you are already under contract with a competitive retail natural gas service provider you may incur a contract termination fee or other charges if you fail to opt-out of the aggregation.

Under the opt-out aggregation provisions, all eligible natural gas consumers within the Village will be automatically included in the Program. However, such customers will be given prior notice entitling them to affirmatively elect not to be part of the Program.

Prior to mailing Opt-Out Notices a thorough review will be performed to see that all ineligible customers are excluded. The review process will include the efforts of numerous parties and utilize a number of resources:

- Columbia Gas of Ohio will query their customer database using best efforts to capture all accounts within the Village limits.
- Independent Energy Consultants working with the CRNGS supplier, available Village resources and publicly available material shall screen out customers who are not located within the Village limits. Those resources may include any or all of the following: Property records, water and/or sewer records, fire and/or police department address records, 911 address records, street listings, Village maps, internet maps, county parcel mapping databases, and geographical information systems (GIS).
- Ineligible accounts will be screened out based on codes provided in the Columbia Gas of Ohio data.
- The data shall be reviewed to see that all zip codes have been included, all streets included, all customer classes, all customer rate codes, and finally that an expected total for a community of this population was turned over.

Any potential Member who suspects they were inadvertently omitted from the Program will likely have to contact Columbia Gas of Ohio for an explanation. The Columbia Gas of Ohio customer list provided to the Village will not include customers who are already served by a CRNGS supplier, participate in PIPP, are classified as mercantile, are in arrears with bill payment, or who have opted-off the standard customer information list. Because of this, the Village, its consultant, and CRNGS supplier will not be able to determine if a potential Member is ineligible or was inadvertently omitted.

Customers who have opted-off the standard customer information list are required to be included in an opt-out program assuming they meet the other eligibility requirements. If needed, the Village will request a separate list of those customers from Columbia Gas of Ohio so they can be given an opportunity to participate in the Program.

Customers who meet the following criteria will receive an Opt-Out Notice and be subsequently enrolled following the opt-out period.

- Have received an offer from the selected CRNGS Supplier;
- Are up to date with their bill payment;
- Have not opted-out of the program;
- Are currently supplied natural gas by Columbia Gas of Ohio or are Members of an existing Program;
- Are not mercantile customers;
- Have not exercised their 7 day right of rescission; and
- Are not part of the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP).



******* AUTO**3-DIGIT 430 <First Name> <Last Name> <Address Line 1> <Address Line 2> <City>, <ST> <Zip>



Welcome to the Village of Brewster Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program!

September 5, 2018

Dear Natural Gas Consumer,

The Village of Brewster has selected Volunteer Energy as its preferred supplier for the next term of its Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program. Under this voter approved program, Village officials bring together citizens in order to gain buying power for the purchase of natural gas from a retail supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. As the Village of Brewster's selected supplier, Volunteer Energy is pleased to offer natural gas for your home or business at a fixed rate of \$0.4053 per Ccf at the burner tip. Volunteer Energy's rate will be effective for your October 2018 through September 2020 billing cycles. Before the end of your September 2020 bill cycle, your community will determine your rate for the next period of the program.

You are automatically enrolled.

As an eligible Village of Brewster resident or small business, you are automatically enrolled and **do not need to take any further steps in order to receive this special rate.** Or, you may choose at this time to opt-out of the program by taking one of the steps outlined below. To learn more about Volunteer Energy and the Governmental Aggregation Program please see the enclosed Terms and Conditions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

If you choose to opt-out.

You don't need to do anything to get this exclusive rate. However, if you decide not to participate in the program we must receive your opt-out response by September 26, 2018 either by mail or phone.

 mail — Return the completed form below and send to: *Village of Brewster Governmental Aggregation Program Volunteer Energy 790 Windmiller Drive Pickerington, OH 43147*

phone — Call 800-977-8374 and speak directly with a Volunteer Energy representative.

Sincerely,





ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Because of your Villages's buying power, you will receive a fixed rate of \$0.4053 per Ccf for your 10/2018 through 9/2020 billing cycles.

- You will still receive one bill from Columbia Gas of Ohio. That bill will simply list Volunteer Energy as your natural gas supplier, along with your special rate.
- You will still contact Columbia Gas for all service calls and emergencies.
- Budget billing and auto payment are still available from Columbia Gas.

Learn more:

VolunteerEnergy.com/villageofbrewster The rate provided will NOT include taxes or local utility charges. If you are already enrolled with another natural gas supplier, a cancellation fee may apply if you choose to end your agreement with that supplier. The Terms and Conditions govern your participation in the program. Please do not contact the Village of Brewster. If you have additional questions about this offer, contact Volunteer Energy at 1-800-977-8374. Ohio supplier certification # 02-022G(8).

AGGREGATION PROGRAM OPT-OUT FORM

I do NOT want to participate in the Village of Brewster Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program.

GAS UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBER fo	r Columbia Gas of Ohio (15 digits):
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ACCOUNT HOLDER'S SIGNATURE
PRINTED NAME DATE
EMAIL ADDRESS PHONE



service address:

<First Name> <Last Name> <Address Line 1> <Address Line 2> <City>, <ST> <Zip>

Check here if any of the information above is incorrect. Please make corrections on the back of this form.

OPT-OUT CODE: VOB1018-00

Detach completed form and return by September 26, 2018 to: Village of Brewster Governmental Aggregation Program, Volunteer Energy, 790 Windmiller Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147



ENERGY SUPPLY TERMS AND CONDITIONS KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

UTILITY Columbia Gas of Ohio
RATE PLAN ····································
INITIAL RATE & TERMS ········· Fixed rate of \$0.4053 per Ccf through September 2020 billing cycles
CANCELLATION FEE ·········· None

These ENERGY SUPPLY TERMS AND CONDITIONS have important information you need to know before you commit to natural gas service from Volunteer Energy Services, Inc. ("VESI"). VESI is an Ohio corporation whose customers include a variety of Ohio natural gas end users. As a supply customer of VESI, you agree to the Terms and Conditions of VESI's natural gas supply contract.

Service Arrangement: VESI's energy supply will be delivered to your residence or facility via the utility's pipeline. The Village of Brewster has selected VESI's fixed rate offering. Upon acceptance the rate will be fixed at \$0.4053/Ccf through September 2020. In addition, there are no early termination penalties for Aggregation Members who decide to leave this offer during the term.

Term: The term of this Agreement shall commence when accepted by VESI and shall continue through September 2020 unless otherwise cancelled by either party. Natural gas service will begin within 60 days of acceptance by Columbia Gas. Columbia Gas will continue to deliver VESI-supplied natural gas to your home at the agreed upon rate. You may terminate this Agreement with VESI by providing a 30-day notice in writing to VESI or by telephone.

Renewal: If the Village of Brewster Aggregation Program continues beyond the September 2020 billing cycle, Village of Brewster or its supplier shall provide notice of the new terms and conditions and your right to opt-out without penalty.

Office Locations and Hours: VESI's offices are located at 790 Windmiller Drive, Pickerington, Ohio 43147 and are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. E.S.T., Monday through Friday. VESI can be reached by telephone at (614) 856-3128 or toll free at 800-977-8374. Telephone service hours are from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. E.S.T., Monday through Friday. E-mail address is sraffeld@ volunteerenergy.com

Bill Payment Process: Columbia Gas of Ohio will continue to bill you monthly for their delivery services and also for VESI's natural gas supplies. Should you fail to pay the bill or fail to meet any agreed upon payment arrangement, Columbia Gas of Ohio may terminate your service in accordance with its company tariffs, and this agreement with VESI may be automatically terminated. If VESI is providing billing services, VESI may terminate this agreement with fourteen (14) days' notice for failure to pay the bill or failure to meet any agreed upon payment arrangements.

Complaint Dispute Resolution: If you have any complaints regarding your natural gas service or your monthly bill, please contact us at 1-800-977-8374. Upon request, VE will provide to you up to twenty-four months of your payment history without charge. If your complaint is not resolved after you have called VE, or for general utility information, residential and business customers may contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for assistance at 1-800-686-7826 (toll free) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or at http://www.puco.ohio.gov. Hearing or speech impaired customers may contact the PUCO via 7-1-1 (Ohio relay service). Additionally, the Ohio Consumers' Council (OCC) represents residential utility customers in matters before the PUCO. The OCC can be contacted at 1-877-742-5622 (toll free) from eight a.m. to five p.m. weekdays, or at http://www.occ.ohio.gov.

Amendment to Agreement: VESI may amend VESI's Supply Agreement from time to time upon approval from the Village of Brewster. Any amendments made would not take effect for a minimum of thirty (30) days and you will receive thirty (30) days written notice at members service address.

Emergency Service Problems: If you become aware of a gas emergency condition, or experience an unanticipated loss of gas service, you should contact the utility at the number listed on your gas bill.

Credit: If VESI is performing billing services, other than for operation, maintenance, assignment and transfer of your account or, for commercial collection, VESI will not disclose your account number without your affirmative written or electronic authorization or pursuant to a court or commission order. Additionally, if billing, other than for the purposes of credit checking and credit reporting, VESI will not disclose your social security number without your affirmative written consent or pursuant to a court or a court order.

Termination/Rescission of Agreement: You may rescind your natural gas supply enrollment with Columbia Gas of Ohio within seven (7) days of the post mark date of the confirmation notice from Columbia Gas of Ohio. After the initial seven (7) day period, either you or VESI may terminate the contract at any time by providing the non-terminating party thirty (30) days written notice or by telephone of such termination, without penalty. You will remain responsible for all natural gas consumed by you prior to the actual cessation of services. If your supply contract with VESI is terminated, your natural gas supply will automatically be provided by the utility under its standard tariff unless or until you choose another supplier. If you voluntarily terminate participation in the Village of Brewster's natural gas governmental aggregation program, you may be charged a price other than the Columbia Gas of Ohio regulated sales service rate. There will be no early termination fees associated with the Village of Brewster program. This agreement will automatically terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the requested service location is not served by Columbia Gas of Ohio; (2) you move outside the Columbia Gas of Ohio service area or to an area not served by VESI; or (3) VESI terminates your supply agreement and returns you to the incumbent natural gas company. You have the right to terminate this agreement, without penalty, for any reason at any time.

Program Compliance: The utility's deregulation program is subject to the ongoing jurisdiction of the PUCO. If the PUCO cancels the program, this contract is rendered void with no penalty to either party. The laws of the State of Ohio will govern this agreement.

Eligibility: VESI's aggregation program rate excludes utility charges and taxes. Service is subject to enrollment processing timelines as determined by your local utility and VESI's aforementioned Terms and Conditions of Service. To be eligible to participate in the aggregation, you must: (1) have a residence or business located in the Village of Brewster; (2) be eligible to receive natural gas from Columbia Gas of Ohio; (3) meet Ohio non-mercantile requirements; (4) be current with your natural gas payments or payment arrangements; and (5) not be enrolled in the PIPP program. If you believe you received this letter in error, please contact VESI to remove your account from our aggregation list.

790 Windmiller Dr. · Pickerington, OH 43147 · p. 800.977.8374 · volunteerenergy.com

 PLEASE COMPLETE IF THE INFORMATION ON THE FRONT OF THIS FORM IS INCORRECT

 NAME as it appears on your utility bill

 SERVICE ADDRESS as it appears on your utility bill

 CITY
 STATE



Village of Brewster Exhibit B-4 "Opt-Out Notice"

How is the Village of Brewster able to choose a natural gas supplier on the community's behalf? Who is eligible?

Residents in the Village of Brewster voted to give elected officials the ability to negotiate a natural gas supplier contract on behalf of the community.

If you are a current participant in the aggregation program, you will receive notice of the new program rate, term, and conditions and will continue to be eligible. Newly eligible residents or businesses must receive an opt-out notice from Volunteer Energy and meet the following requirements:

- 1. You must not already be enrolled with a natural gas supplier on your own.
- 2. You must not be a PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Program) customer.
- 3. You must not be in arrears on your bill payment.
- 4. Your service address must be located within the Village of Brewster.
- 5. Your utility company must be Columbia Gas of Ohio.
- 6. You must not be a commericial customer (business customer using over 5000 Ccf/year).

What is Governmental Aggregation?

Under governmental aggregation, local officials are able to act on behalf of the community to negotiate a competitively priced natural gas rate from a certified natural gas supplier.



Corporate Office:

790 Windmiller Drive Pickerington, OH 43147 Phone 800.977.8374 | Fax 614.856.3301

VolunteerEnergy.com



Governmental Aggregation Program FAQs

YOUR CHOICE FOR ENERGY COST CONTROL.



••••

Volunteer Energy is a Midwestern based natural gas and electricity supplier whose outstanding reputation is rooted in long term customer relationships. Founded on the bedrock principals of integrity and trust, Volunteer Energy provides residents and businesses across the region with a reliable way to control energy costs.

••••

CALL 800.977.8374 VolunteerEnergy.com/VillageofBrewster

What does "opt-out" mean?

"Opt-Out" means that you choose not to participate in the Village's Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program. You can opt-out by returning the opt-out form included in your mailer, or by calling the phone number provided. If you opt-out, you will not be enrolled as a natural gas customer with Volunteer Energy and will not receive the Village's exclusive natural gas rate.

What happens if I do not send in the opt-out form?

If you do not return the opt-out form or call the phone number by the designated deadline, you will be automatically included in the Village of Brewster Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation Program and receive the Village's negotiated rate for natural gas from Volunteer Energy.

As a program participant, you will continue to receive your billing from your local utility. Volunteer Energy will simply be listed on the bill as your natural gas supplier along with your aggregation program exclusive rate.

What information do I need to opt-out?

You will need your personal opt-out code provided in the form section of the original opt-out letter. If this is not available, a representative can access your information based on the service address.

Are there fees to enroll or cancel?

Enrollment in the program is free for eligible participants. Once enrolled in the program, you can cancel your agreement at any time without any fee.

Can I join the program after the initial enrollment period?

Yes. The Village has secured the same natural gas supply rate, terms and conditions for eligible customers who wish to join its Governmental Aggregation Program after the initial enrollment period. This includes customers who move into the Village of Brewster, customers who were with another supplier and wish to switch into the program, or customers who initially opted-out and want to join at a later date.

What if I'm with another supplier and want to join the aggregation program?

If you recently signed up with a natural gas supplier or if you believe you are on an older contract, carefully review the terms and conditions of that agreement before proceeding, as your ability to terminate early with that supplier may be restricted and could include cancellation fees.

What happens at the end of the term?

At the end of the term, the Village will rebid the term and rate on behalf of residents. You will be notified of the outcome by the Village of Brewster and/or supplier of the new term.

Contact your utility —

For emergencies, service calls and billing questions. Columbia Gas of Ohio: 1-800-344-4077

The Village of Brewster is well versed in negotiating, contracting and providing for common services to Village residents. Some examples of experience as a service provider are:

- 1. Police Service
- 2. Fire Service
- 3. Parks and Recreation
- 4. Public Works

The Mayor, Village Council and Village Staff routinely negotiate for services and supplies that benefit the residents of Brewster. However, due to the complexity of Governmental Aggregation, the Village has hired Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. to assist them in designing, implementing and maintaining the Program. Independent Energy Consultants are:

- Certified Electric Aggregators and Brokers #04-116(9) in the State of Ohio.
- Certified Natural Gas Aggregators and Brokers #04-078(9) in the State of Ohio.
- Licensed Agent/Broker/Consultant in the State of Illinois.
- Licensed Electric and Natural Gas Aggregators and Brokers #A-17 in the State of Virginia.
- Registered Aggregators #80252 in the State of Texas.

Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. currently manages approximately 50 natural gas and electric aggregation programs that impact approximately 100 communities across Ohio. Contact information for Independent Energy Consultants is.

Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. 215 W. Garfield Road Suite 210 Aurora, Ohio 44202 Phone: 330 995-2675 Fax: 800 574-4508 Email: <u>info@naturalgas-electric.com</u> www.naturalgas-electric.com

Among other services, Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. will:

- Draft and assist in maintaining the Plan of Operation and Governance.
- Lead any required Public Hearings and attend Village Council meetings upon request.
- Assist the Village in the day-to-day administration of program (problem resolution, press releases, PUCO compliance, supplier liaison, contract review, etc.).
- Design and issue the Request for Proposal, analyze supplier responses and provide recommendations for the supply agreement.

- Review customer data provided by Columbia Gas of Ohio that would serve as the basis for an Opt-Out Notice.
- Write/prepare reports on a quarterly/annual basis to the Village, PUCO, and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

The Village of Brewster will not take title to natural gas, issue bills, read meters or staff a call center for complaints. Those functions will be provided by Columbia Gas of Ohio and the selected CRNGS supplier as detailed in Section 7 of its Plan of Operations and Governance. The Village will comply with its responsibilities as a Governmental Aggregator (ORC 4929.20) and will respond to questions concerning the Aggregation Program.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/30/2020 2:37:38 PM

in

Case No(s). 02-1722-GA-GAG

Summary: Application for certification renewal as a governmental aggregator of natural gas. electronically filed by Andrew M Burns on behalf of Village of Brewster