

DIS Case Number: 20-0360-EL-GAG

### Section A: Application Information

#### A-1. Applicant's legal name, address, telephone number, and web site address

the applicant's legal name, address, telephone number, and web address.

Legal Name: Knox Township (Columbiana)		Country: United States	i
Phone:	Extension (if applicable):	Street: 2895 Knox School Road	
3305257278			
Website (if any):		City: Homeworth	Province/State: OH
		Postal Code: 44634	

#### A-2. Contact person for regulatory matters

Ron Michalak 875 N High Street, Suite 300 Columbus, OH 43215 US rmichalak@trebelllc.com 6143248937

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

Ron Michalak 875 N High Street, Suite 300 Columbus, OH 43215 US rmichalak@trebelllc.com 6143248937

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

Phone: 6143248937	Extension (if	Country: United States
	applicable):	
Fax:	Extension (if applicable):	Street: 875 N. High Street Suite 300



Email: trebelinfo@trebelllc.com

City: Columbus Province/State: OH Postal Code: 43215

#### **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.

File(s) attached.

#### **B-2. Operation and governance plans**

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.

Files(s) attached.

#### **B-3. Opt-out disclosure notice**

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.

File(s) uploaded

#### **B-4. Experience and Plans**

Provide a description of the applicant's experience in providing the service(s) for which it is applying (e.g. number and type of customers served, utility service areas, amount of load, etc.). Also provide the plan for contracting with customers, providing contracted services, providing billing statements, and responding to customer inquiries and complaints in accordance with Commission rules adopted pursuant to Section 4928.10 of the Revised Code.

File(s) attached



## **Application Attachments**

#### KNOX TOWNSHIP COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

#### **RESOLUTION NO.**

#### A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ENERGY CONSULTING AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH TREBEL, LLC

Knox Township, Columbiana County, Ohio ("Township") met in regular session on the ISTH day of Aubust, 2020 with the following members present:

DONNSTRAL

moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

#### PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS,** Trebel, a certified aggregator with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), engages in the business of providing consulting services to aggregate and procure energy and/or energy-related services, products, and accounts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township desires Trebel to perform an independent analysis and review of Knox Township's electric and natural gas service usage and costs; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Township desires Trebel to perform an independent analysis and review of electric and natural gas usage and costs for the possibility of aggregating the electric and natural gas requirements of Knox Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township will require assistance if the voters of Knox Township approve the aggregation of their electric and/or natural gas and the Township desires Trebel to assist in the implementation of an aggregation program in the Township for retail electric loads; and,

WHEREAS, the Township desires to engage Trebel as its exclusive energy consultant and agent, and grant Trebel exclusive rights to perform such energy-related services as described in, and subject to, the terms and conditions of the Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to authorize the execution of an Energy Consulting and Management Agreement engaging the exclusive services of Trebel for the above and related purposes, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township as follows:

#### **SECTION I:**

The Energy Consulting and Management Agreement with Trebel, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby approved.

#### **SECTION II:**

All formal actions of the Township concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Township, and all deliberations of the Township and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action took place in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. § 121.22.

#### **SECTION III:**

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. DOWNSTEN seconded the motion.

Voted on and signed this 18 The day of August, 2020 in Knex Township Columbiana County, Ohio.

#### KNOX TOWNSHIP, COLUMBIANA CO., OHIO

Gregory R. Carver Thus tee [Name] [Title]

[Name] JOHN E. BARNHANT [Title] TRUSTEE

[Name] JOHNSTON [Title] TRUSTEE

08/18/1000 Date

8. 18.20 Date

Date

State of Ohio, Columbiana County

I, the undersigned Fiscal Officer of Knox Township, Columbiana County, Ohio, certify that the foregoing Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is taken and copied from the record of proceedings of 24/16/2022, and that it has been compared by me with the resolution on the record and is a true copy. Further, I certify that the adoption of such resolution occurred in an open meeting held in compliance with section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

8/18/2020 Date: a 2000 [Name].

Deser Hant Zeec Fiscal Officer Knox Township, Columbiana County, Ohio

1311-001.00355764v1

#### Exhibit A-5 "Experience"

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

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 Oho ("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.

### **Competitive Retail Electric Service Affidavit**

Township of Knox :

County of Columbiana

State of \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio \_\_\_\_

Erin Schmerschneider , 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, and that it will amend its application while it is pending if any substantial changes occur regarding the information provided.
- 2. The applicant will timely file an annual report of its intrastate gross receipts, gross earnings, and sales of kilowatt-hours of electricity pursuant to Sections 4905.10(A), 4911.18(A), and 4928.06(F), Ohio Revised Code.
- 3. The applicant will timely pay any assessment made pursuant to Sections 4905.10, 4911.18, and 4928.06(F), Ohio Revised Code.
- 4. The 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. The applicant will cooperate fully with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and its Staff on any utility matter including the investigation of any consumer complaint regarding any service offered or provided by the applicant.
- 6. The applicant will fully comply with Section 4928.09, Ohio Revised Code regarding consent to the jurisdiction of Ohio Courts and the service of process.
- 7. The applicant will comply with all state and/or federal rules and regulations concerning consumer protection, the environment, and advertising/promotions.
- 8. The applicant will use its best efforts to verify that any entity with whom it has a contractual relationship to purchase power is in compliance with all applicable licensing requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
- 9. The applicant will cooperate fully with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the electric distribution companies, the regional transmission entities, and other electric suppliers in the event of an emergency condition that may jeopardize the safety and reliability of the electric service in accordance with the emergency plans and other procedures as may be determined appropriate by the Commission.
- 10. If applicable to the service(s) the applicant will provide, it will adhere to the reliability standards of (1) the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), (2) the appropriate regional reliability council(s), and (3) the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
- 11. The Applicant will inform the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio of any material change to the information supplied in the application within 30 days of such material change, including any change

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in contact person for regulatory purposes or contact person for Staffuse in investigating consumer complaints.

12. The facts set forth above are true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge, information, and belief and that he/she expects said applicant to be able to prove the same at any hearing hereof.

13. Affiant further sayeth naught. As Agent for Knox Township Signature of Affiant & Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of <u>February</u>\_\_\_\_\_ Month

Am

Signature of official administering oath

OFFICIAL SEAL NICOLAS DIAZ NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF ILLINOIS COMMISSION #974849 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 12, 2027 2222

Nicolas Digz - Associate Print Name and Title

<u>2024</u> Year

My commission expires on 7112127

## **Knox Township**

# Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance

December 14, 2011

01/17/12

9

#### Knox Township Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 3 ("S.B. 3") opened Ohio's retail electric market as of January 1, 2001. S.B. 3 authorizes customer choice in the selection of suppliers of retail electric generation and declares electric generation service, aggregation service, power marketing, and power brokering as competitive retail electric services. The legislation gave the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") authority to adopt rules regarding the development of a competitive retail electric market in Ohio and authority to promulgate rules on governmental aggregation.

Large industrial and commercial consumers with sophisticated electric operations use their size and expertise to obtain lower electric power rates. Individual residential and small commercial consumers are typically unable to obtain significant price reductions since they lack the bargaining power, expertise and the economies of scale enjoyed by larger consumers. Aggregation, the combining of multiple electric loads, provides the benefits of retail electric competition for consumers with lower electric demands.

Government aggregation, the combining of multiple electric loads by a municipality, provides the means through which Knox Township residential consumers may obtain the economic benefits of Ohio's competitive retail electric market. The Knox Township Aggregation Program combines the electric loads of residential customers to form a buying group ("Aggregation Group"). Knox Township will act as Purchasing Agent for the Aggregation Group. This means that Knox Township will be a Governmental Aggregator, as defined by Ohio law and the rules established by the PUCO, and shall act on behalf of customers in the Township to obtain the best electric generation rate for consumers who participate in the Aggregation Group.

#### II. PROCESS

On November 8, 2011, Knox Township voters approved the development of a form of government electric aggregation known as "opt-out" aggregation. Under the opt-out program, all eligible residential and business customers in the Township are automatically included as participants in the program unless they opt-out of the program by providing written notice of their intention not to participate. As required by state law, the Township Trustees passed a Resolution, which authorized submitting the selection of opt-out aggregation to the Township's voters.

In addition to obtaining necessary Township Trustees approval, the Township is also required to comply with various PUCO regulations. The Township will file an application with the PUCO for certification as a Government Aggregator as soon as the Township Trustees approves the Plan, on or about December 20, 2011. As required by the regulations, the Township developed this Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance ("Plan"). On December 2, 2011, and December 9, 2011 the Township advertised the Public hearing dates to discuss the Plan in the Alliance Review. As required by the PUCO's regulations, two hearings were conducted on December 14, 2011. The Opt-out notice for the Township's Program will be sent to all eligible electric customers in the Township upon approval of this Plan, setting forth the rates, terms and conditions of the program, and giving 21 days to opt out of the Program.

On July 19, 2011 the Knox Township Trustees selected FirstEnergy Solutions, Inc. (FES), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., as its Retail Electric Generation Provider, to provide the electric power for the Knox Township Aggregation Program at this time. Under this program, Ohio Edison which is the EDC, will still deliver the electricity purchased from the Township's provider, FES, to customers, customers will receive only one bill (from), and all metering, repairs and emergency service will continue to be provided by the EDC.

#### III. DEFINITIONS

In order to clarify certain terminology, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

"Aggregation Program" means the program developed by Knox Township, as a Government Aggregator under Section 4928.20 Ohio Revised Code, to provide EDC customers in the Township with retail electric generation services.

"EDC" means the Electric Distribution Company.

"Government Aggregator" means the Township and its legislative authority acting as an aggregator for the provision of a competitive retail electric service under the authority conferred under Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code.

"Member" means a person enrolled in the Knox Township government Aggregation Group for competitive retail electric services.

"Retail Electric Generation Provider" ("Provider") means an entity certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to provide competitive retail electric service(s), and which is chosen by the Township to be the entity responsible to provide the required service related to "Government Aggregation" as defined in Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code and applicable provisions of the rules of the PUCO.

"Competitive Retail Electric Service" ("CRES") means a component of electric retail service that is deemed competitive pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code or pursuant to an order of the PUCO.

#### IV. OPERATIONAL PLAN:

#### A. Aggregation Services

1. Provider: Knox Township will use a contractor ("Retail Electric Generation Provider") to perform and manage aggregation services for its Members. The Township has selected FES to be its Provider at this time. The Provider shall provide adequate, accurate, and understandable pricing terms and conditions of service, including any switching fees and the conditions under which a Member may rescind a contract without penalty. The Provider must provide the Township, if requested, an electronic file containing the Members usage, and charges. The Provider must have a local phone number or a toll free number for Members to call.

2. Database: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will build and maintain a database of all Members. The database will include the name, address, EDC account number, and Retail Electric Generation Provider's account number of the Member, and other pertinent information such as rate code, rider code (if applicable), most recent 12 months of usage and demand, and meter read cycle. This database will be updated at least quarterly. Accordingly, the Retail Electric Generation Provider a minimum Members who (i) leave the program due to relocation, opting out, etc. (ii) decide to enter the Program; (iii) relocate within the Township, and (iv) move into the Township and desire to enter the Program. This database shall also be capable of eliminating PIPP customers from the Program, should that be necessary, and those who have opted out. The Retail Electric Generation Provider will audits for clerical and mathematical accuracy of Member bills.

3. Member Education: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop, with the assistance of the Township, an educational program that generally explains the Aggregation Program to Members, provides updates and disclosures mandated by Ohio law and PUCO rules, and implements a process to deal with allowing any person enrolled in the Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt out of the program at least every three years, without paying a switching fee to the Township or the Provider. See Appendix A for a detailed description of the Education Process.

4. Customer Service: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop and administer a customer service process, that at a minimum will be able to accommodate (i) Member inquiries and complaints about billing; and (ii) answer questions regarding the program in general. This process will include at a minimum a description of how telephone inquiries will be handled, either internally or externally, how invoices will be prepared, how remittance of payment will be dealt with, and how collections for delinquent accounts will be addressed. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Customer Service Plan.

6. Billing: Knox Township will use the Retail Electric Generation Provider, or its designated agent, to provide billing services to each Member for the Competitive Retail Electric Services, with no additional administrative fee. At this time, EDC will render the billing statement, which should be consistent with all applicable guidelines issued by

the PUCO. As this market develops, Knox Township may, at its option and in consultation with the Provider, change this function to the Retail Electric Generation Provider or a billing agency.

7. Compliance Process: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop internal controls and processes to ensure that the Township remains in good standing as a Government Aggregator that complies with all laws, rules and regulations surrounding the same, as they may be amended from time to time. It will be the Retail Electric Generation Provider's responsibility to deliver periodic reports that will include at a minimum (i) the number of Members participating in the Program; and (ii) a savings estimate or increase from the previous year's baseline. The Retail Electric Generation Provider will also develop a process to monitor and provide notification of any changes in laws, rules or regulations.

8. Notification to EDC: The Township's consumers that do <u>not</u> opt-out of the Township's Aggregation Group will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program. To the extent that EDC requires notification of participation, the Township will coordinate with its Provider to provide such notice to EDC. The Provider will inform EDC of any individuals who may have been permitted to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of the enrollment period.

#### B. Power Supply Agreement

The Power Supply Agreement will provide for the Provider to serve the Township's Government Aggregation Group. Under the Agreement, the term for power supply to Members will be for nine years from the beginning of service.

#### C. <u>Knox Township's Retail Electric Generation Provider - FirstEnergy Solutions, Inc.</u> (FES)

FES satisfies each of the following requirements:

- Has sufficient sources of power to provide retail firm power to the residents of Knox Township.
- Is a licensed Federal Power Marketer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Is certified as a CRES by the PUCO.
- Is registered as a generation supplier with EDC.
- Has a Service Agreement for Network Integration Transmission Service.
- Has a Retail Access Agreement with the applicable EDC.
- Has the corporate structure to sell retail firm power to the EDC customers in the Township.
- Its Electronic Data Interchange computer network is fully functional and capable of handling the EDC retail electric customers in Knox Township.
- Has the marketing ability to reach all EDC retail electric customers to educate them on the Township's Aggregation Program.

- Has a call center capable of handling the Township's Aggregation Group customer calls.
- Has a toll-free number as required by the PUCO for customer service and complaints related to the Township's aggregation program.
- Will hold the Township financially harmless from any financial obligations arising from supplying power to the EDC retail electric customers in the Township.
- Satisfies the State of Ohio's, EDC and the Township's credit requirements.
- Will execute the Power Supply Agreement.
- Will assist the Township in filing the annual reports required by the PUCO and Section 4805.10(A), Section 4911.18(A) and Section 4928.06(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.
- Will assist the Township in developing a Consumer Education Plan.

#### D. Activation of Service

After a notice is sent out to all electric customers in the Township providing 21 days to opt out of the Program, all customers who do not opt out will be automatically enrolled in the Program. Generation service activation will occur thereafter without consumer action beginning on the customer's normal meter read date within the month when power deliveries begin under the Aggregation Program.

#### E. Changes, Extension or Renewal of Service

The current Agreement for power supply service with FES will provide service beginning upon activation of service. If the Agreement is extended or renewed, Members will be notified as required by law and the rules of the PUCO as to any change in rates or service conditions. At least every three years all EDC customers in the Township will be given an opportunity to opt into or out of the Program, and reasonable notice will be provided as required by law and PUCO rules. Participants will also be notified of their right to select an alternate generation supplier and of their ability to return to EDC Standard Service Offer.

#### F. Termination of Service

In the event that the Power Supply Agreement is terminated prior to the end of the term, each individual Member of the Aggregation Group will receive written notification of the termination of the Program at least sixty (60) days prior to termination of service. If the Agreement is not extended or renewed, Members will be notified as required by law and the CRES rules of the PUCO in advance of the end of service. Members will also be notified of their right to select an alternate generation supplier and of their ability to return to EDC Standard Service Offer upon termination.

#### G. Opt-In Procedures

EDC customers will be automatically enrolled in the Program after a 21 day opt out period, unless they return the form to be provided, notifying the Provider that they do not want to participate. EDC consumers in the Township may request to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of the enrollment period by contacting the Provider, who shall determine whether to accept them into the Program, and at what rate, subject to written policies mutually agreed upon by the Township and the Provider. The agreed upon policy shall be consistent with EDC service activation requirements. Aggregation Group participants who move from one location to another within the corporate limits of the Township shall retain their participant status.

#### H. Opt-out Procedures

EDC consumers may opt-out of the Township's Aggregation Group at any time during the opt-out period without additional fees charged by the Provider or the Township. Aggregation Group participants who switch to a different generation supplier after the expiration of the Opt-out period will be allowed to do so in correlation with the consumer's next scheduled meter read date but will be charged a switching fee (\$25 for Residential and \$50 for Small Commercial) to be billed on their final bill from the Provider. Switching to a different generation supplier on the next meter read date, however, will occur when the next meter read date is twelve (12) business days or more from the date of the consumer's notice of intent to opt-out of the Aggregation Group. Notification of intent to opt-out of the Aggregation Group may be made by contacting the Provider by telephone or in writing. Consumers who opt-out of the Aggregation Group will default to EDC Standard Service Offer, until the consumer selects an alternate generation supplier.

#### I. <u>Rates</u>

All Rates will be determined prior to sending the opt-out notification to eligible customers. Rates may include a fixed price offer or a percent off the standard PTC offer. The rates will be clearly stated and explained in the opt-out notification. National accounts (e.g. BP, McDonald's, Dollar General) as well as eligible commercial accounts with annual usage over 700,000 will be offered the discounts in either plan selected but they must "opt-in" to the program.

#### J. Universal Service and Low Income Customer Assistance

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), under the electric restructuring law, will provide one-stop shopping for low-income assistance programs. There are five low-income assistance programs: 1) Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP); 2) the Home Energy Assistance Program; 3) the Home Weatherization Assistance Program; 4) the Ohio Energy Credit Program; and 5) the Targeted Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program. Ohio law allows the Director of the Ohio Department of Development to aggregate consumers that participate in PIPP and to competitively auction the generation supply for PIPP customers. Accordingly, PIPP customers may be included in the State's PIPP customer aggregation. To the extent permitted by Ohio law and the PUCO, PIPP customers will be included in the Township's aggregation unless they choose to opt out.

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

- A. Township Trustees shall approve through Resolution or Ordinance the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Aggregation program and any Amendments thereto.
- B. The Township shall contract with only Retail Electric Generation Providers certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for the provision of Competitive Retail Electric Service to the Aggregation Program Members.
- C. The Township will require the Provider to maintain either a toll free telephone number, or a telephone number that is local to Township residents who are Members.

#### VI. LIABILITY

THE TOWNSHIP SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE AGGREGATION GROUP FOR ANY CLAIMS, HOWEVER STYLED, ARISING OUT OF THE AGGREGATION PROGRAM OR THE PROVISION OF AGGREGATION SERVICES BY THE TOWNSHIP OR THE PROVIDER. PARTICIPANTS IN THE AGGREGATION GROUP SHALL ASSERT ANY SUCH CLAIMS SOLELY AGAINST THE PROVIDER PURSUANT TO THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH SUCH PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPRESS THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES.

#### VII. INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT NUMBERS

Copies of this Plan are available from Knox Township free of charge. Call 330-525-7278 for a copy or for more information.

Any electric customer, including any participant in the Township's Aggregation Program, may contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for information, or to make a complaint against the Program, the Provider or EDC. The PUCO may be reached toll free at 1-800-686-7826.

#### Appendix A -- Education Process

The Provider will develop the educational program in conjunction with the Township. Its purpose will be to explain the aggregation program to its members, provide updates and disclosures as mandated by State law and the rules of the PUCO, and provide the opportunity for the members to opt out of the program. The following are the program components:

1. Each residence within the limits of the Township will receive via U.S. Mail notification of: what government aggregation means, their membership in the government aggregation program, the procedure which must be followed in order to opt out of the program, the price that they can expect to receive as a member of the program, and the deadline for returning the opt out form. See the attached letter.

2. The Provider will work with the Township to provide opportunities for educating residents in the Township about the Program and consumer rights under the law, PUCO rules and this Program. In addition, the Provider and Township will work to provide education about and other opportunities for energy efficiency measures to help consumers reduce energy consumption.

3. The Provider will provide updates and disclosures as mandated by State law and rules of the PUCO.

4. The opt-out opportunity will be provided to the members of the program at least every three years. Should conditions, suppliers, price, or any other component of the program change within the three-year period, participants will be given a notice of their opportunity to opt out of, or into the program.

#### MONTH XX, 20XX

#### Dear Knox Township Resident,

Knox Township is providing you the opportunity to join other residents to save money on the electricity you use. Savings are possible through governmental aggregation, where Township officials bring together citizens to gain group buying power for the purchase of electricity from a retail electric generation provider certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Knox Township voters approved this program in MONTH 20XX.

After researching competitive electricity pricing options for you, we have chosen FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., to provide you with savings on your electric generation through MONTH 20XX. There is no cost for enrollment and you will not be charged a switching fee. You do not need to do anything to participate.

As a member of this aggregation, you are guaranteed to save X percent off your Price to Compare. Your Price to Compare is essentially the price you pay for electric generation from the utility and consists of generation and transmission related components, which are the costs associated with generating the power and delivering it through the transmission system.

To estimate what your savings per kilowatt-hour (KWH) will be through this program, locate your Price to Compare on your electric bill. Divide your Price to Compare by 100, then multiply by 0.0X (X%) to determine your savings per KWH. Multiply that number by your total monthly usage. The final number is how much you can expect to save each month you use the same amount of electricity.

You will see your electric savings from FirstEnergy Solutions after your enrollment has been completed and your switch has been finalized – approximately 30 - 45 days, depending upon your meter read date. Of course, you are not obligated to participate in Knox Township's electric governmental aggregation program. If you wish to be excluded from the program and remain a full-service customer of your local electric utility – Ohio Edison – you have until MONTH XX, 20XX to return the attached "opt-out" form. If you do not opt out at this time, you will receive a notice at least every three years asking if you wish to remain in the program. If you leave the program at any other time, you could be subject to a \$25 cancellation fee from FirstEnergy Solutions – and you might not be served under the same rates, terms and conditions that apply to other customers served by AEP-Ohio.

After you become a participant in this governmental aggregation program, Ohio Edison will send you a letter confirming your selection of FirstEnergy Solutions as your electric generation provider. As required by law, this letter will inform you of your option to cancel your contract with FirstEnergy Solutions within seven days of its postmark. To remain in the Township's governmental aggregation program, you don't need to take any action when this letter arrives.

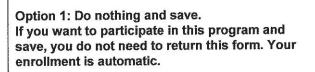
Ohio Edison will continue to maintain the system that delivers power to your home – no new poles or wires will be built by FirstEnergy Solutions. You will continue to receive a single, easy-to-read bill from your local electric utility with your FirstEnergy Solutions charges included. The only thing you'll notice is savings.

If you have any questions, please call FirstEnergy Solutions toll-free at 1-866-636-3749, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please do not call Knox Township with aggregation program questions.

Sincerely,

Knox Township

P.S. To receive these savings, you should not respond. Return the opt-out form only if you do not want to participate in the Township's electric governmental aggregation program.





Option 2: Opt out by returning this form. If you do not want to participate in this program, you must return this form before the due date.

By returning this signed form, you will be EXCLUDED from the opportunity to join with other residents in the Knox Township Electric Governmental Aggregation Program.

I wish to opt out of the Knox Township Electric Governmental Aggregation Program. (Check box to opt out.)

Service address (City, state and zip):	 
Phone number:	-
Account holder's signature:	 _Date:

Mail by MONTH XX, 20XX to Knox Township Electric Governmental Aggregation Program, 341 White Pond Drive, Bldg. B-2, Akron, Ohio 44320

#### Appendix B --- Customer Service Plan

A. <u>Member Access</u>:

1. FES shall ensure Members reasonable access to its service representatives to make inquiries and complaints, discuss charges on Member bills, and transact any other business.

2. Telephone access shall be toll free and afford Members prompt answer times during normal business hours, as follows:

FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. 341 White Pond Dr., Bldg B-3 Akron, Ohio 44320 Toll-free telephone number: 1-866-636-3749 Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3. FES shall provide a 24-hour automated telephone message instructing callers to report any service interruptions or electrical emergencies to EDC.

#### B. Member Complaints:

1. FES shall investigate Member complaints (including Member complaints referred by EDC and provide a status report within five calendar days following receipt of the complaint to:

- a. The consumer, when the complaint is made directly to FES; or
- b. The consumer and The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Staff ("Commission Staff"), when a complaint is referred to FES by the Commission Staff.

2. If an investigation is not completed within 14 calendar days, FES shall provide status reports to the consumer and the Township, or if applicable, to the consumer, the Township and the Commission Staff. Such status reports shall be provided at five-day intervals until the investigation is complete, unless the action that must be taken will require more than five days and the Member has been so notified.

3. FES shall inform the consumer, or the consumer, the Township and Commission Staff, of the results of the investigation, orally or in writing, no later than five calendar days after completion of the investigation. The consumer, the Township, or Commission Staff may request the report in writing.

4. If a residential consumer disputes the FES report, FES shall inform the consumer that the Commission Staff is available to help resolve informal complaints. FES shall provide the consumer with the current address, local/toll free telephone numbers, and TDD/TTY telephone numbers of the Commission's consumer services department.

5. FES shall retain records of Member complaints, investigations, and complaint resolutions for one year after the occurrence of such complaints, and shall provide such records to the commission staff within five calendar days of request.

6. FES shall make good faith efforts to resolve disputes.

#### C. Member Billing and Payments

- 1. FES shall arrange for EDC or its agent to bill Members for such services according to a tariff approved by the commission. Residential Member bills issued by or for FES shall be accurate and understandable, be rendered at intervals consistent with those of EDC, and contain sufficient information for Members to compute and compare the total cost of competitive retail electric service(s). Such bills shall include all information as required by the PUCO.
- 2. If applicable, FES will, upon request, provide Members with the name and street address/location of the nearest payment center and/or authorized payment agent.
- 3. If applicable, when a Member pays the bill at a payment center or to an authorized payment agent, such payment shall be credited to the Member's account as of the day such payment center or agent receives it.
- 4. The Township and FES shall establish policies and procedures for handling billing disputes and requests for payment arrangements.

#### D. Collections for delinquent accounts:

- 1. Collections for delinquent accounts shall be the responsibility of FES or its agent.
- 2. Failure of Members to pay charges for Competitive Retail Electric Services may result in loss of those products and service; and
- 3. Failure to pay charges for Competitive Retail Electric Services may result in cancellation of the Member's contract with FES, and return the Member to EDC Standard Offer.



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

March 31, 2023

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

Case No. 20-0360-EL-GAG

RE: Opt out Letter(s) — Knox Township, Columbiana County, OH.

Knox Township is pleased to submit its final copy of Opt-out letter(s) to be sent to all eligible customers on April 10<sup>th,</sup>, 2023, with the response deadline on May 1<sup>st,</sup>, 2023.

Material provided for review:

Residential and Business Opt-out letter

Should you have any questions or additional needs, please call me at (877)861-2772.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Belcastro Principal 614.425.4885 scott@electricsuppliers.org

Enclosure

Knox Township (Columbiana) Electric Aggregation Program Notification



<FULLNAME> <MAILING ADDRESS\_1> <MAILING ADDRESS\_2> <CITY>, <ST> <ZIP+4>

April 10, 2023

Dear Township Residents and Businesses,

Knox Township is providing you with the opportunity to participate in the Township's Electric Governmental Aggregation Program. Savings are possible through a concept called government aggregation, where Township officials bring together citizens to gain group-buying power for the purchase of Electric from a retail supplier. Both the Township and supplier are certified by the Public Utilities Commissions of Ohio. Township voters approved this program in November 2011. The aggregation program for Knox Township will begin within one to two billing periods following your inclusion as a participant in the Township's program and end with your June 2025 meter reading. As an eligible resident or small business, you will be automatically enrolled in the program unless you choose to opt-out (not participate) by **May 1, 2023**.

During the past few months, we have researched options for competitive electric pricing for you. Knox Township is pleased to announce it has selected Dynegy as the preferred electricity supplier for its program.

Program Details:

- Fixed Electricity Price of 6.970¢ per kWh through your June 2025 meter reading.
  - Or choose 100% renewable energy for 7.340¢ per kWh. Please call us for this option.
- One energy bill from Ohio Edison, your local utility provider.
- No Fee to cancel at any time.
- By receiving this letter, you do not need to do anything to be a part of the program.
- Ohio Edison continues to deliver your electricity and maintain the electric lines and respond to emergencies.

#### **Program Enrollment**

After your enrollment is finalized, Ohio Edison will send you a letter confirming your enrollment. As required by law, this letter will inform you of your ability to rescind your enrollment with no penalty.

#### How to Opt-Out

If you do not wish to participate, you must opt-out no later than **May 1, 2023**. You can do this by completing and returning the reply card below or by calling 888-682-2170.

If you choose to opt out (not participate), you may do so at no charge during this initial enrollment period and you will not be served by Dynegy. If you become part of the aggregation, you may cancel the agreement at any time at no charge by providing notice to Dynegy. If you choose to opt out of the program at this time, or if you choose to leave the program at a later date, you will be served by your utility under its standard service offer or until you choose an alternative supplier. If you switch back to your utility, you may not be served under the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to other customers served by your utility.

For questions, contact Dynegy at <u>DynegyCustomerService@dynegy.com</u>, call 888-682-2170 or visit <u>https://www.dynegy.com/municipal-aggregation/communities-we-serve/Ohio/Knox-Twp</u>. Please see the enclosed Terms and Conditions for full details regarding the rate option and other terms of the program.

Regards, Knox Township & Dynegy

Community: Knox Township

I do not want to participate in the Knox Township Electric Aggregation Program. By checking this box, I understand that my account will **not** be included in the program.

This opt out must be post marked by May 1, 2023 and mailed to Dynegy, PO Box 650764 Dallas, TX 75265-0764

Customer Name

Customer Number <<<Customer Number>>

Service Address <<service address>>

Service Address <<service address>>

Signature \_\_\_\_

Date



#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

#### What is an Electric Aggregation Program?

Aggregation is an opportunity for cities, townships and counties to negotiate competitive electricity supply rates and provide budget stability for their residents and small businesses.

First, residents must vote to give their community officials the ability to negotiate electricity rates for their community. Once a referendum is passed, communities are able to aggregate and elected officials can work with alternative energy suppliers to negotiate competitive electricity rates.

#### How was Dynegy chosen as the supplier?

Your community implemented a formal process where proposals from multiple suppliers were submitted for consideration. Dynegy was selected to be your preferred electricity supplier.

#### ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

#### Who is eligible to participate?

Residential and small business customers located in your community may participate. Customers enrolled with an alternative retail supplier will not be included in the initial program; however, they can call to be enrolled. Customers enrolled in PIPP (Percentage of Income Plan) are not eligible for the program.

#### How do I enroll?

It's simple. It's automatic. Unless you "opt-out" of the program, all eligible customer accounts within your community boundaries will be enrolled in the program as long as you are not participating in one of the programs mentioned above. You will receive a "switch" letter from your local utility company, confirming your enrollment.

## Do I have to participate in the aggregation program?

All eligible local utility company customers within your community will receive an opt-out notification letter via U.S. mail. You may "opt-out" by returning the Opt-Out card or calling Dynegy by the deadline date identified in your notification. If you choose to opt-out, your account remains with your local utility company at their current utility rate.

## If I don't want to be a part of the program, why do I have to opt-out?

The voters authorized the community to develop an aggregation program where each resident and small business is automatically enrolled. Therefore, if you prefer not to participate, you must opt out of the program.

What if I decide to opt-out after the opt-out deadlines have passed? You may opt out at any time by notifying us via telephone, email, or mail.

#### RATE AND TERM INFORMATION

## What are the Rates & Terms for this Aggregation Program?

Your competitive rate and terms are explained in your Terms and Conditions. Customers who are enrolled in the program should see the changes on their monthly electricity bill 45 to 60 days after enrollment.

## What if my local utility company's rate decreases?

If at any time during the term of your Agreement the local utility company's rates fall lower than the Dynegy price, you will have the option to return to the utility, your local electric company, without penalty.

## What happens at the end of the Agreement term?

At the end of the Agreement term, as defined in the Terms and Conditions, you have the option of staying with a new aggregation program, returning to your local utility company, or signing with a new supplier independent of the Aggregation program.

#### BILLING AND SERVICE

## Who will bill me for electricity? Will I get two bills?

You will continue to receive one monthly bill from your local utility company. The bill will include the charges for electricity supplied by Dynegy, as well as the delivery service charges from your local utility company.

## Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account?

Yes, how you pay your bill will not change.

## If I'm on budget billing with my utility, can I keep this program?

Dynegy accepts Duke, Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison and The Illuminating Company budget billing programs. If you would like to enroll in budget billing or have any additional questions, please contact your utility directly.

## Who do I call to report a power outage or problems with my electric service?

You will continue to call your local utility company for power outages, problems with your service or questions regarding your monthly bill.

## Who do I call if I have questions regarding the Aggregation Program?

Call Dynegy toll free at 888-682-2170. Customer Care Representatives are available Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm EST. During all other hours please you can email

#### dynegycustomerservice@dynegy.com.

#### Dynegy Energy Services (East), LLC Residential and Small Commercial Electric Supply Agreement Terms and Conditions

**1. Purchase of Electricity** – Dynegy Energy Services (East), LLC (DESE) agrees to sell, and you (Customer) agree to buy, all retail electricity at the price and on the terms and conditions specified in this Agreement. Customer's electric utility remains responsible for the delivery of electricity to the Customer.

2. Residential or Small Commercial Service – Customer acknowledges this Agreement is for electricity for residential or small commercial use only.

3. Price and Initial Term – The price for electricity (Price) will be \$0.06970 per kWh (or \$0.07340 per kWh for those opting into the Green Energy Program) through your June 2025 meter read date (Initial Term). Electricity service under this Agreement will begin with the next available meter read date after DESE and Customer's electric utility process Customer's enrollment. In addition to delivering electricity, Customer's electric utility will continue to read Customer's meter, bill the Customer and respond to any outages. If Customer switches back to Customer's electric utility for any reason, Customer may or may not be served under the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to other customers served by the electric utility. Price includes broker fees, but does not include any applicable taxes, fees or charges related to distribution service from the Customer's electric utility. If DESE wishes to lower the Price due to a change in market conditions, DESE may do so without Customer's consent provided there are no other changes to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**4. 100% Green Energy Program -** The Price for electricity shall be associated with the generation of electricity from a renewable energy resource on Customers' behalf, such that the percentage shall equal 100%. The Price indicated above reflects energy that is procured from 100% renewable resources and will be made available to Customers upon request. This is an OPTIONAL "OPT-IN" offer. Eligible residents and small businesses must contact DESE directly to enter this 100% Green Energy Program.

**5. Length of Contract** - As a part of your community's program, your service from DESE will commence with your next available meter reading after processing of enrollment by your electric utility, and will continue for the term as specified in the opt-out notification, ending on your meter read for the last month of service.

6. Billing and Payment – The charges for electricity provided by DESE will appear on Customer's monthly bill from Customer's electric utility, and is due and payable to Customer's electric utility on the same day the electric utility's bill is due. Customer will incur additional service and delivery charges from the Customer's electric utility. Customer should continue to follow any bill payment procedures between Customer and Customer's electric utility. Customer agrees to accept the measurements as determined by Customer's electric utility for purposes of accounting for the amount of electricity provided by DESE under this Agreement. Though DESE does not offer budget billing for the electricity provided, the customer may contact the Customer's electric utility to enroll in the utility budget billing program, if applicable. Customer has the right to request from DESE, twice within a twelvemonth period without charge, up to twenty-four months of the Customer's payment history. The failure to pay electric utility tariff.

7. Customer Cancellation or Termination of the Agreement – Customer's electric utility will send Customer a notice confirming the switch to DESE for electricity. CUSTOMER MAY CANCEL THIS AGREEMENT WITHOUT PENALTY WITHIN SEVEN (7) CALENDAR DAYS OF THE POSTMARK ON THE ELECTRIC UTILITY'S CONFIRMATION NOTICE OF THE SWITCH TO DESE BY CONTACTING CUSTOMER'S ELECTRIC UTILITY BY TELEPHONE OR IN WRITING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CANCELLATION INSTRUCTIONS ON THAT NOTICE. After the seven-day cancellation period, Customer must contact DESE to terminate this Agreement. There is no fee for early termination during any renewal term. Customer may terminate this Agreement without penalty if Customer moves outside of DESE's service area or into an area where DESE charges a different price for electricity.

8. DESE Termination of the Agreement – DESE may terminate this Agreement by giving Customer written notice of at least 14 calendar days if the Customer fails to make any payments under this Agreement or fails to meet any agreed-upon payment arrangements. DESE may also terminate this Agreement by giving Customer written notice if any Force Majeure Event (See Section 13 of this Agreement), as defined below, physically prevents or legally prohibits DESE from performing under the terms of this Agreement. Upon termination of this Agreement, Customer will return to Customer's electric utility for electricity unless Customer has selected another Competitive Retail Electric Service (CRES) provider. The effective date of any termination by Customer or DESE will be the next available meter read date after expiration of any required notice period and processing by the electric utility and DESE of the return of the Customer to the electric utility. Upon termination by any party for any reason, Customer will remain responsible for all charges for electricity through the date of termination.

9. Environmental Disclosure – This Agreement incorporates the information provided to Customer or made available to Customer at DESE's website (DynegyOhio.com) regarding the approximate generation resource mix and environmental characteristics of electricity supply.

**10. Assignment** – DESE may assign, subcontract or delegate all or any part of DESE's rights and/or obligations under this Agreement without consent from Customer. Customer shall not assign its rights and/or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of DESE.

11. Customer Information – Customer authorizes DESE to obtain any information from Customer's electric utility necessary for DESE to perform this Agreement, including Customer's account name, account number, billing address, service address, telephone number, standard offer service type, meter readings, when charges hereunder are included on the electric utility's bill, and Customer's billing and payment information from Customer's electric utility. DESE is prohibited from disclosing Customer's social security number and/or account number(s) without Customer's consent except for DESE's own collections and credit reporting, participation in

#### Dynegy Energy Services (East), LLC Residential and Small Commercial Electric Supply Agreement Terms and Conditions

programs funded by the universal service fund pursuant to section 4928.52 of the Revised Code, or assigning a customer contract to another CRES provider.

**12. Dispute Resolution** – If Customer has a billing or other dispute involving this Agreement, Customer may contact DESE at the telephone number, e-mail address or mailing address listed below. If your complaint is not resolved after you have called your electric supplier and/or your electric utility, 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 eight a.m. to five p.m. weekdays, or at <a href="http://www.puco.ohio.gov">http://www.puco.ohio.gov</a>. Hearing or speech impaired customers may contact the PUCO via 7-1-1 (Ohio relay service). The Ohio consumers' counsel (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.pickocc.org.

13. Limitation of Liability – Customer agrees that neither DESE nor any of its employees, affiliates, agents, or subcontractors (collectively, DESE Parties) will be liable for any damages or claims for matters within the control of Customer's electric utility or the regional transmission organization controlled electricity grid. The DESE Parties will not be responsible for any failure to commence or terminate power and energy service on the date specified herein due to any failure or delay in enrolling Customer with Customer's electric utility. The DESE Parties' liability will be limited to direct actual damages only. In no event will the DESE Parties be liable for any punitive, incidental, consequential, exemplary, indirect, attorney's fees, third-party claims or other damages whether based on contract, warranty, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, or for lost profits arising from any breach or nonperformance of this Agreement.

14. Force Majeure – If a Party is prevented by Force Majeure from carrying out, in whole or part, its obligations under this Agreement (the "Claiming Party") and gives notice and details of to the other Party as soon as practicable, then the Claiming Party shall be excused from the performance of its obligations under this Agreement (other than the obligation to make payments then due or becoming due with respect to performance prior to the Force Majeure). The Claiming Party shall remedy the Force Majeure with all reasonable dispatch. During the period excused by Force Majeure, the non-Claiming Party shall not be required to perform its obligations under this Agreement. "Force Majeure" shall mean an event or circumstance which prevents the Claiming Party from performing its obligations or causes delay in the Claiming Party's performance under this Agreement, which event or circumstance was not anticipated as of the date this Agreement was agreed to, which is not within the reasonable control of, or the result of the negligence of, the Claiming Party, and which, by the exercise of due diligence or use of good utility practice, as defined in the applicable transmission tariff, the Claiming Party is unable to overcome or avoid or cause to be avoided, such as, but not limited to, acts of God; fire; flood; earthquake; war; riots; strikes, walkouts, lockouts and other labor disputes that affect Customer or DESE. Force Majeure shall not be based on 1) Customer's inability to economically use the electricity purchased hereunder; or 2) Supplier's ability to sell the electricity at a price greater than the price under this Agreement.

**15. REGULATORY OUT -** Changes to laws, regulations, rules, decisions, entries, findings, or orders governing the generation, transmission, or sale of electricity may be made by different entities, including state agencies and regulatory bodies such as the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), federal agencies and regulatory bodies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) that operate multi-state regional electric transmission systems such as PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM), the RTO that operates the regional electric transmission system in a multi-state region that includes Ohio. Such changes may include, without limitation, new, revised, altered, amended, or reinterpreted laws, regulations, rules, decisions, entries, findings, or orders relating to (i) the generation of electricity, (ii) the availability and reliability of electricity supply resources (including, without limitation, capacity), (iii) the reliability of the electricity grid, (iv) the transmission or delivery of electricity, and (v) the sale or marketing of wholesale and retail electricity (collectively, Regulatory Events).

DESE has no control over Regulatory Events. If any Regulatory Event makes this Agreement uneconomic or unprofitable for DESE, Customer agrees that DESE may propose new contract terms to Customer, including, without limitation, an increased price for the electricity delivered by DESE under this Agreement. If DESE proposes new contract terms in accordance with this clause, DESE will provide written notice to the Customer that identifies (1) the Regulatory Event(s) at issue, (2) the new contract terms proposed by DESE, and (3) when the new contract terms will take effect following Customer's acceptance. Customer will have thirty (30) days from the date of the written notice to affirmatively accept or reject the new contract terms. If Customer does not affirmatively accept the new contract terms within thirty (30) days of the written notice, DESE may in its sole discretion elect to terminate this Agreement without penalty on the next available meter read date after the expiration of the thirty-day notice period and processing by the electric utility and DESE, after which Customer will return to Customer's electric utility or another CRES provider of Customer's choosing for electricity; alternatively, DESE may, in its sole discretion, elect to continue supplying electricity to Customer under the original terms of this Agreement.

#### **Contact Information**

In the event of an emergency involving Customer's electric service (for example, an outage or downed power lines) Customer should call the emergency line for Customer's electric utility. In all other situations, Customer may contact DESE toll free at 888-682-2170. Customer Care Representatives are available Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm ET. During all other hours please leave a message for a return call. Customer may also contact DESE by email at <u>dynegycustomerservice@dynegy.com</u>, or by US Mail at DYNEGY, LLC, Attn: Customer Care, PO Box 650764 Dallas, TX 75265-0764. Customer may also visit Dynegy's website at https://www.dynegy.com/electric-supplier.

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

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#### Case No(s). 20-0360-EL-GAG

Summary: In the Matter of the Application of Knox Township (Columbiana)