



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

PUCO USE ONLY		
Date Received	Case Number	Version
	- EL-GAG	August 2004

12-1118

## CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATORS

Please print or type all required information. Identify all attachments with an exhibit label and title (Example: Exhibit A-5 Experience). All attachments should bear the legal name of the Applicant and should be included on the electronic copy provided. Applicants should file completed applications and all related correspondence with: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3793.

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

### A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

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

Name Putnam County

Address 245 East Main Street, Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875

Telephone Number (419) 523-3656

Web site address (if any) putnamcountyohio.gov

PUCO

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A-2 Exhibit A-2 "Authorizing Ordinance" provide a copy of the ordinance or resolution authorizing the formation of a governmental aggregation program adopted pursuant to Section 4928.20(A) of the Revised Code.

A-3 Exhibit A-3 "Operation and Governance Plan" provide a copy of the applicant's plan for operation and governance of its aggregation program adopted pursuant to Section 4928.20(C) of the Revised Code. The Operation and Governance Plan explained in Exhibit A-3 should include:

- Terms and conditions of enrollment including:
  - Rates
  - Charges
  - Switching fees, if any
- Policies associated with customers moving into/out of aggregation area
- Billing procedures
- Procedures for handling complaints and disputes including the toll-free telephone number and address for customer contacts

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
 Technician TN Date Processed MAR 29 2012

A-4 **Exhibit A-4 "Automatic Aggregation Disclosure"** provide a copy of the disclosures required by Section 4928.20(D) of the Revised Code, if its aggregation program provides for automatic aggregation in accordance with Section 4928.20(A) of the Revised Code

A-5 **Exhibit A-5 "Experience"** provide a detailed description of the applicant's experience and plan for providing aggregation services, including contracting with retail generation providers, providing billing statements, responding to customer inquiries and complaints, and complying with all applicable provisions of commission rules adopted pursuant to section 4928.10 of the Revised Code.

A-6 **Contact person for regulatory or emergency matters**

Name John E. Love

Title Commissioner

Business address 245 East Street, Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875

Telephone number (419 ) - 523 - 3656 Fax # (419 ) - 523 - 9213

E-mail address putcocomm@bright.net

A-7 **Contact person for Commission Staff use in investigating customer complaints**

Name John E. Love

Title Commissioner

Business address 245 East Main Street, Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875

Telephone number (419 ) 523 - 3656 Fax # (419 ) - 523 - 9213

E-mail address putcocomm@bright.net

A-8 **Applicant's address and toll-free number for customer service and complaints**

Address 245 East Main Street, Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875

Toll-free telephone number (419 ) - 523 - 3656

Fax # (419 ) - 523 - 9213

John E. Love Commissioner  
Signature of Applicant & Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012  
Month Year

Betty Schroeder  
Signature of official administering oath

Betty Schroeder  
Print Name and Title - clerk  
Putnam County Commissioners

My commission expires on June 14, 2014  
Notary Public - State of Ohio

# **AFFIDAVIT**

State of Ohio :

County of Putnam :

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Town) ss.

John E. Love, Affiant, being duly sworn/affirmed according to law, deposes and says that:

He/She is the Commissioner (Office of Affiant) of Putnam County (Name of Applicant);

That he/she is authorized to and does make this affidavit for said Applicant,

1. The Applicant herein, attests under penalty of false statement that all statements made in the application for certification are true and complete and that it will amend its application while the application is pending if any substantial changes occur regarding the information provided in the application.
2. The Applicant herein, attests it will timely file an annual report with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio of its intrastate gross receipts, gross earnings, and sales of kilowatt-hours of electricity pursuant to Division (A) of Section 4905.10, Division (A) of Section 4911.18, and Division (F) of Section 4928.06 of the Revised Code.
3. The Applicant herein, attests that it will timely pay any assessments made pursuant to Sections 4905.10, 4911.18, or Division F of Section 4928.06 of the Revised Code.
4. The Applicant herein, attests that it will comply with all Public Utilities Commission of Ohio rules or orders as adopted pursuant to Chapter 4928 of the Revised Code.
5. The Applicant herein, attests that it 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 herein, attests that it will fully comply with Section 4928.09 of the Revised Code regarding consent to the jurisdiction of Ohio Courts and the service of process.
7. The Applicant herein, attests that it will comply with all state and/or federal rules and regulations concerning consumer protection, the environment, and advertising/promotions.
8. The Applicant herein, attests that it 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 herein, attests that it 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, the Applicant herein, attests that 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. (Only applicable if pertains to the services the Applicant is offering)

11. The Applicant herein, attests that it will inform the Commission of any material change to the information supplied in the application within 30 days of such material change, including any change in contact person for regulatory purposes or contact person for Staff use in investigating customer complaints.
12. The Applicant herein, attests that it will docket with the Commission's Docketing Division the final opt-out and any supplemental opt-outs (including beginning and ending dates of the 21-day opt-out period and the selected CRES supplier) at a minimum 10 days prior to sending the opt-outs to customers.

That the facts above set forth are true and correct 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.

John Elmore Commissioner  
Signature of Affiant & Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012  
Month Year

Betty Schroeder  
Signature of official administering oath

Betty Schroeder  
Print Name and Title - clerk  
Putnam County Commissioners

My commission expires on June 14, 2014

**COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZED  
TO ACT OF PURCHASING AGENT  
& GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATOR  
FOR ELECTRIC POWER FOR DUPONT**

A-2

**RESOLUTION**

The Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, Ohio, met in regular session on the 13th day of March, 2012, at the office of said Board with the following members present: Mr. John E. Love and Mr. Vincent T. Schroeder.

Mr. Schroeder moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, On November 8, 2011, the residents of the Village of Dupont, voted in favor of electric aggregation to improve purchasing leverage and offer reduced electrical generation rates to residential and small business consumers.  
and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners has offered their services to act on behalf of the Village of Dupont as the governmental aggregator.  
and

**WHEREAS**, Having one centralized aggregator will provide for the most expeditious manner to handle any issues arising in the process of electrical aggregation.  
now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve the attached " Plan of Operation and Governance for the Aggregation" program.

Mr. Love seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

<u>John E. Love</u>	, yes
<u>Vincent T. Schroeder</u>	, yes
<u>Travis A. Jerwers</u>	, absent

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO

Attest

Betty Schroeder  
Betty Schroeder, Clerk

BY: bis

# **Putnam County**

## **Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance**

**March 13, 2012**

# **Putnam County Electric Governmental Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance**

- I. **INTRODUCTION.** On November 8, 2011 a majority of voters in the Village of Dupont, Putnam County Ohio approved a referendum that authorized the formation of an “opt-out” governmental aggregation in compliance with Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding the governmental aggregation of electric service consumers.

This community decided to utilize their aggregation authority jointly through Putnam County, Ohio as permitted under Section 4928.20 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Putnam County (“County” or “ Putnam County”) anticipates that utilizing its aggregation authority will provide individual residential and small commercial consumers benefits such as price reductions that these consumers are typically unable to obtain since they lack the bargaining power, expertise and the economies of scale enjoyed by larger consumers.

- II. **PROCESS.** Under an opt-out aggregation program, all residential and small business customers in the authorized areas of Putnam County are automatically included as participants in the Aggregation Program unless they opt-out of the program by providing written notice of their intention not to participate. As required by Ohio Law, the various communities jointly participating in the Putnam County governmental aggregation passed a Resolution or Ordinance, which authorized submitting the selection of opt-out aggregation to the community’s voters.

In addition to obtaining necessary voter approvals, Putnam County is also required to comply with various PUCO regulations. As required by PUCO regulations the County will file an application with the PUCO for certification as a Government Aggregator after the County Approves this Aggregation Plan of Operations and Governance (“Plan” or “Aggregation Plan”). As required by regulations, the County advertised public hearing dates to discuss the Plan and held two hearings on the Plan.

The County anticipates selection of a Provider prior to or shortly after receiving approval from the PUCO as a governmental aggregator. Upon Provider selection an Opt-out notice for the County’s Program will be sent to all eligible electric customers setting forth the rates, terms and conditions of the program. This notice will provide potential Aggregation participants at least 21 days to return an opt-out card or other similar notice.

- III. **CONTRACT.** The supply contract (“Contract”) negotiated between the Governmental Aggregator and the selected Provider shall be for firm, full requirements power supply. Each Aggregation participant shall be individually bound by the terms and conditions found in the opt-out notice and the Contract and shall be solely responsible for payment and performance. The power supply charges for Aggregation participants shall be negotiated and included in the Contract. These charges shall take the form of either a fixed price or a price representing a percentage below the electric distribution utility’s (“EDU”) avoidable costs (“Avoidable”) or

Price to compare ("PTC"). These charges will be fully and prominently disclosed in the consumer opt-out materials provided to potential Aggregation participants and available by calling the Provider's toll free customer service telephone number.

The County's Retail Electric Generation Provider shall meet each of the following requirements:

- Has sufficient power supplies arranged and structure in place to provide retail firm power to the Members.
- Has a Federal Power Marketer license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Is certified as a CRES by the PUCO.
- Registered as a generation supplier with the EDU prior to flowing power to Members.
- Has appropriate Transmission Service agreement(s) in place to serve the Members.
- Has or has arranged for an Electronic Data Interchange computer network that is capable of handling the County's Members requirements with the EDU.
- Has the ability to educate Members on the County's Aggregation Program.
- Has or has arranged for a call center capable of handling the County's Aggregation Group customer calls.
- Has a toll-free number as required by the PUCO for customer service inquiries and potential complaints related to the County Program.
- Will hold the County financially harmless from any financial obligations arising from supplying power to the Members.
- Satisfies the EDU's and County's credit requirements.
- Will assist the County and its consultant in filing reports required by the PUCO and Sections 4805.10(A), 4911.18(A) and 4928.06(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

"Aggregation Program" or "Program" means the program developed by the County, as a Government Aggregator under Section 4928.20 Ohio Revised Code, to provide eligible residential and small business consumers with retail electric generation services.

"Government Aggregator" means Putnam County using its legislative authority to act 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" or "Aggregation Participant" means a person or consumer enrolled in the Putnam County Program 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 County 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.

- V. **GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION SERVICES.** Government aggregation, the combining of multiple electric loads by a governmental entity, provides a means for residential consumers and small commercial consumers in the County to obtain economic benefits from Ohio’s competitive retail electric market. The County Aggregation Program combines the electric loads of residential customers and small commercial consumers into a buying group (“Aggregation Group”). The County will act as Purchasing Agent for the Aggregation Group. This means that the County will be a Governmental Aggregator, as defined by Ohio law and the rules established by the PUCO, and shall act on behalf of eligible residential and small commercial consumers in the County to: 1) select a Retail Electric Generation Provider (“Provider”) to supply the Aggregation Group; 2) negotiate the terms of supply between the Provider and each Aggregation participant; and 3) oversee the enrollment procedures administered by the Provider.
- A. **Provider:** The County will use its Provider to perform and manage aggregation services for its Members. 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 County or its authorized consultant, if requested, an electronic file containing the Members usage, and charges. Upon request this information shall be sent to the County or its authorized consultant within 30 days. The Provider must have local and/or a toll free number for Members to call.
- B. **Database:** The Retail Electric Generation Provider will build and maintain a database of all Members. The database will include all necessary information for the provider and the County to serve the Aggregation. This information includes but is not limited to the name, address, account number or other EDU identifying number(s), 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 and provided to the County and/or its consultant at least quarterly. Accordingly, the Provider will implement a process to accommodate at Members that: 1) leave the program due to relocation, opting out, etc.; 2) decide to enter or opt-into the Program; 3) relocate within eligible areas within the County; and 4) move into the County and desire to enter or opt-in to the Program. This database shall also be capable of removing PIPP customers from the Program, should that be necessary, and those who have opted out. The Retail Electric Generation Provider will use this database to perform bill audits for clerical and mathematical accuracy of Member bills.
- C. **Member Education:** The Provider will develop, with the assistance of the County and its authorized consultant, 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 County or the Provider.

- D. Customer Service: The will administer a customer service process that, at a minimum, will accommodate: 1) Member inquiries and complaints about billing; and 2) answer questions regarding the Program in general. This process will, at a minimum, include 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.
- E. Billing: The County will use the 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, the EDU will render the billing statement, which should be consistent with all applicable guidelines issued by the PUCO. As this market develops, the County may, at its option and in consultation with the Provider, change this function to the Retail Electric Generation Provider or a billing agency.
- F. Compliance Process: The Provider will have internal controls and processes that ensure the County remains in good standing as a Government Aggregator and that it complies with all laws, rules and regulations surrounding the same, as they may be amended from time to time. The Provider will deliver periodic reports to the County and its consultant 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 Provider will also develop a process to monitor and provide notification to the County of any changes in laws, rules or regulations.
- G. Notification to EDU: The County's potential Aggregation participants that do not opt-out of the Aggregation Group will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program. Members in the Aggregation Group will not be asked to take other affirmative steps in order to be included in the Group. To the extent that the EDU requires notification of participation, the County will coordinate with its Provider to provide such notice to the EDU. The Provider will inform the EDU of any individuals who may have been permitted to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of the enrollment period.
- H. Activation of Service. After a notice is sent out to all electric customers in the County providing 21 days to opt out of the Program, all customers who do not opt out will be automatically enrolled in the Program. During this opt-out period eligible consumers may opt-out of the County's Aggregation Group without fees charged by the Provider or the County. 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.
- I. Changes, Extension or Renewal of Service. At least every three years all consumers eligible to participate in the County's Program 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 EDU's Standard Service Offer.
- J. Termination of Service. In the event that the Contract 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 Contract 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 the EDU's Standard Service Offer upon termination.

- K. Opt-In Procedures. Eligible consumers may request to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of any enrollment period by contacting the Provider. The Contract shall determine whether the Provider accepts them into the Program, and, if so, at what rate. The agreed upon policy in the Contract shall be consistent with the EDU's service activation requirements. Aggregation Group participants who move from one location to another within eligible areas of the County shall retain their participant status.
- L. Opt-out Outside Enrollment Period. Members 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 may be charged a switching fee in an amount and method determined by the Contract. 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. Members who opt-out of the Aggregation Group will default to the EDU's Standard Service Offer, until the consumer selects an alternate generation supplier.
- M. Eligibility. Only non-mercantile consumers shall be eligible for the Program through the opt-out process. Other eligibility restrictions such as peak demand or use may be negotiated within the Contract.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

- A. The Board of County Commissions of Putnam County shall approve through Resolution or Ordinance the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Aggregation program and any Amendments thereto.
- B. To the extent permitted by Ohio law and the PUCO regulations, PIPP customers will be included in the County's Program unless they choose to opt out.
- C. The County will require any Provider to disclose any subcontractors that it uses in fulfillment of the services described above.
- D. The County will require the Provider to maintain either a toll free telephone number, or a telephone number that is local to County Program Members.

## VII. LIABILITY. THE COUNTY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO MEMBERS IN THE AGGREGATION GROUP FOR ANY CLAIMS WHATSOEVER ARISING OUT OF THE AGGREGATION PROGRAM OR THE PROVISION OF AGGREGATION SERVICES BY THE COUNTY OR THE PROVIDER. AGGREGATION GROUP MEMBERS SHALL

ASSERT ANY SUCH CLAIMS SOLELY AGAINST THE PROVIDER PURSUANT TO THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH SUCH PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPRESS THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES.

VIII. **INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT NUMBERS**

Potential participants can receive more information about the program or Copies of this Plan from the County by calling 419-52-3656.

**Any electric customer, including any participant in the County'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 EDU. The PUCO may be reached toll free at 1-800-686-7826.**

## **Appendix A -- Education Process**

The Provider will develop an educational program in conjunction with the County. Its purpose will be to explain the aggregation program to County 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 eligible consumer within the County limits 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 County to provide opportunities for educating eligible County consumers about the Program and their rights under the law, PUCO rules and this Program. In addition, the Provider and County 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.

November 28, 2011

Dear NOAC Community Resident,

We are providing you the opportunity to join other residents to save money on the electricity you use. Savings are possible through governmental aggregation, where community 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. Voters in the NOAC (Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition) communities approved this program in November 2000.

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 May 2014. **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 6 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 0.06 (6%) 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 the NOAC electric governmental aggregation program. If you wish to be excluded from the program and remain a full-service customer of your local electric utility – Toledo Edison – you have until December 19, 2011 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 Toledo Edison.

After you become a participant in this governmental aggregation program, Toledo 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 NOAC electric governmental aggregation program, you don't need to take any action when this letter arrives.

Toledo 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 1-866-836-3749, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please do not call your community with aggregation program questions.

Sincerely,

Local Officials

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 NOAC electric governmental aggregation program.

OPT-OUT FORM – NOAC RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM

**Option 1: Do nothing and save.**  
If you want to participate in this program and save, you do not need to return this form. Your enrollment is automatic.

OR

**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 NOAC Electric Governmental Aggregation Program.

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

Service address (City, state and zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account holder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail by December 19, 2011 to: NOAC Electric Governmental Aggregation Program, 341 White Pond Drive, Bldg. B-3, Akron, Ohio 44320

## **NOAC Electric Governmental Aggregation Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is aggregation?**

Under governmental aggregation, local officials bring citizens together to gain group buying power for the purchase of competitively priced electricity from a retail electric generation supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

### **How is my community able to choose a certified electric generation supplier on my behalf?**

In November 2000, NOAC (Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition) residents voted to allow the community to contract for an electric generation supplier on their behalf.

### **How will I know if I can save money under the NOAC electric governmental aggregation program?**

Under this governmental aggregation program, the price you pay for electric generation supply is guaranteed to be 6 percent lower. In other words, each month, you'll pay 6 percent less for the generation portion of your electric supply than if you had not joined the NOAC governmental aggregation program.

### **What do I need to do if I want to be included in this government aggregation?**

You do not need to do anything to receive the discounted generation pricing under this program. You may choose to remain in the aggregation group and begin receiving your 6-percent discount by simply not returning the opt out form.

### **If I join the NOAC electric aggregation program, who will deliver my power, read my meter and respond to emergencies, such as power outages?**

Your local electric company will be responsible for the delivery of power to your home or business. Since your local electric utility still owns the wires and poles that deliver power to you, it will continue to read your meter and restore power after an outage.

### **Is your price for residential power fixed, or does it vary?**

In this program, the discount you will receive is fixed, so each month you will save 6 percent off the generation portion of your bill. Since the actual price per KWH charged by the utility may change each month based on the season and your usage, the price per KWH from FirstEnergy Solutions will also change each month. Regardless, you are guaranteed to save 6 percent off the competitive portion of your electric bill.

### **What does "opt out" mean?**

"Opt out" means that you can decide not to participate in the NOAC electric governmental aggregation program. By returning the opt-out form, which is included in this mailing, by the due date you will not be enrolled as an electric generation customer with FirstEnergy Solutions, the community's competitive electric generation supplier, and you will not receive the 6-percent discount.

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

If you do not return the opt-out form postmarked by the due date, you will be included in the NOAC governmental aggregation program and will begin receiving competitively priced electricity from FirstEnergy Solutions.

### **Can I opt out over the phone?**

No, if you want to opt out, you must mail in your completed opt-out form and it must be postmarked by the due date.

**Can I opt out of the program at a later date?**

Yes, but you will be subject to a \$25 cancellation fee from FirstEnergy Solutions if you cancel for any other reason but moving. However, you will be sent a notice at least every three years asking if you wish to remain in the program. At that point, you may opt out at no cost.

**What are my energy supply choices if I decide to opt out?**

You can stay with your current electric utility, which will continue to supply your electricity as it always has, or you can shop for an alternative generation supplier. A list of competitive electric suppliers certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and their current prices is available by calling 1-800-686-PUCO (1-800-686-7826).

**If I join the aggregation, can I stay on budget billing?**

Yes, you can remain on budget billing; however, the budget billing program does not apply to your charges from FirstEnergy Solutions – only to charges from the electric utility. Your total charges from FirstEnergy Solutions will fluctuate from month to month according to your usage.

**Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account as I do now?**

Yes. How you pay your electric bill will not change.

**Who is FirstEnergy Solutions?**

FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., offers a wide range of energy and related products and services, including the generation and sale of electricity and energy planning and procurement. FirstEnergy Solutions is a leading competitive supplier of energy to residential and commercial and industrial customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois and Michigan.

**What is the toll-free number for questions?**

For answers to your questions, please call 1-866-636-3749, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. - Residential & Small Commercial Terms and Conditions**

These Terms and Conditions together with the enrollment information are your agreement for electric generation service with FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. ("FES") if you choose to remain in the community aggregation program by not "opting-out" or exercising the right of rescission ("Contract"). Please keep a copy of this agreement for your records.

FES is certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to offer and supply electric generation services in Ohio. As a Competitive Retail Electric Service ("CRES") provider, FES will supply the electric generation to your Electric Distribution Utility ("EDU") based on your usage. Your EDU then distributes or delivers the electricity to you. FES sets the generation prices and charges that the customers pay. The PUCO regulates distribution prices and services. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates transmission prices and services.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Generation Service** – The production of electricity.

**Transmission Service** – Moving high voltage electricity from a generation facility to the distribution lines of an EDU.

**Distribution Service** – Physical delivery of electricity to customers by EDU.

**RIGHT OF RESCISSION** – If you do not opt-out and are enrolled to receive generation service from FES, your EDU will send you a confirmation letter. You will have the right to rescind your enrollment within seven (7) calendar days following the postmark date of the confirmation letter by following the instructions contained in the letter. The Right of Rescission only applies when a customer switches to a generation supplier and not on renewal enrollments. Your EDU will not send a confirmation notice upon any renewal of this Agreement. Should you choose to opt-out of your community's program, you will be served by your EDU's standard service offer established pursuant to section 4928.14 of the Ohio Revised Code unless you choose an alternate supplier of electricity.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

1. **Eligibility.** Only Residential Customer accounts not enrolled in the Percentage of Income Plan Program (PIPP) and small commercial customers with a peak demand below 399 KW are eligible for this offer from FES. FES reserves the right to refuse enrollment to any customer with an outstanding balance.
2. **Basic Service Prices.** During the term of this Contract, you agree to pay FES for a total combined Transmission, Generation, and Generation Related Charges. You will be billed at the percentage off your EDU Price to Compare per KWh per billing month, as specified in the opt-out notification. Your Price to Compare consists of bypassable transmission, generation and transmission and generation related components, which are charges associated with the costs of purchased power and the cost to deliver the power through the transmission system. These are the charges that you would avoid for that billing period when you switch to FES.  
Your price per KWh will vary because it will always be a percent off the Price to Compare, which may change based on any changes made by the EDU in its calculations. In addition to FES' charges, you will be charged by your EDU for distribution and various other charges. FES reserves the right to unilaterally modify this billing format in the event the EDU is unable or unwilling to provide consolidated billing in this format or changes the calculation of the Price to Compare.  
In addition to the Generation Charge described above, FES will charge you for any and all fees, costs, and obligations imposed by a Regional Transmission Organization ("RTO"), such as the Midwest ISO or successor organizations, that are not otherwise reimbursed by the Electric Utility to Supplier, regardless of whether such charges are greater than, less than, or equal to the charges Customer currently pays for these services to the Electric Utility ("Midwest ISO/Transmission and Ancillary Charges"). FES will pass these Midwest ISO/Transmission and Ancillary Charges, which may be variable, through to you and you will receive no discount or percent-off of these Midwest ISO/Transmission and Ancillary Charges.
3. **Length of Agreement.** As a part of your community's program, your service from FES will commence with the next available meter reading and after processing of the enrollment by your EDU, and will continue for the term as specified in the opt-out notification, ending on the meter read for the last month of service. For the period beginning June 2011, the program may be terminated or modified due to unforeseen regulatory action. Should the program be terminated, you will be returned to the standard service offer or its successor.
4. **Billing.** You will continue to receive a single bill from your EDU that will contain both your EDU and FES charges. FES does not offer budget billing. If you do not pay your bill by the due date, FES may cancel this

Agreement after giving you a minimum of fourteen (14) days written notice. Upon cancellation you will be returned to your EDU as a customer. You will remain responsible to pay FES for any electricity used before this Agreement is cancelled, as well as any late payment charges. Further, your failure to pay EDU charges may result in your electric service being disconnected in accordance with the EDU tariff.

5. **Penalties, Fees and Exceptions.** If you do not pay the full amount owed FES by the due date of the bill, FES may charge a 1.5% per month late payment fee.
6. **Cancellation/Termination Provisions.** If this agreement is not rescinded during the rescission period, enrollment will be sent to your EDU. You may terminate this Agreement, without penalty, if you move out of the EDU service territory or into an area where FES will charge a different price. *There will be a \$25 charge for residential customers and a \$50.00 charge for commercial customers if you terminate this Agreement for any other reason, except as expressly provided herein. Should you cancel service with FES and return to standard service offer with your EDU, you may not be served under the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to other EDU customers.*
7. **Customer Consent and Information Release Authorization.** By choosing not to opt-out of your community's aggregation program, you understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement with FES. You authorize FES to obtain information from the EDU that includes, but is not limited to: billing history, payment history, historical and future electricity usage, meter readings, and characteristics of electricity service. FES reserves the sole right to determine if your credit standing is satisfactory before accepting your enrollment request. This Agreement shall be considered executed by FES following acceptance of your enrollment request by FES, the end of the 7 day rescission period and subsequent acceptance of the enrollment by your EDU.
8. **Contract Expiration.** At least every three years, you will be given the opportunity to opt-out of your community's aggregation program at no cost. You are responsible for arranging for your electric supply upon termination of this Contract.
9. **Dispute Procedures.** Contact FES with any questions concerning the terms of service by phone at 1-888-254-6359 (toll-free) M-F 8AM – 5PM EST or in writing at 341 White Pond Drive, Attn: Contract Administration, Akron, OH 44320. Our web address is [www.firstenergysolutions.com](http://www.firstenergysolutions.com). 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 for assistance at 1-800-686-7826 (toll free) or TTY at 1-800-686-1570 (toll free) from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays or at [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov). Customers may also call the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) at 1-877-742-5622 (toll free) from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays or at [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).
10. **Miscellaneous.** You have the right to request from FES, twice within a 12 month period, up to 24 months of payment history, without charge.  
FES will not release your Social Security number and/or account number(s) without your written consent.  
FES' environmental disclosure statement is available for viewing on our website – [www.firstenergysolutions.com](http://www.firstenergysolutions.com). You agree that FES will make the required quarterly updates to the statement electronically on our website. We will also provide the information upon request.  
FES may assign its rights to another, including any successor, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the PUCO.  
FES assumes no responsibility or liability for the following items that are the responsibility of the EDU: operation and maintenance of the EDU's electrical system, any interruption of service, termination of service, or deterioration of the EDU's service. In the event of a power outage, you should contact your local EDU.  
Customer is responsible for providing FES with accurate account information. If said information is incorrect, FES reserves the right to reprice the applicable account(s) or terminate the agreement.  
FES reserves the right to return any customer to the EDU if the customer's rate code is changed and the account is no longer eligible for this program.
11. **Warranty.** FES warrants title and the right to all electricity sold hereunder. THE WARRANTIES SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH ARE EXCLUSIVE AND ARE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER STATUTORY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR ARISING OUT OF ANY COURSE OF DEALING OR USAGE OF TRADE.

## **Appendix A-5**

### **Applicant's Experience:**

Putnam County was created in 1820 from Shelby County and was attached to Wood County for judicial purposes. When Williams County was organized on February 2, 1824, Putnam was detached from Wood and attached to Williams County. Putnam County was organized by the Ohio Legislature Act of January 3, 1834 to take effect immediately. Putnam County is located in the northwestern part of Ohio. The county seat is Ottawa, which is the largest community in the county with a population of 4,367 people in 2000.

Putnam plans to join an existing government aggregation group, the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition. NOAC is a coalition of communities in Lucas and northern Wood Counties providing governmental aggregation services for electric and natural gas customers within the Cities of Maumee, Northwood, Oregon, Perrysburg, Sylvania and Toledo, the Village of Holland, the Wood County Townships of Lake and Perrysburg, and all the unincorporated township areas of Lucas County (through the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio).

The coalition is assisted on technical and market issues by Palmer Energy, a local energy consulting firm located in Toledo, Ohio. Mark Frye, President of Palmer Energy, is NOAC's designated consultant and has testified on behalf of NOAC in several matters before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

By joining an existing government aggregation group this will allow us to utilize our resources to meet our responsibilities, as stated in the Plan of Operation and Governance.