



**Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.**

**PUCO Certificate: 00-002E**

**PUCO Certificate: 00-006G**

66 East Mill Street

Akron, Ohio 44308

(330) 730-4338

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Chief of Docketing  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad St. 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

**RE: Electric Governmental Aggregator Application Case Number 16-2031-EL-GAG**

The City of Richmond Heights is pleased to submit its renewal application for electric governmental aggregator. The original application was docketed as case number 16-2031-EL-GAG.

Should you have any questions or additional needs, please call me at (330) 730-4338.

Sincerely,

*Thomas M. Bellish*  
President

Attachment

**Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.**

**Services**

*Deregulated Energy*

- Consulting
- Aggregation
- Procurement

**Benefits**

- Buying Leverage
- Risk Mitigation
- Budget Predictability
- Cost Control
- Best Combination of Term, Service & Pricing Available

**Proven Expertise**

- PUCO Certified
- Customized Energy Management Solutions
- Municipal Aggregation
- Governmental Procurement Programs
- Procedure Management & Procurement Consulting
- Daily Trend Analysis of Energy Markets
- Ohio Brokers Serving Ohio Clients



## Public Utilities Commission

Competitive Retail Electric Service (CRES)  
Governmental Aggregator Application

Case Number: 16 \_2031 -EL-GAG

Please complete all information. Identify all attachments with a label and title (example: Exhibit B-2 Operation and governance plan). For paper filing, you can mail the original and three complete copies to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

### A. Application Information

#### A-1. Applicant's legal name and contact information.

Provide the name and contact information of the business entity.

Legal Name: City of Richmond Heights  
Street Address: 26789 Highland Road  
City: Richmond Heights State: Ohio Zip: 44143  
Telephone: (216) 486-2474 Website: richmondheightsohio.org

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

Name: Thomas M. Bellish  
Street Address: 66 East Mill Street  
City: Akron State: Ohio Zip: 44308  
Telephone: (330) 730-4338 Email: tb@buckeyeenergybrokers.com

#### A-3. Contact person for PUCO Staff use in investigating consumer complaints.

Name: Thomas M. Bellish  
Street Address: 66 East Mill Street  
City: Akron State: Ohio Zip: 44308  
Telephone: (330) 730-4338 Email: tb@buckeyeenergybrokers.com

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

Street Address: 66 East Mill Street  
City: Akron State: Ohio Zip: 44308  
Toll-free  
Telephone: (866) 302-2237 Email: tb@buckeyeenergybrokers.com

## B. Managerial Capability

Provide a response or attachment for each of the sections below.

### B-1. Authorizing Ordinance.

Provide a copy of the adopted ordinance or resolution authorizing the formation of a governmental aggregation program pursuant to Sections 4928.20(A), 4929.26, and/or 4929.27 of the Ohio Revised Code.

### B-2. Operation and governance plan.

Provide a copy of the applicant's plan for operation and governance of its aggregation program adopted pursuant to Section 4928.20(C), 4929.26(C), and/or 4929.27(B) of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with 4901:1-21-16 and/or 4901:1-28-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

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

Provide a draft copy of the opt-out notice that provides or offers automatic aggregation services in accordance with Sections 4928.20(D) or 4929.26(D) of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with 4901:1-21-17 and/or 4901:1-28-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The applicant must file the finalized opt-out notice in the certification case docket no more than 30 days and not less than ten days prior to public dissemination.

### B-4. Experience and plans.

Describe in detail the applicant's experience and plan for providing aggregation services, including contracting with consultants, broker/aggregators, retail natural gas suppliers and/or 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 4929.22 and/or 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**As authorized representative for the above company/organization, I certify that all the information contained in this application is true, accurate and complete. I also understand that failure to report completely and accurately may result in penalties or other legal actions.**

  
Signature

11-7-2022  
Date

MAYOR  
Title

# **Competitive Retail Electric Service Affidavit**

County of Cuyahoga :

State of Ohio :

Kim A. Thomas, Mayor

, 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 in contact person for regulatory purposes or contact person for Staff use 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.

*Jose L. Lora Mayan*

Signature of Affiant & Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this 7TH day of November, 2022

Month

Year

Brian S. Gleisser

Signature of official administering oath

BRIAN S. GLEISSER

Print Name and Title

My commission expires on \_\_\_\_\_

NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires on \_\_\_\_\_  
Section 147.05, F.S.

ORDINANCE NO.: 73-2001  
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Ursu and All of Council

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Ohio Legislature has enacted electric deregulation legislation (Am. Sub. S.B. No. 3) which authorizes the legislative authorities of municipal corporations, townships and counties to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the respective jurisdictions and to enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of electricity ("Governmental Aggregation"); and

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

WHEREAS, Governmental Aggregation provides an opportunity for residential and small business customers to participate collectively in the potential benefits of electricity deregulation through lower electric rates which would not otherwise be available to those electric consumers individually; and

WHEREAS, this Council, individually or jointly with any other municipal corporation, township, county or other political subdivision of the State of Ohio as permitted by law, seeks to establish a Governmental Aggregation program providing for automatic aggregation with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4928.20(D), Ohio Revised Code (the "Aggregation Program"), for the residents, businesses and other electric consumers in the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council for the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio that:

**Section 1:** This Council finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the City, its residents, businesses and other electric consumers located within the corporate limits of the City to establish the Aggregation Program in the City. Provided that the Aggregation Program is approved by the electors of the City pursuant to Section 2 of this Ordinance, the

City is hereby authorized to automatically aggregate, in accordance with Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code, the retail electrical loads located within the City, and, for that purpose, to enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of electricity. The City may exercise such authority individually or jointly with any other municipal corporation, township or county or other political subdivision of the State of Ohio to the full extent permitted by law. The aggregation shall occur automatically for each person owning, occupying, controlling or using an electric load center proposed to be aggregated unless such person affirmatively elects by a stated procedure not to participate in the Aggregation Program pursuant to the opt-out provisions described in Section 4928.20(D), Ohio Revised Code, and Section 3 of this Ordinance.

**Section 2:** The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County is hereby directed to submit the following question to the electors of the City at the general election on November 6, 2001.

Shall the City of Richmond Heights have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the City, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person affirmatively elects not to participate in the aggregation program, all in accordance with Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code, and Ordinance No. 73-2001 adopted by City Council?


**Section 3:** The Clerk of Council is instructed immediately to file a certified copy of this Ordinance and the proposed form of the ballot question with the County Board of Elections not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to November 6, 2001. The Aggregation Program shall not take effect unless approved by a majority of the electors voting upon the Aggregation Program at the election held pursuant to this Ordinance and Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code.

**Section 4:** Upon approval of a majority of electors voting at the general election on the Aggregation Program provided for in Section 2 of this Ordinance, this Council, individually or jointly with any other political subdivisions, may develop a plan of operation and governance for the Aggregation Program. Before adopting such a plan of operation and governance this Council shall hold at least two public hearings on the plan. Before the first hearing, notice of the hearings shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City. The notice shall summarize the plan and state the date, time and location of each hearing. No plan adopted by this Council shall

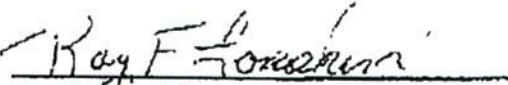
automatically aggregate the electrical load of any electric load center within the City unless, in advance, it clearly discloses to the person owning, occupying, controlling or using the load center that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program and will remain so enrolled unless the person affirmatively elects by a stated procedure not to be so enrolled. The disclosure shall state prominently the rates, charges and other terms and conditions of enrollment. The stated procedure shall allow any person enrolled in the Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt out of the program every two years, without paying a switching fee. Any such person that opts out of the Aggregation Program pursuant to the stated procedure shall default to the standard service offer provided under division (A) of Section 4928.14 or division (D) of Section 4928.35, Ohio Revised Code, until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

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


**Section 5:** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Richmond Heights, such emergency being the need to file a certified copy of this Ordinance and the proposed form of ballot question with the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County not later than seventy-five (75) days prior to the November 6, 2001 election, as provided herein; wherefore, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: August 21, 2001   
Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: August 21, 2001

ATTEST: Betsy Traben   
Betsy Traben Ray F. Loushin  
Clerk of Council President of Council

I, Betsy Traben, as Clerk of the City of Richmond Heights, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 73-2001, adopted by the Council of said Municipality on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2001.

  
Betsy Traben  
Clerk of Council

# **ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO**

## **PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE**



**Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.**

**For additional information contact:**

Thomas M. Bellish, President  
Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.  
66 East Mill Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
Buckeyeenergybrokers.com  
(330) 730-4338

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## 1. Purpose of Electric Aggregation Program

This aggregation plan has been developed in compliance with Ohio Revised Code, Section 4928.20 regarding governmental aggregation of electric service. The City of Richmond Heights ("the City") Aggregation Program ("Program") seeks to aggregate the retail electric loads of consumers located in the City to negotiate the best rates for the generation supply of electric power. It has the potential to combine residential, commercial and industrial customers into a buying pool that will be attractive to third party suppliers (Suppliers). Participation in the Program is voluntary. Any individual customer (Member) has the opportunity to decline to be a member of the aggregation program and to return to The Illuminating Company standard offer of service or to enter into a power supply contract with any competitive retail electric supplier. This Plan of Operation will not be adopted until two public hearings are held in accordance with section 4928.20 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

## 2. The Process for Municipal Aggregation

The process of governmental aggregation is set forth in Ohio Revised Code section 4928.20. The section defines opt-in aggregation that may be enacted by a governmental entity. Under the opt-out aggregation provisions, all electric consumers within the City will be automatically included in the Program. However, such customers will be given prior notice entitling them to affirmatively elect not to be part of the Program. These customers can opt-out during a 21-day period after the election. A similar opt-out period will be offered every two years during which Members can leave the City's aggregation pool without paying a switching fee.

All eligible load centers under 700,000 kWh per year within the City will be automatically enrolled in the aggregation program. In addition, only accounts with "shoppable" rate codes, as defined by FirstEnergy Corporation may participate in the Program.

The Supplier and The Illuminating Company will identify those customers in the City who have not opted out, who have not renewed their special rate contracts, who are not on the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and who are not on FirstEnergy's "Opt-Off Marketing List." These customers will be transferred to the Supplier selected by the City and enrolled over the period of one month. The Illuminating Company shall notify each transferred customer of the transfer with its last bill for standard offer service. Service under the new Supplier shall begin at the start of the billing period following the transfer.

## 3. Terms and Conditions of Enrollment

### 3.1 Rates

The City shall receive proposals from electric suppliers using a competitive selection process. The request for proposals shall require the suppliers to offer a generation charge for each customer class, load grouping or other appropriate category that is lower than the standard offer from The Illuminating Company. The prices to be charged to Members in the Program will be set by City Council after negotiations with the selected Supplier. Members were notified of the rates and terms of the Program through the local newspaper, local Cable TV Channels and the City's web site. Opt-out forms will be docketed with the PUCO 10 days prior to mailings.

### 3.2 Charges

FirstEnergy will continue to bill for Federal Phase I Clean Air Act Compliance, Late Payment, Electric Fuel Component and Monthly Service Fee, etc. These charges apply whether a Member switches or not. Switching generation suppliers will not result in any new charges.

### 3.3 Switching Fees

At the present time, FirstEnergy is requiring a per customer switching fee for those customers who voluntarily remain in a government aggregation program and are switched to an alternate Supplier. The City's Request for Proposal (RFP) was written to require the selected Supplier to pay for the group's switching fee.

### 3.4 Terms

The aggregation program is designed to reduce the amount consumers pay for electric energy. The City will not buy and resell the power to the participants of the program. Instead, the City will competitively bid and negotiate a contract with a competitive retail electric supplier to provide firm, all-requirements generation service to the members of the aggregation program.

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

- Are up to date with their bill payment;
- Have not Opted-out of the program;
- Are not on the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP); and
- Have a shoppable rate code.

### 3.5 Opt-Out Disclosure

The City is using an Opt-out form of Governmental Aggregation pursuant to section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code. The City will disclose to the person owning, occupying or using the load center that the person will be enrolled automatically in the aggregation program and will remain so enrolled unless the person affirmatively elects by the following procedure not to be so enrolled. Any such person that opts out of the aggregation program pursuant to stated procedure shall default to the standard service offer provided by FirstEnergy until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

Procedure:

1. The Supplier will distribute the Opt-Out Form (refer to Exhibit A-4 "Automatic Aggregation Disclosure");
2. Recipients have 21 days to notify the Supplier; and
3. The Supplier will exclude those opting out from the Program.

4. Customers will receive written notification from FirstEnergy Corp. stating that they are about to be switched and have 7 days if they wish to rescind the contract.

#### 4. Policies for Customers Moving Into/Out of the Municipality

Members who have left the Program, or who have moved into the City, may contact the City or its Supplier at any time to obtain enrollment information. There is however, no guarantee that customers opting-in at a later date will receive the same price, terms and conditions as did the initial participants. Suppliers are unable to hold price offerings for an unlimited amount of time, and if the City asks for such a requirement, the price offering received from suppliers will be higher to reflect the greater risk.

Customers may opt out of the Program at no charge within a 21-day period following passage of the ballot. Two public hearings will be held shortly after the ballot to discuss the plan of operation and the process for opting-out. Customers who provide the required opt-out notice will remain customers of The Illuminating Company until such time as they select a different generation provider. A similar period in which customers can opt-out of the Program without charge will be offered every two years.

#### 5. Billing Procedures

The City will utilize the coordinated billing services of FirstEnergy and the selected Supplier. We anticipate residential customers will receive a single bill from FirstEnergy that itemizes among other things, the cost of generation provided by the selected supplier. In some instances, dual billing will be used for commercial and industrial group members. In these instances, one bill will be sent from the Supplier and one will be sent from FirstEnergy for their respective services.

#### 6. Procedures for Handling Customer Complaints

Members will have multiple means of addressing complaints. As a general rule, concerns regarding service reliability should be directed to The Illuminating Company, questions regarding the Program administration should go to the City, and any unresolved disputes should be directed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and/or Buckeye Energy Brokers. Listed below is a table of toll-free numbers for members to call for assistance.

<b>Nature of Complaint</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Power interruptions or outages	The Illuminating Company	1-800-589-3101
Power turn on/off	The Illuminating Company	1-800-589-3101
Billing disputes	The Illuminating Company	1-800-589-3101
Joining/Leaving Program	Supplier	
Program Regulatory Questions	Buckeye Energy Brokers	1-866-302-2237
Unresolved Disputes	Public Utilities Commission	1-800-686-7826

## 7. Rights and Responsibilities of Program Members

### 7.1 Universal Access to Aggregation Program

"Universal access" is a term derived from the traditional regulated utility environment in which all customers desiring service receive that service. For the purposes of this Program this will mean that all existing customers within the City borders shall be eligible for service from the contracted supplier under the terms and conditions of the supply contract. It is a goal of the Program to provide the basis for aggregation of all Members on a non-discriminatory basis.

Service under the Program shall include all customer classes in adherence with universal service principles and requirements, and the traditional non-discriminatory practices of local government. Contracts with all Suppliers shall contain provisions to maintain these principles and equitable treatment of all customer classes.

Existing customers in the City currently receiving electric power through an Affinity Group offer or other similar mechanism will become members of the Program. Those members wishing to rejoin their group will need to Opt-out of the Program. Residents who are currently PIPP customers are not eligible to become Program Members.

### 7.2 Dispute Resolution

Members should make all efforts to address complaints or concerns in accordance with the guidance provided in section 6.0 "Procedures for Handling Customer Complaints" of this plan. If Members are unable to resolve their concerns through these channels, they may contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (1-800-686-7826) or the Ohio Consumers Council (1-877-742-5622) for additional assistance.

### 7.3 Bill Payment

Members are required to remit and comply with the payment terms of FirstEnergy and/or their supplier if dual billing is used. This Program will not be responsible for late or no payment on the part of any of its members. Collection and credit procedures remain the responsibility of FirstEnergy, the selected Supplier and the individual Member.

### 7.4 Leaving the Aggregation Program

Members who wish to opt-out of the program may do so:

1. During the program's initial 21-day opt-out period;
2. Every two years without paying a switching fee; and
3. At any other time, but may be required to pay a switching fee

## 8. Reliability of Power Supply

The Program will only effect the generation source of power. The Illuminating Company will continue to deliver power through their transmission and distribution systems. Responsibility for maintaining system reliability continues to rest with the local utility. If Members have service reliability problems they should contact The Illuminating Company for repairs. The PUCO has established "Minimum Reliability Standards" for all utilities operating distribution systems in Ohio. Customer outages, duration of outages, interruptions, etc., will be monitored to ensure reliability remains at satisfactory levels.

In addition to maintaining the "wires" system, The Illuminating Company is required to be the "Provider of Last Resort." This means, should the selected supplier fail for any reason to deliver any or all of the electricity needed to serve the Members needs, The Illuminating Company will immediately provide for the shortfall. The Illuminating Company would then bill the supplier for the power provided on their behalf. The Members would incur no additional cost.

## 9. Supplier Qualification Selection Criteria

Only Suppliers meeting strict criteria will be considered. The selected Supplier will need own generating facilities or be directly affiliated with a utility that does. Suppliers will need to be certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and registered with FirstEnergy Corporation to do business in their service territory. Both the certification and registration ensure that Suppliers are managerially, technically, and financially competent to perform the services they offer.

The successful bidder shall also demonstrate its creditworthiness by possessing an investment grade long-term bond ratings from at least two of the following rating agencies:

Standard & Poors	BBB or Higher
Moody's Investors' Services	Baa3 or Higher

## 10. Funding the Aggregation Program

The primary expenses of the Program are expected to be publication of notices, written notification to customers, switching fees due to The Illuminating Company, regulatory fees and registration with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Except, possibly, for the initial notification of customers, these expenses and administrative fees will be the responsibility of the selected Supplier.

## 11. Maintenance and Reporting of the Aggregation Program

The City will rely on its consultant Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. to monitor and report on a quarterly basis. Buckeye Energy will track the performance of the selected Supplier, report on estimated savings and provide an analysis of current and future market conditions. Reports will

be provided to the City Council. Members wishing to view the reports should make arrangements to do so by contacting the City Administration during normal working hours.

## 12. Professional Assistance

Due to the complexity of deregulation of the electric utility industry, the City will consult with and obtain the necessary expertise to represent and administer the Program. The City has contracted with Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. to provide energy consulting services.

**Opt- Out Letter**

**July XX, 20XX**

**Dear City of Richmond Heights Resident,**

City of Richmond Heights is providing you the opportunity to join other residents to save money on the electricity you use. Savings are possible through governmental aggregation, where City 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. City of Richmond Heights voters approved this program in November 2001.

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 XXXX. 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 City of Richmond Heights'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 – The Illuminating Company– you have until July 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 The Illuminating Company.

After you become a participant in this governmental aggregation program, The Illuminating Company 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 City's governmental aggregation program, you don't need to take any action when this letter arrives.

The Illuminating Company 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 the City of Richmond Heights with aggregation program questions.

Sincerely,

City of Richmond Heights

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 City's electric governmental aggregation program.

**OPT-OUT FORM - CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS 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 City of Richmond Heights's Electric Governmental Aggregation Program.

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

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

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

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

**Mail by July XX, 20XX to: City of Richmond Heights Electric Governmental Aggregation Program, 341 White Pond Drive, Bldg. B-3, Akron, Ohio 44320**

## **City of Richmond Heights 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 the City able to choose a certified electric generation supplier on my behalf?**

In November 2001, City of Richmond Heights residents voted to allow the City to contract for an electric generation supplier on their behalf.

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

Under the City's 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 City's 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 City's 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 City's 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 City'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 City's 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.

**Exhibit B-4 Experience and Plans**

The City of Richmond Heights has a wealth of experience in negotiating, contracting and providing for common services to the City residents. Some examples of experience as a service provider are:

1. Natural Gas “Opt-Out” Municipal Aggregation Program
2. Water Service
3. Police & Fire Services
4. Parks and Recreation

The Mayor, City Council and City Staff routinely negotiate for services and supplies that benefit the residents. However, due to the complexity of municipal aggregation, the City will rely on the services of Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. to assist them in designing, implementing and maintaining the Program. Buckeye Energy Brokers is a PUCO certified (00-002(9)) Electric Aggregator and Broker in the State of Ohio and a PUCO certified (02-006G(9)) Natural Gas Aggregator and Broker in the State of Ohio. They have experience working with over 200 buying groups in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

**Contractual Arrangements for Capability Standards:** If the applicant is relying upon contractual arrangements with a third-party(ies) to meet any of the certification requirements, the applicant must provide with its application all of the following:

- The community is contracting with the following consultant to provide third party assistance:

Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.  
66 East Mill Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
(330) 730-4338

- The community has contracted with Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. to assist in designing, implementing and maintaining its aggregation program.
- Below is a detailed summary of services being provided:
  - Broker shall provide energy related Services, including but not limited to the following:
    - Volume data collection and verification
    - Energy savings estimates
    - Energy buying consultation
    - Write customized Request for Proposal (RFP)
    - All contact with potential energy suppliers
    - Release all necessary client information to switch energy suppliers
    - Pre-qualify any energy suppliers wishing to bid on the RFP
    - Contract negotiation and closing with selected supplier
    - Monitor energy cost savings with quarterly reports.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/9/2022 10:50:38 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-2031-EL-GAG**

Summary: Application for recertification electronically filed by Mr. Thomas M.  
Bellish on behalf of City of Richmond Heights