

Volume 317 December 31, 2012

Chicago Municipal Aggregation

Chicagoans with a New Year's resolution to save on energy bills in 2013 can do nothing and cut their electricity costs 11 percent.

That's the deal set out in 2.5 million letters being sent to Chicago residents and small businesses this week. The notices explain that residents can opt-out of the deal brokered this month to switch to a new electricity supplier or do nothing and save.

Chicagoans who don't act by Jan. 9 will be automatically enrolled in the program and receive their first bills under the new electricity supplier in March. Chicagoans can opt out and stick with ComEd or choose their own supplier like thousands of people have.

Commonwealth Edison Co. still will be responsible for delivering electricity and fixing outages. ComEd makes its money on delivery. Customers' new bills will look like the old bills, except that the portion titled "electricity supply services" will have a new rate and include the new supplier's name.

Customers enrolled real-time pricing, receive their electricity from another supplier or who are in low-income assistance programs with ComEd such as LIHEAP and PIPP will not be automatically enrolled but can opt in to the program at any time.

Turbines turn as tax credit's end looms

Wind turbine installations have been exceeding the construction of natural gas plants in recent months as developers rush to complete projects before the expiration of a tax credit for renewable energy.

New wind capacity reached 6,519 megawatts by Nov. 30, beating the 6,335 megawatts of natural gas additions and more than double those of coal, according to data from Ventyx Inc., which is owned by the Swiss power transmission equipment maker ABB Ltd.

"Wind will very likely beat gas, but it may be close," said Amy Grace, who leads North American wind industry analysis for Bloomberg New Energy Finance in New York. "I think it's very likely that we get over 8 gigawatts for 2012."

Congress hasn't renewed the production tax credit, which provides incentives for wind farms completed before Dec. 31. Efforts to take advantage of the subsidy trumped interest in gas-fired stations, even though natural gas prices have plunged due to a surge in supply stemming from the use of hydraulic fracturing technology.

A surge of wind-farm connections in November and December could double the amount of wind capacity added this year to as much as 12 gigawatts, according to New Energy Finance.

Electricity Pricing – Dec 31, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.03842	\$.02549
2014	\$.04035	\$.02662
2015	\$.04197	\$.02791

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Dec, 2011	\$.02971
Jan, 2012	\$.03043
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec 1 – Dec 30	\$.03081

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	35	21	27	31	28
Low	16	12	23	18	23

