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NEWS

For more information Reg Ankrom, 217-779-2595

Ameren Illinois has announced a residential electric rate of 4.6 cents per kilowatthour for the 12-month period beginning with June meter readings. The rate is 2.8 tenths of one cent less than Tolono's electric aggregation rate of 4.88 cents per kilowatthour, or a difference of approximately \$28 annually for a typical customer using 10,000 kilowatthours a year.

The contract Tolono negotiated in December 2017 with MidAmerican Energy, the low bidder to supply electricity for the Village's electric aggregation program, gives residents who participate in the program an opportunity to opt out at any time and at no cost. To opt out, participants can call MidAmerican toll-free at 800-342-3346. Callers will need only their account number, found at the top of their electric bill, to opt out.

Residential accounts that are opted out will be returned automatically to Ameren for their electric supply or to an alternative retail electric supplier the consumer designates. Electric aggregation rules require consumers who opt out to remain a total of 12 months with Ameren for electric supply if they do not select an alternative supplier within the first two months after opting out of a community's electric aggregation program.

Nearly all 300 downstate Illinois communities that have electric aggregation programs have seen their rates rise above Ameren's. The utility's rate has fallen in each of the past two years due largely to reduced invested capital costs.

SIMEC, LLC, headquartered in Quincy, is the broker consultant for the Village's electric aggregation program.