

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY ELECTRIC GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE UNDER SECTION 4928.20 (A) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.

The Board of County Commissioners of Auglaize County, Ohio met in regular session on the 15th day of December, 2011.

Commissioner Spencer moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, On November 8, 2011 a majority of voters in various communities in the Auglaize 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; and,

WHEREAS, these communities decided to utilize their aggregation authority jointly through Auglaize County Ohio as permitted under Section 4928.20 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code; and,

WHEREAS, Auglaize County ("County" or "Auglaize 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.

WHEREAS, the Auglaize County Electric Governmental Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance and the plan will become part of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners, Auglaize County, Ohio does hereby adopt the Auglaize County Electric Governmental Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance Plan.

Commissioner Regula seconded the Resolution and upon the roll being called. The vote resulted in the adoption of the Resolution as follows:

Adopted this
15th day of
December, 2011

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO
John N. Bergman, yes
John N. Bergman
Douglas A. Spencer, yes
Douglas A. Spencer
Don Regula, yes
Don Regula

Auglaize County Electric Governmental Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance

- I. **INTRODUCTION.** On November 8, 2011 a majority of voters in various communities in the Auglaize 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.

These communities decided to utilize their aggregation authority jointly through Auglaize County Ohio as permitted under Section 4928.20 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Auglaize County (“County” or “Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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, Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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 free of charge by calling 419-739-6710.

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.