

USING A COMPETITIVE SUPPLIER

Q: If I switch electricity suppliers, will my service be affected?

A: No. By law, the utility is not allowed to provide different care levels to customers that have chosen an alternate supplier. You will continue to receive the same level of electricity delivery, emergency response, and meter reading from your current utility. Your utility will not change, just the supplier of your electricity.

Q: How do I know if a competitive supplier is legitimate?

A: The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC) maintains a list of Licensed Competitive Power Suppliers. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission will only request proposals from licensed suppliers. Bidders will also be required to demonstrate their history of providing a reliable electricity supply to municipal customers.

Q: Will I see a change to my electricity billing?

A: No, you will not see a change in your billing. Each municipality and school district will continue to be billed through its current distributor and will receive a single bill for supply and distribution charges.

JOINING THE AGGREGATION

Q: Why should I participate in the Nashua Region Electricity Supply Aggregation?

A: The goal of the Nashua Region Electricity Supply Aggregation is to purchase electricity as a group from a competitive supplier at a lower rate than each member could receive on its own. By purchasing as an aggregation, municipalities and school districts can offer electricity suppliers a larger demand than if they each tried to purchase electricity individually. The larger demand, in turn, allows suppliers to offer a better rate to the aggregation than it could to individual members. The aggregation also makes it possible for members to share the costs of documenting load data, organizing an RFP process, selecting a supplier, conducting negotiations, and managing energy contracts.

Q: Is there a cost to participate?

A: Yes. The cost will be included in the energy pricing.

BID PROCESS

Q: How will the winning bidder be selected?

A: NRPC works with an energy advisor, Standard Power, to solicit bids from suppliers and interpret the results. Price, contract terms, and prior experience serving municipalities will be considered when selecting a supplier.

PRICING

Q: Will the price municipalities and school districts pay for electricity change during the contract period?

A: No. The price will be fixed during the contract period.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will the electricity rate be?

A: Until proposals are received, it is unknown what the electricity rate will be. Our energy advisor Standard Power will also enroll members within the Eversource distribution territory in hydroelectric net metering which will further reduce their energy price by around .005 kWh.

Q: Is it possible that the aggregation could end up paying a higher electricity rate than the default utility?

A: No. While it is possible to go through the bid process and not get a lower price than the default utility rate, the aggregation members would simply exercise their right to reject all proposals and choose not to pursue the project.

Q: Will each member of the aggregation receive the same price?

A: Yes. Rates and contracts will be identical for each member within a given electric distribution territory.

CONTRACTS

Q: How long would the electricity purchase contract last?

A: The terms will be determined by the aggregation members and depend on the outlook of the energy market.

Q: Will each member of the aggregation sign its own contract with the supplier?

A: Yes. Each aggregation member will sign their own contract with the supplier for a fixed electricity supply rate. Contracts will be identical for each member within a given electric distribution territory.

Q: Who signs the electricity supply contract on behalf of the municipality or school district?

A: Most often this is signed by a person who has had this authority delegated to them, such as the Town Administrator.

Q: What does an electricity supply contract consist of?

A: Most suppliers have a 2-part contract. The first part contains the general terms and conditions. It does not have pricing and is less time-sensitive than the pricing addendum. The second piece is the pricing addendum, which needs to be executed on the same day it is generated.

MOU & COMMITMENT TO THE AGGREGATION

Q: I'm currently working with a broker. Can I still participate in the aggregation?

A: If you have signed an agreement giving a supplier, broker, or aggregator the exclusive right to provide you with electricity pricing and/or access your billing data, that agreement would have to be rescinded in order for you to participate in this aggregation.

Q: Why do I need to sign a MOU that contains an exclusive agreement clause?

A: Each participating municipality and school district must agree to an exclusivity clause for two reasons. First, committing to the Aggregation assures bidders that the total annual electricity load for the group will not change. This allows them to provide the group with the most competitive pricing possible. Second, if a member drops out of the aggregation and thereby reduces the overall load, it invalidates the quoted pricing and likely raises prices for the remaining members.