



For Immediate Release
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NEWS

For more information
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Ameren Illinois has announced new residential electric rates for Cobden that make the utility's average annual rate of 4.95 cents per kilowatthour approximately 1.3 cents less than the village's electric aggregation rate of 6.285 cents per kilowatthour.

This is the first year Ameren's rates have fallen below Cobden's price for electricity since the village launched its electric aggregation program in March 2013. The community's rate was fixed for three years at 6.285 cents per kilowatthour starting in March 2016. Ameren's comparable price in the first year of the contract was 6.603 cents per kilowatthour and 6.12 cents last year.

Homefield Energy of Collinsville supplies electricity to Cobden and more than 300 other Illinois communities for their electric aggregation programs. Electric rates in nearly all those municipalities rose above Ameren's as a result of recent prices established for the Illinois Power Agency. The IPA supplies power to Ameren for consumers who have not chosen alternative electric suppliers.

Communities that have electric aggregation programs use Ameren residential electric rates as the price to compare to their aggregation rates. Ameren's rates have fallen in each of the past two years due largely to falling costs of energy commodities and reduced invested capital costs.

SIMEC LLC of Quincy, the village's electric aggregation consultant, is negotiating with Homefield in an effort to match Ameren's price. The local consultant last year negotiated a billing credit for customers of Cobden and several other communities designed to equalize their rates with Ameren's. Neither SIMEC nor Homefield could predict the outcome of their negotiations this year or when a decision by Homefield might be reached. Dynegy, Inc., of Houston, Homefield's parent company, merged with Vistra Energy Corp., of Irving, Texas, earlier this year.

In the meantime, residents participating in the program may opt out at any time and at no cost by **calling Homefield at 866-694-1262**. Residents are encouraged to review their annual electric usage and compare annual bills. Consumers can find their usage information by creating a confidential account at the left side of Ameren's homepage at www.amerenillinois.com. Additional information is available by **calling Homefield's customer care center toll-free at 866-694-1262**.

Electric aggregation regulations require consumers who opt out to remain a total of 12 months with Ameren for electric supply if they do not return to the village's program or choose another electric supplier within two months of opting out.

Illinois law was changed in 2010 to allow communities to pool, or aggregate, residential and small business electric to seek lower prices for their electric supply in the open market. Some 600 Illinois municipalities have implemented municipal electric aggregation programs.