

To the residents of the Village of Durand

There are a lot of important things going on in our village and this letter is intended to give you a brief update on one of those activities, Electricity Aggregation.

A recent change in State Statutes has allowed for companies to negotiate reduced rates for the kilowatt hours that residents and small businesses consume. There has been considerable exposure in the local media discussing this matter. You may have actually received direct mail from various companies asking you to sign up for their specific plan.

Village trustees approved a plan to start the process for Municipal Aggregation this past fall. But, to make Municipal Aggregation a reality, a referendum needs to be presented to residents to get their approval. The question will be placed on the March 20, 2012 ballot.

A yes vote will enable to village to proceed with the process that includes at least two public hearings on the matter. Then, with the help of Rock River Energy Services, the village will prepare a bid request and seek bids from state approved energy suppliers. Once the bids are received, the village will review the bids, along with the consultant, and choose the best package for the residents.

Prior to election day myself and representatives from Rock river Energy Consultants will have three question and answer sessions to provide information. The dates are Feb. 25, 10 a.m. and Durand Village Hall, March 3, 10 a.m. at the Durand State Bank Community Room and March 8, 7 p.m. at the Durand State Bank Community Room. ([Click here for the flyer regarding the meetings](#))

In the March 2012 election, you will have an opportunity to vote on a referendum which would authorize the village to negotiate reduced electric rates for our village. Prior to implementation, all residents and small businesses will have the option to not participate, or to OPT OUT. Our assessment is that the risk is minimal. The rates that we negotiate can vary from day to day, so the results of this effort, while currently appear to be promising, are unpredictable and will only be known at the time we are ready to sign a contract.

What does this mean to most of us. If the average home spends \$1000 a year on electricity, a 30% discount against 65% of the \$1000 would save about \$200. These savings could continue indefinitely, or it could go up or down over the length of the contract, depending on any increases/decreases in the ComEd rate.

It has been suggested that the savings on your electrical bill is one of the easiest and cheapest forms of Economic Development. If even half of the money that is saved on electricity is spend on items within the village, those dollars will stay in the community.

I encourage everyone to take the time to learn more about the potential savings and to attend one of the three informative meetings that are scheduled

You can also learn more about this by going to our website at www.pluginillinois.org or call 1 800-856-3404.

Respectfully,

Gary L. Haughton
Durand Village President