

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-657

RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE VILLAGE OF PANDORA TO ENTER INTO A GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT CONSUMERS PAY FOR NATURAL GAS.

WHEREAS, The Village shall follow the process of governmental aggregation as set out in Ohio Revised Code section 4929.26 and the rules set out by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO); and

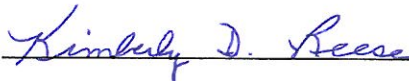
WHEREAS, The Village of Pandora Natural Gas Aggregation Program seeks to aggregate the retail natural gas loads of consumers located in the village to obtain the lowest price for the supply and distribution of natural gas. Participation in the Village of Pandora aggregation program, is limited to individuals who are not already under contract with an alternative retail natural gas supplier; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Council of the Village of Pandora, Putnam County, Ohio, that the Village of Pandora adopt the attached, "Plan of Operation and Governance," to be utilized from this date forward.

ADOPTED December 19, 2017 (DATE)

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Kimberly D. Reese, Fiscal Officer



John C. Schlumbohm, Mayor

THE VILLAGE OF PANDORA NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM

PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE

Purpose

The goal of this program is to facilitate additional choices for the supply of natural gas for residential and commercial consumers, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 4929. This aggregation program has been developed in accordance with House Bill 9.

The Village of Pandora Natural Gas Aggregation Program seeks to aggregate the retail natural gas loads of consumers located in the village to obtain the lowest price for the supply and distribution of natural gas. Participation in the Village of Pandora aggregation program is limited to individuals who are not already under contract with an alternative retail natural gas supplier.

This program is voluntary. Every individual has the opportunity to decline to be a member of the aggregation program and to remain with Dominion East (WOG) or to enter into a power supply contract with any other retail natural gas supplier.

Process

On November 7, 2017, the Village of Pandora voters approved the development of a form of natural gas government aggregation, known as opt-out aggregation. The Village shall follow the process of governmental aggregation as set out in Ohio Revised Code section 4929.26 and the rules set out by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

A municipal corporation may automatically aggregate its residents after passage of an opt-out ordinance, adoption of a Plan of Operation, and approval by a majority of the voters. The Village has accomplished all of these requirements.

The process will entail selection of a retail natural gas supplier, mailing opt-out notices to eligible customers, generating a list of participants who did not opt out, then transferring the participants to the chosen supplier.

Village of Pandora Aggregation Program

The purpose of the aggregation program is to reduce the amount consumers pay for natural gas. The Village will not buy and resell the natural gas for the participants of the program. Instead, The Village of Pandora will competitively bid and negotiate a contract with a retail natural gas supplier to provide natural gas to the members of the aggregation program.

The Village of Pandora will obtain the list of customers within its boundaries from Dominion East (WOG), either by zip code or by method provided by the utility. The Village will have its supplier cleanse the data to ensure that it does not contain customers

with alternate suppliers, PIPP customers, and any other excludable consumers, and only those who live within the jurisdictional boundary. The Village will then have its supplier sent the opt-out notice to each eligible customer, disclosing the offered price for natural gas along with any applicable contract terms. The opt-out notice will clearly inform customers that they may opt-out of the program during the 21-day period following the mailing of the notification, along with instructions on how to opt-out. Customers who opt-out of the Village's aggregation program during this initial notification period will remain with Dominion East (WOG) unless and until the customer chooses an alternative gas supplier.

Operation

All necessary technical analysis, competitive procurement of services, regulatory approvals, accounting and fiscal management, contract maintenance, communications, program coordination and administrative support will be professionally provided by existing staff and an energy consultant, as well as the chosen retail natural gas supplier.

Funding

The primary expenses associated with operating this program are printing and mailing cost of the opt-out notices, and fees for an energy consultant. Instead of paying for these costs upfront, it shall be The Village's goal to have the chosen supplier absorb these fees into their offered rates of the program participants.

Notification of Customers

All eligible customers in The Village of Pandora will receive an opt-out package in the mail. The Village of Pandora will adhere to all eligibility requirements of R.C. 4929.26. Essentially, eligible customers cannot be under contract to buy natural gas from an alternate supplier or a mercantile customer.

The notice shall clearly inform customers of the offered rate, and that they have the right to opt-out of The Village's aggregation program within twenty-one days after the mailing of the notice without paying a switching fee. The notice will fully describe how to opt-out. After the completion of the opt-out process, the residents who did not opt out will be included in The Village's aggregation pool.

Customer opt-out

Customers may opt-out of The Village of Pandora aggregation program at no charge within the twenty-one day period following the mailing of the notice containing the rates and terms of the aggregation program. Customers who return the required opt-out notice

will remain customers of Dominion East (WOG). The Village will offer the twenty-one day period during which customers can opt-out of the aggregation program without charge at least every two years pursuant state law.

Customer opt-in

The Village of Pandora intends on having its supplier allow customers who move into or within The Village of Pandora to opt into The Village's aggregation program by calling and voluntarily signing up with the supplier. The Village will strive to provide these new customers with a rate similar to those who had been in the pool from the beginning. Additionally, the village's supplier may obtain a refreshed customer list from Dominion East (WOG) approximately every six months. The Village's supplier may then send aggregation information to those eligible customers identified on the refresher list. Whether this information is in opt in or opt out format will depend on the negotiated language of the supplier contract. If interim opt outs are to take place; a twenty-one day opt-out will occur in the manner described above.

Disputes

The procedure for handling complaints will be in accordance with the rules set by the PUCO, and handled by the retail natural gas supplier. Dispute resolution provisions will also be in accordance with PUCO regulations. The opt-out package will contain the telephone numbers and websites for the PUCO and the Ohio Consumers Counsel, as well as the supplier's toll-free number.

The Village of Pandora supplier will maintain this toll free number for all customer related questions and complaints. The Village shall require that the personnel assigned to answer these calls be trained and provided the knowledge specific to The Village's program.

Termination of natural gas supply program

The natural gas supply program may be terminated at the expiration of the supply contract without any extension, renewal or subsequent supply contract being negotiated. Additionally, The Village of Pandora may cancel the program early in the event that regulatory proceedings greatly reduce or eliminate consumer savings. In either event, the aggregation pool customers will return to Dominion East (WOG) unless and until they switch to an alternate supplier. Each individual customer receiving natural gas supply service under The Village of Pandora aggregation program will receive notification of the termination of the program before termination.

Rates

The Department of Public Utilities shall receive proposals from retail natural gas suppliers using a competitive selection process. Bidders will be requested to provide a fixed price, floating price, a percent off rate, or a combination of the above. If consumers will have the option of choosing between fixed and floating prices, the opt-out package will contain ample and easy to understand information to aid the consumer in deciding which option best suits their natural gas needs. The Village will decide which pricing structure(s), to offer based on the bids received, and an analysis of the current and projected market status as well as the bids received.

Billing and Payment

The Village of Pandora will continue to have Dominion East (WOG) bill customers using an itemized format approved by the PUCO. The Village will not become involved in any payment delinquency issues and thus will not require any type of consumer credit or deposit. If The Village's supplier wishes to pursue payment delinquency issues, details of the supplier's credit and deposit policies will be included in the opt-out package.