



Monroe Township Community Energy Aggregation

The Second Round of Energy Savings From Your Township

Program Update: The Monroe Township Community Energy Aggregation (MTCEA) Program was initiated by the Township in 2013 and saves Monroe residents money on their monthly electric bills. Community Energy Aggregation (CEA), conducted under New Jersey State law and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities regulations, paves the way for a municipality to use bulk purchasing power to procure electricity supply for its residents at a cost *lower* than the price charged by the local utility.

Monroe Township was one of the first municipalities in the State to take advantage of CEA. In November 2013 the Township conducted a competitive bid and awarded a 22-month contract to ConEdison *Solutions* which began in February 2014. Since February 2014, the MTCEA program has been providing energy cost savings to Township residents.

The first round of the MTCEA program has been well-received by Township residents, and is estimated to have saved participating customers \$4 million in electricity cost! With the approaching expiration of the power supply contract with ConEdison *Solutions* in December 2015, the Township recently undertook a new competitive bid process for Round 2 of the MTCEA program.

Mayor Richard Pucci and Council President Gerald Tamburro are pleased to inform residents that the Township recently awarded a new contract to the low bidder, TriEagle Energy, for a 24-month contract beginning in December 2015. The new contract with TriEagle Energy will provide electric supply at a price of \$0.08992/kwh, which represents a savings of over 12% as compared to the average JCP&L tariff price for power supply of \$0.102/kwh. The contract is expected to save the typical Township resident about \$13 per month, or nearly \$300.00 over the 24-month contract term, with no change to the level of service. For those residents in all-electric homes, the savings will be even greater. Aggregate Township-wide savings are estimated to be nearly \$5 million.

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about the MTCEA program:

❖ **What must I do to participate in Round 2 of the MTCEA Program?**

As a current participant in Round I of the MTCEA program, or if you are currently receiving electric supply from JCP&L (i.e. you do not currently purchase power supply from another third party supplier), **you do not need to take any action** in order to be automatically included in the program. You will receive a letter from the Township and TriEagle Energy in early October 2015, known as the Opt-Out Notice, explaining the specifics of the new contract.

If you do not wish to participate in the MTCEA Program, please follow the opt-out methods outlined in the notice, including a toll free telephone number, email address, and a postage-paid opt-out card.

Customers have 30 days to review the Opt-Out Notice, and decide whether they wish to opt-out of the program. After 30 days, those residents who do not opt-out of the program are enrolled by TriEagle, effective with the December 2015 meter read.

Even after you enroll in the MTCEA Program, you are free to opt-out of the program at any time during the contract! Participation in the MTCEA Program is 100% optional!

❖ **What will change if I participate the MTCEA Round 2 Program?**

You will still receive one bill from JCP&L. The only thing that changes in a CEA Program is the cost of the electricity provided. In the Township of Monroe, effective with your December 2015 meter reads, current participants of the Program will see a change of suppliers from ConEdison *Solutions* to TriEagle Energy at the new rate of \$0.08992¹/kwh for the supply portion of the bill.

Electric bills are comprised of two main components: power supply and distribution. It is important to emphasize that this program covers **only** the power supply portion of the electric bill. Under New Jersey's retail choice regulations, you may purchase power supply from either the electric utility company under its Basic Generation Service ("BGS") tariff rates, or you may purchase your power supply from a Third Party Supplier ("TPS"). **The goal of the program is to provide savings on the power supply portion of your bill.**

Importantly, the delivery and distribution of electricity under this program will continue to remain the same, through JCP&L. The delivery portion will continue to be provided by JCP&L at regulated rates and JCP&L will continue to provide all emergency and safety services. JCP&L will also continue to provide customer services such as meter readings, billing and service restoration. If you are on a JCP&L budget billing plan, you **will** continue to receive that service. This program will not affect existing consumer protections and rights.

❖ **What will happen next?**

In early October 2015 you will receive a Notification Letter from TriEagle Energy, providing the details of the new MTCEA power supply deal. You will have until the first week of November to decide if you want to opt-out of the program. The opt-out information will be provided in the Notification Letter.

Once the 30-day opt-out period concludes, those residents who have not opted-out of the MTCEA-Round II program will be enrolled by TriEagle Energy. You will receive a notification from JCP&L in November 2015 that TriEagle has enrolled your account for service beginning with your December 2015 meter read date. If you are a MTCEA-Round I participant, you will also receive a notice from JCP&L that service with ConEdison *Solutions* will be ending effective with your December 2015 meter read date. **Again, there is nothing that you need to do if you wish to remain in the program.**

¹ Supplier cannot adjust price for changed market conditions. Contract price is firm through May 31, 2017, and Supplier can only adjust the contract price effective June 1, 2017 or later to reflect a Change in Law affecting power capacity prices that will also impact the JCP&L power supply tariff price, such that the percent of savings is expected to remain. You will be notified in advance of any such change, and will maintain your ability to opt-out.

The Township will also be conducting a series of Information Sessions during the month of October to explain the program and answer residents' questions.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday, October 27, 2015	3:00 PM	Monroe Township Senior Center, 12 Halsey Road
Wednesday, October 28, 2015	7:00 PM	Municipal Building – Council Chamber

❖ **Can I Opt-In to the MTCEA Program?**

Yes. Residents who have their own third party supply (TPS) contract are not included in the initial mailing. However, customers that would like to join the next round of the MTCEA program will be given the opportunity to opt-in.

For customers with their own TPS contracts, it is very important to compare prices and read your existing contracts very carefully, as there may be penalties for terminating the contract prematurely, and some third party suppliers have automatic "roll over" provisions which renew your contract without explicit consent or action from you. Please be sure to read your current agreement and take the necessary actions to alert your third party supplier that you wish to terminate service at the end of your contract term in order to join the MTCEA.

Please note that neither the Energy Consultant nor the Township are responsible for informing your existing supplier or terminating your agreement with them. However, if you have any difficulty with them, please let us know and we'll try to help you resolve issues. Contact Information Provided Below.

❖ **Who is TriEagle Energy, LP?**

TriEagle is a licensed electric power supplier serving residential customers in the state of New Jersey since 2011. The firm supplies energy to hundreds of thousands of accounts nation-wide and is currently serving over 60,000 residential households in New Jersey.

This fall Monroe Township, for the second time, conducted a competitive bid to select a supplier for the MTCEA Program. TriEagle submitted the best price in response to the competitive solicitation issued by the Township, and was evaluated to be a competent and successful supplier. As a result, TriEagle was awarded a contract by Monroe to serve as the second MTCEA supplier. TriEagle will serve as the MTCEA program's newest energy supplier starting in this December 2015 and ending in December 2017.

For further inquiries about the MTCEA Round 2 Program, or to opt-out please contact TriEagle toll free at **(877)-933-2453**, or email customercare@trieagleenergy.com (Subject: MTCEA Opt-Out).

❖ **Who is Gabel Associates?**

Gabel Associates is a State-registered Energy Consultant that was retained by Monroe Township to help develop, administer and implement the successful MTCEA-Round I program, and has been retained again by

the Township to help with the implementation of the MTCEA-Round II program. The firm has helped pioneer energy procurement in New Jersey and has been supporting large scale aggregations (like this one) for over 15 years. Gabel Associates is also a key participant in the development of CEA rules and structure.

Gabel Associates was the first firm in the State to have successfully implemented a CEA Program in New Jersey, and the firm has successfully completed the most CEA programs in the State. These programs have saved millions of dollars for New Jersey residents!

If you wish to be permanently removed from this and all future MTCEA programs, please contact Gabel Associates, at 855-365-0770 or MTCEA-info@gabelassociates.com.

❖ **I currently receive budget billing or Equal Payment Plan (EPP) from JCP&L. If I participate in the MTCEA 2 Program, will I be able to keep my budget or equalized billing?**

The Township requires that the selected supplier provide budget billing for their power supply charges to those customers that currently have such arrangements with JCP&L.

If you have a budget billing service, there will be an initial true-up by JCP&L upon your enrollment this December 2015. TriEagle will calculate your budget amount based on your average electric usage over the last 12 months. Annually, TriEagle will examine your budget amount and may adjust to more closely match your usage from the previous year. TriEagle will conduct a final true-up after 24-months, or upon leaving the program, to reconcile between the amount of electricity actually used and the amount paid under the plan. The new budget amount may vary from the level of your current budget payment.

JCP&L will continue to provide budget billing for their delivery charges. Therefore, the consolidated bill issued by JCP&L will continue to contain equalized payments.

❖ **What if I change my mind after the 30-day opt-out period is over?**

No problem. The Township's agreement with TriEagle Energy allows customers to opt-out of the MTCEA program at any time during the contract. Residents who opt-out of the program cannot be assessed any early termination fees or penalties. Simply call TriEagle Energy to opt-out of the program, your service with TriEagle will be terminated at the next available meter read date, and you will be returned to JCP&L default supply service (or you may switch to another third party supplier if you so choose).

❖ **What about power outages?**

Power outages are **not** under the control of the third party supplier. The delivery system is still under JCP&L's control, and there is no difference in delivery services whether you purchase the power supply from a third party supplier or from JCP&L under its tariff. In the event of an outage, you would still contact JCP&L.

❖ **What if I have a solar system?**

For customers with solar systems, the savings attributable to the MTCEA program would generally be very minimal. In addition, if you have a solar system that relies upon 'net metering' from JCP&L, a switch to a third

party supply contract may result in JCP&L 'cashing-out' your banked solar electricity early, thereby negating some of the savings otherwise available through net metering. **For these reasons, the Township has concluded that residents with installed solar systems may not be best served by participating in the MTCEA program, and has elected to remove solar customers from the MTCEA Round 2 supply contract.**

However, if you believe based upon a review of your past bills that your solar system is NOT producing excess energy that is being 'banked' on your JCP&L bill, and therefore you do not run the risk of a premature 'cash-out' by JCP&L of net-metered electricity, you may consider opting-in to the MTCEA program. You are encouraged to contact TriEagle or JCP&L for further information.

❖ Will the LIHEAP and Lifeline benefit programs for low income residents still apply if I participate in the MTCEA?

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is a federally funded program, administered by the Dept. of Community Affairs, to assist low income households with paying their heating bills (whether electric, gas, oil, etc.). There should be no impact of participation in the MTCEA program on customers' eligibility. Lifeline or Universal Service programs are state-funded through State taxes and societal benefits charges, again with eligibility based upon a number of factors tied to income. Bill credits of up to \$225 are provided to assist eligible customers with electric and gas utility bills. The MTCEA will provide consolidated billing through the utility; as such the bill credits would be unaffected.