



## Community Energy Aggregation Frequently Asked Questions



### **What is Community Energy Aggregation?**

Community Energy Aggregation is a program permitted under New Jersey State law that allows municipalities to pool together residents and conduct a bid for power supply from third-party suppliers, with the aim of obtaining a power supply price that is cheaper than the power supplied by the electric utility. The program is conducted under the oversight of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel and the Department of Community Affairs. Manchester has named its program the Manchester Community Energy Aggregation (MCEA). Manchester is also the lead agent for a joint energy procurement cooperative with Plumsted, called the Manchester Energy Aggregation Procurement Cooperative (MEAPC).

### **Has this type of program been implemented previously?**

Yes, this is the fourth round of the MCEA program. In Round 1 of the MCEA program the Township awarded a contract to TriEagle Energy; that contract ran from June 2017 to June 2019. For Round 2 of the MCEA program, Manchester joined together with nearby Plumsted Township to form a purchasing cooperative in order to create additional purchasing power. As a result of a competitive bid process, a contract was awarded by the Township for Round 2 of the MCEA program to Constellation New Energy; that contract began in October 2019 and ended in October 2021. The Round 3 contract was awarded to Energy Harbor and ran through December 2023. And while there have been multiple attempts to award a fourth-round contract, the market has not been favorable for a contract award until recently. However, with improved market conditions Manchester Township issued a bid in July 2025, received improved bid prices, and awarded a contract in August 2025 with the low bidder.

### **Who has the Township of Manchester selected as the program supplier for residents in the JCP&L service territory for Round 3 of the MCEA program?**

Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. (Constellation) was selected by the Township of Manchester as the qualified supplier with the lowest proposed price for JCP&L customers in a public, competitive procurement. Constellation is an electric power supplier licensed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

### **When does the program with Constellation begin?**

Service will begin with the November 2025 meter read date and will continue for 18 months – until May 2027.

### **How does the MCEA program contract price compare to the JCP&L tariff price for electricity supply?**

The price of \$0.14644 per kilowatt hour (kWh) is approximately 5% below the annual average JCP&L tariff price for power supply. Although JCP&L tariff prices are lower somewhat in the summer, all savings are expected to be realized during the fall, winter and spring season of October through May, and savings will vary by month based upon usage levels and periodic fluctuations in the actual JCP&L price-to-compare. The average Township resident is still projected to save about \$100 over the full contract as compared to the average JCP&L tariff price-to-compare over that time period. Those residents that have all-electric homes may save more than \$100.

### **Does the price vary monthly?**

No. This is a non-variable price<sup>1</sup> that does not change on a monthly basis. Unlike some third-party supply contracts, the price is locked in through a contract with the Township and will not fluctuate after an initial 'teaser' period.

### **Will I see savings every month?**

Savings typically vary on a monthly basis due to seasonal fluctuations in the utility rate and usage amounts. For most customers, savings vs. the utility rates are expected to be primarily realized between October and May.

### **If I participate in the program, how does this affect my utility bill and service?**

Your JCP&L bill includes separate charges for delivery service and for power supply service (i.e., Basic Generation Service). JCP&L will still provide delivery service and read your meter, and you will still receive a single bill from JCP&L which will continue to include the JCP&L delivery charges, but the utility Basic Generation Service charges for power supply will be replaced by the charges offered by the Township's chosen supplier, Constellation. Even if you participate in the program, JCP&L will still be responsible for service reliability and restoration.

### **Is participation mandatory?**

Participation is never mandatory. Residents who do not currently have a third-party supply contract (i.e., take power supply service from JCP&L under the utility's Basic Generation Service tariff) are included in the initial eligibility pool. However, residents can opt out of the MCEA program by mail, phone or electronically using the information in the Program Summary. If you opt out within the 30-day opt-out period (by October 10, 2025), you will not be enrolled in the program at all. Even after enrollment you can opt out any time, effective with the next meter read cycle, and there are no penalties or fees to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> Supplier cannot vary prices monthly or adjust prices for changed market conditions or change the rate after an initial 'teaser' period. The contract price can only be changed in the event of a change in law or regulation that imposes cost levels on the supplier that were unknown at the time the contract was executed, and that similarly impacts the cost of power supply under the JCP&L tariff.

## **Community Energy Aggregation (MCEA) Program Summary**

### **Why is this an 'Opt-Out' and not an 'Opt-In' Program?**

The State law under which this program is conducted provides for an 'opt-out' structure, as the State concluded that an 'opt-out' structure promotes the most competition and yields the best pricing.

### **If I previously "Opted Out" during a prior program, can I still participate?**

If you have previously "Opted Out" you can request to participate by contacting Constellation using the contact information provided in the Program Summary enclosed in this information package or by calling Gabel Associates at 855-365-0770.

### **If a resident wants to join after the program starts, can they also participate?**

A resident can join the program at any time by contacting Constellation using the contact information provided in the Program Summary enclosed in this information package or by calling Gabel Associates at 855-365-0770.

### **Will I receive any other notifications?**

Yes. If you do not opt out of the program, several weeks after receipt of this Information Package you will receive a notification letter from JCP&L indicating that Constellation has enrolled your account for third-party supply and informing you of the date you will be switched to Constellation. This is just an added notification; no further action is required in order to participate.

### **Will I ever be requested to provide information to a door-to-door solicitor for enrollment in this program?**

No. This program does not include any door-to-door solicitation. Constellation has the necessary information already, subject to strict confidentiality. If you are solicited by someone, please do not provide them with your information – alert the Township, the Township's energy consultant, Gabel Associates or Constellation immediately.

### **Will Constellation ever call me unsolicited?**

No. Constellation will not contact residents unprompted via telephone.

### **What if I get phone calls or mail from companies other than Constellation? Are companies besides Constellation involved in the MCEA?**

Constellation is the only company providing power supply to households participating in Round 4 of the MCEA. It is very common for households participating in energy aggregations like ours to get mail or phone solicitations from competitor companies. Be assured that they are unrelated to the MCEA program and have no impact on your power supply.

### **Who do I call if there is a power outage?**

Even if you participate in the MCEA program, JCP&L will still provide delivery service, and will still be responsible for service reliability and restoration. If the lights go out, you would still call JCP&L at 1-888-544-4877. Under this program, nothing changes about your service and reliability.

### **Will I still be able to receive budget billing (Equal Payment Plan)?**

Yes. If you currently have a budget billing plan with JCP&L, the selected supplier is required to provide you with an equal payment plan for your power supply charges. JCP&L will continue to bill a levelized amount each month for delivery service, and Constellation will also bill a levelized amount each month (through the JCP&L bill) for power supply. You may experience a "true-up" on your bill from JCP&L on two occasions: prior to enrollment and then again at the end of the program, and Constellation may periodically adjust the monthly budget amount if your actual usage varies significantly from your historical usage used to set-up the initial budget payment.

### **What happens at the end of the Township's contract with the supplier?**

There is no automatic rollover. If the Township decides to continue the program, it will conduct a new competitive bid for a new contract, and you will be advised of the new contract. If the Township discontinues the program, you will simply be returned to JCP&L power supply at the JCP&L tariff price.

### **How do I obtain more information?**

Program details are provided in the Program Summary enclosed with this package. You can also contact Constellation using the contact information provided in the Program Summary enclosed in this information package or Gabel Associates at 855-365-0770. Additional information regarding the program, including more detailed FAQs, can be found on the Township's website at: [www.manchestertwp.com](http://www.manchestertwp.com)