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Under Section 1-92(e) of the Illinois Power Agency Act, the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”) “shall furnish, without charge, to any citizen a list of all supply options available to them in a format that allows comparison of prices and products.” The IPA has worked to assemble information about your supply choices such that you, as an Illinois ratepayer, may make an informed choice.

Understood broadly, a customer’s supply options include the following:

- 1) default service with your current electric distribution utility company (“utility”);
- 2) real-time pricing through your utility;
- 3) service from an alternative retail electric supplier (“ARES”)

The competitive retail electricity market in Illinois is dynamic, and the offers available to Illinois residents are constantly evolving. In choosing between ARES offers, options include the choice of ARES with which you may contract, whether that contract is at a variable or fixed rate, the length of the contract term, any additional fixed monthly fees you may be required to pay, and whether your contract may be for conventional or renewable energy. As a result, there is no master list of all supply offers available to Illinois residents from retail suppliers (some of which may not be published or otherwise publicly available). Guidance on how to make an informed choice between ARES offers is available below.

Please understand that your supply option choice only affects the electricity supply portion of your electric bill. Whether you choose a retail supplier or receive supply service through ComEd, the utility company actually tasked with delivering you electricity (ComEd) remains the same.

#### **DEFAULT UTILITY SERVICE**

One option is to choose or continue using your utility company for supply service. If you live in a community where a municipal aggregation contract recently expired, you will be placed back on default utility service. This service comes at a fixed rate. ComEd’s current supply price can be found at the following link: <http://www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreakdownComEd.aspx>.

For more information on default electric supply price, including current prices, please see the Illinois Commerce Commission’s Plug-In Illinois site: <http://www.pluginillinois.org/fixedrate.aspx>

#### **REAL-TIME PRICING**

Customers may also be eligible to participate in a utility real-time pricing program, under which rates vary by the hour based on wholesale market conditions. For customers that tend to consume proportionally more of their electricity during non-peak consumption times, when demand is lowest, this option can offer potential savings.

For more information on real-time pricing options, please see the Illinois Commerce Commission’s Plug-In Illinois site: <http://www.pluginillinois.org/realttime.aspx>. To learn more about ComEd’s residential real-time pricing program please visit: <https://hourlypricing.comed.com/>.

#### **ALTERNATIVE RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS (“ARES”)**

Alternative retail electric suppliers are private companies that offer a variety of different supply products to meet your electricity supply needs. As mentioned above, these products may vary in terms of price, pricing structure (fixed or variable), contract length, and energy source.

The Illinois Commerce Commission’s Plug-In Illinois website contains a tool that allows you to compare offers from a variety of retail electric suppliers in your utility’s service territory. To see a list of what offers may be available to you now, try the Plug-In Illinois site’s “compare offers” tool at the following link: <http://www.pluginillinois.org/OffersBegin.aspx>

Please note that some of ARES offers may also include an additional monthly fee. As a result, those offers’ rates may not be directly comparable to the default utility rates. Additionally, please note that ARES offers are constantly changing, and the Illinois Power Agency has not verified the accuracy of the details of specific offers listed on the Plug-In Illinois site.

#### **SOLAR ENERGY**

In addition to your supply options listed above, you also can receive some or all of your electricity from solar energy through either an on-site installation, or a subscription to a community solar project. For more information see: <http://www.illinoisshines.com>.