

Press Release

LAMBERTVILLE, WEST AMWELL AWARD SECOND POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT THAT WILL SAVE RESIDENTS \$655,000 IN RE-BID OF COMMUNITY ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

(Lambertville, NJ) – For the second time Lambertville and West Amwell officials have successfully joined together for the purpose of obtaining power supply for the Municipalities' residents at a price below the tariff rate charged by JCP&L. As a result of the South Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative's Community Energy Aggregation program (also known as the "SHREC CEA Program"), residents will benefit from reduced energy costs on their electric bills, starting in early 2016.

The Municipalities previously accomplished this goal by awarding a power supply contract to FirstEnergy Solutions for a 15-month contract that ended in June 2015. This original contract provided residents with significant savings of nearly 13% as compared to the price for power supply provided by JCP&L.

Building on the success of the initial effort, in September 2015, the City and Township commenced a second round of bidding to take advantage of optimal energy market conditions. As a result of the competitive bidding process, a contract was awarded to South Jersey Energy to provide electricity supply to residents of both communities at a price even lower than was previously seen in the Round I SHREC CEA program, producing estimated savings of 14%. Also as part of the program, residents will have the option to voluntarily select a 100% renewable energy product at a fixed price above the awarded rate.

Under the second round of the program, South Jersey Energy will supply residents for a 21-month period. Because retail energy prices are more favorable after the winter of 2016, the new contract will begin in March 2016. Residents will remain on JCP&L power supply until the March 2016 meter reads, at which time residents participating in the SHREC CEA program will be enrolled with South Jersey Energy. Service with South Jersey Energy will continue through December 2017. Over the full 21-month term of the contract, the typical resident will save an estimated \$240 (or over \$11 per month). South Jersey Energy is part of South Jersey Industries, which owns a gas utility in New Jersey and has been in business as a retail electric supplier in New Jersey since 1997.

"Our first round energy aggregation program was a success. The program was very popular and residents with whom I have spoken were overwhelmingly in favor of the City continuing the program. Under community aggregation, and by joining forces with our neighbors in West Amwell, we're able to create buying power and provide our residents with energy savings and choices they simply wouldn't be able to achieve on their own," said Lambertville Mayor David DeVecchio. "With the successful experience we have had, we anticipate an even higher participation rate than last time amongst our residents."

Lambertville and West Amwell are among a handful of municipalities in the State that have successfully implemented a community aggregation program, but retain their status as the *first and only* municipalities to provide residents with the opportunity to select, on a voluntary basis, a 100% renewable energy product.

Consistent with the first round of the Community Energy Aggregation program, JCP&L will continue to provide all delivery services and will still issue a single bill for electricity. In early January 2016 residents will receive a letter containing a detailed program description along with instructions for opting-out of the program or selecting the 100% renewable product. Participation by Lambertville and West Amwell

residents is voluntary. Customers may opt-out during the 30-day period in January 2016 before they are even enrolled in the program. Residents are also free to opt-out of the program at any time during the 21-month contract at no cost.

Prior to the start of the contract in March 2016, residents who want to continue with the municipalities' energy savings program are advised to stay with JCP&L and not to sign on with another third party electric supplier as this will jeopardize their participation in the SHREC CEA program as well as their ability to enjoy the 14% energy savings that will begin in March 2016.

Gabel Associates, a State-registered energy agent, assisted in setting up the program and guiding officials through the competitive bidding process to select a retail supplier. The program was structured so that the municipalities did not incur any out-of-pocket expenses for consulting fees or professional services.

"The SHREC CEA program is a clear indication of how the Mayors and governing bodies of these municipalities are working together and demonstrating a continued commitment to implementing cost savings strategies that make a difference. This dedication is further enhanced by incorporating the ground breaking concept that gives residents the option to choose a greener power supply alternative." said Robert Chilton, Executive Vice President of Gabel Associates.

For further information about the community energy aggregation program, please contact Olivia Corkedale at (732) 296-0770.