

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

For immediate release

## **Update on Energy Supply Changes and Cost Increases** *Local Aggregate Supply Customers Will Return to Ameren Supply for Next 12 Months*

Peoria County – Community members who were previously under contract with Homefield Energy for their energy supply will be switched to Ameren supply through May 31, 2023. Residential and business customers should plan for noticeable increases to their energy bill.

"Ameren's supply rate is approximately \$0.12 per kilowatt hour," states Patrick Urich, Peoria City Manager. "Homefield Energy customers had previously been paying approximately \$0.05 per kilowatt hour. Community members should expect pricing increases not just during the summer months, but for the next year."

In April, customers were informed they would be on Ameren supply for at least June and July. Participating local governments in the aggregate learned yesterday that they will not be able to secure a contract for the remainder of the fiscal year by the June 3 deadline, so customers will revert to Ameren supply for the next 12 months.

Customer bills vary depending on usage and if they have selected budget billing, among other things. A quick way to calculate the increased monthly bill is to multiply by two. For example, if a customer's average household monthly energy bill is \$125, they can estimate the new monthly bill to be \$250.

Customers are encouraged to examine their Ameren statements and educate themselves on their consumption of energy, alerts on pricing, budget billing changes, and information on assistance.

Residents should be aware they may be solicited by other energy suppliers.

"We urge all aggregate customers to be wary of any third-party offers," said Scott Sorrel, Peoria County Administrator. "Should the aggregate enter a supply contract in 2023, all current customers will automatically go onto the aggregate pricing. Residents are not required to do anything at this time or in the future."

There are local programs available for those struggling to pay their energy bill. Find organizations by zip code at [www.ameren.com/account/agency-finder](http://www.ameren.com/account/agency-finder). This tool lists township offices and local not-for-profits that offer assistance programs in your particular area. You can also call 2-1-1 or (309) 999-4029 for assistance.

Ameren's website also outlines energy saving tips and additional billing options at [www.amerenillinois.com/energyassistance](http://www.amerenillinois.com/energyassistance).