



Town of Winchester

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Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2016

HEARING

Docket Item F-2: Adoption: Town of Winchester Municipal Aggregation Plan

Supporting Documents:

F - 2: Memo from Energy Coordinator Susan McPhee outlining requirements for submission to DOER and DPU

Petition and Supporting Documents for Town of Winchester Municipal Aggregation Plan

Public comments (attached)

Action Required:

F - 2: VOTE to approve plan.

To: Winchester Board of Selectmen
From: Susan McPhee, Energy Conservation Coordinator
Re: **Electricity Aggregation Update and Next Steps**
Date: September 8, 2016
Cc: Richard Howard

Winchester's work to aggregate electricity supply for residents and small businesses has been progressing through the summer. Last week the Department of Energy Resources approved our plan. The public comment period for the plan, which opened on July 6th is scheduled to close at the next Board meeting on September 12th.

Outreach regarding the plan has included:

- Press release to local news papers
- Coverage in both the Star and the Times Chronicle
- Top billing on the Town Website home page
- Links to the plan from the town website
- Hard copy of the plan available at the counter in the Town Manager's office

Next steps will take place at the Monday, September 12 Board meeting. First the hearing – resident's opportunity to verbally weigh in on the plan. Second, the period for public comment will close. Third and finally the Board will vote on whether or not to approve the aggregation plan.

Should the Board vote to proceed, the plan will then move on to the Department of Public Utilities for review and approval. Once approved, Winchester is then eligible to pursue pricing for electricity on behalf of residents.

Please note that the plan documents are included in your packet, along with copies of any written comments from the public.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter - potentially benefiting many residents.

Stevens, Lynn

From: Dave Judelson <davejud@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 12:00 PM
To: Town Manager
Cc: Ms. Susan McPhee
Subject: Public Comment Community Choice Aggregation

Dear Mr. Howard,

I would like to comment briefly on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) project the town is pursuing.

As the original proponent of the Warrent Article for Town Meeting, (which passed unanimously!) I remain a very strong supporter of CCA and encourage the town to move forward with the project.

In addition to the benefits we have been outlining before:

- **Rate Stability**
- **Potential Savings**
- **Consumer Protection**
- **Increased support for local renewable energy.**

I would like to reinforce the **Consumer Protection** aspect as I run in to this often. I work in residential and commercial Solar Sales. Just yesterday I visited an older gentleman, 84, who was interested in solar for his home. He mentioned that he had made the mistake of going with a predatory energy supply company that gave him a low rate for a brief introductory period, then the rates skyrocketed! In his case he mentioned the attorney generals office got involved to allow him out of the long term contract. This is the kind of protection we are hoping to provide all Winchester residents, but in particular it's senior, who may be more vulnerable and are often the targets of these practices.

Thank you again for pursuing Community Choice Aggregation and I look forward to Winchester's residents and small businesses benefitting from this project for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

Dave Judelson

Stevens, Lynn

From: Alan Field <alanfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Town Manager
Subject: Public comment- on Community Source Aggregation

Greetings!

I think I barely need to argue for the benefits of this proposal. Who would not like the potential reduced costs to rate payers, the greater price stability and the increased protection from predatory electricity supplier plans? Likewise, the increased support for renewables should please almost everyone.

Ironically, Donna and I would be in a likely minority who would actually opt out because we prefer to pay a bit extra for receiving 100% renewable electricity. This we would - and could - continue to do under the aggregation plan. So even though it is not for us, we think "aggregation" is a great idea and fully support it for the people of Winchester.

Sincerely, Alan Field and Donna Wainwright.

D.P.U. 16 - _____

**PETITION
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
FOR THE
TOWN OF WINCHESTER
MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PLAN**

AGGREGATION DOCUMENTS

1. Petition

Attachments

1. Historical Overview

Exhibits

- A. Certified Vote to Pursue Municipal Aggregation
- B. Energy-Related Services Agreement
- C. Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Consultation Letter
- D. Certified Vote to Approve the Aggregation Plan
- E. Documentation of Opportunity for Public Review and Comment

2. Aggregation Plan

Exhibits

- A. Customer Enrollment, Opt-Out and Opt-In Procedures
- B. Sample Customer Notification Letter and Opt-Out Card

3. Public Outreach and Education Plan

Exhibit

- A. Sample of Available Media Outlets

4. Electric Services Agreement

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Town of Winchester Municipal Aggregation Plan)	D.P.U. 16-__
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PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PLAN

The Town of Winchester (“Municipality”) respectfully petitions the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), pursuant to G.L. Chapter 164, Section 134(a), for approval of its Municipal Aggregation Plan. In support of this Petition, the Municipality states the following:

1. The goals of the community electricity municipal aggregation program (the “Program”) are to bring the benefits of competitive choice of electric supplier, longer-term price stability than provided by the local utility, lower cost power and more renewable energy options to the residents and businesses of the Municipality. Under the program the Municipality will have the opportunity to provide a portion of renewable or green power through renewable energy certificates (“RECs”). The program will employ a procurement process designed to maximize savings and will provide a full set of consumer protections, including the right for any customer to opt out of the program at any time at no charge.

2. The Municipality formally initiated the process to develop an aggregation plan through a vote of the Town Meeting. The vote and the actions of the Municipality preceding and following this vote for approval are outlined in the Historical Overview. (Attachment 1)

3. The Municipality seeks the Department’s approval of its Municipal Aggregation Plan (“Plan”) (Attachment 2) that describes the key features, structure and operation of the aggregation program and explains how the Plan meets the statutory requirements.

4. A Public Outreach and Education Plan has been formulated to ensure that residents and businesses are fully informed about the important aspects of the Plan to enable them to make intelligent decisions concerning participation in the Program. (Attachment 3)

5. The Plan and the associated form of Electric Services Agreement (“ESA”) (Attachment 4) ensure that the program complies with all requirements of G L. Chapter 164, Section 134(a), including providing universal access, a reliable power supply and the equitable treatment of all customer classes.

6. The Municipality consulted with the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) and sought the input of the Local Distribution Company (“LDC”) in the development of the Plan.

7. The Municipality is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (“MAPC”). Although Municipalities are not required to follow the competitive bidding process of G.L. Chapter 30B when entering into a contract for energy-related services, the MAPC issued a Request for Proposals for Community Choice Aggregation Consulting Services on behalf of its member municipalities. The MAPC selected Good Energy L.P. as its green municipal aggregation consultant through an open and competitive process.

8. The Municipality respectfully requests that the Department conduct an expeditious review of this petition to allow the Municipality to proceed with implementation to maximize benefits for eligible consumers. Municipal aggregators are required to conduct their business openly and with full public participation. The Municipality requests a streamlined process, including a public hearing, discovery, and an opportunity for interested persons to submit written comments.

9. The Municipality also respectfully requests a waiver, both for itself and for its competitive supplier, from the requirement to mail a quarterly information disclosure label to every customer. The requirement for quarterly distribution of the disclosure label is specified in 220 C.M.R. § 11.06(4)(c). The Department has determined that for municipal aggregators, the distribution would normally be made

by individual mailings to customers. City of Marlborough, D.T.E. 06-102, at 24. The Department, however, may grant an exception to any provision of 220 C.M.R. 11.00 for good cause shown. 220 C.M.R. Section 11.08. In support of its request for waiver, the Municipality states that quarterly mailings would be burdensome and expensive, raising the supply price for customers. The Municipality will employ an alternative disclosure strategy, including press releases, public service announcements on local access cable television, postings at Municipality buildings and postings on the program website, that will provide the required information to customers as effectively as quarterly mailings. The Department has granted similar waivers to other municipal aggregators using equivalent disclosure strategies. Cape Light Compact, D.T.E. 00-47, at 28; City of Marlborough, D.T.E. 06-102, at 24; Town of Lanesborough, D.P.U. 11-27, at 23; Town of Ashland, D.P.U. 11-28, at 22; Town of Lunenburg, D.P.U. 11-32, at 22; Town of Lancaster, D.P.U. 12-39, at 23; City of Lowell, D.P.U. 12-124, at 51; Town of Ashby, D.P.U. 12-94, at 37; Town of Natick, D.P.U. 13-131, at 29; Town of Greenfield, D.P.U. 13-183, at 27.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner hereby respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Adopt a streamlined review and approval process;
2. Approve the Aggregation Plan of the Municipality;
3. Approve the request of the Municipality for a waiver of the requirement of 220 C.M.R Section 11.06(4)(c) to mail the quarterly disclosure label; and
4. Provide such other and further relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

By Attorney for Good Energy, L.P.

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Dated: _____, 2016