

**To:** Chamber Electricity Purchasing Cooperative Members

**From:** Chamber Purchasing Cooperative

**Re:** Update May 2007

### **The Savings Continue**

Congratulations! The contract you are currently in continues to deliver measurable savings and long-term budget stability. Savings for most co-op members is over one-cent per kWh, many members who are in the second or third year of their contracts are reporting savings of approximately 20-percent.

### **New Utility SOS Rates**

The new BGE, PEPCO, Allegheny Power, and Delmarva Power Standard Offer Service or “default rates” have been released. (Remember, the default rate is what you would be paying if you were not in the co-op.) For most customers, the rates have come down about 6-percent for the next 12 months. This was expected. Your contract rate is still well below the new default rates.

### **Market Rates**

Market rates continue to go up and the rate that you are paying continues to be below the market rate. This upward trend in the market is expected to continue. As it does, your savings will continue to increase.

### **Making Changes in Your Service**

You are reminded not to make any changes in your service such as name changes, adding or removing meters, etc., without first contacting your supplier. Changes such as this can lead to the unintentional cancellation of your contract. Once a mistake like this is made, it is often impossible to get it corrected. Please take care to ensure that everyone within your organization understands the importance of not making changes to your electric service without first contacting the supplier.

### **Contract Renewals**

Many of you are beginning the third year of your contracts. CQI has developed a Chamber Co-op Renewal Program to help you continue to save money on your electricity accounts. The renewal program is structured in the same way as the original, but the renewal fee is less than when you first joined the co-op. Renewing members need to complete a renewal application and submit the most recent copies of their bills, just as before. Be watching your e-mail for information about renewing your contract and continuing your savings.

### **Energy Efficient Tip**

The older T-12, 32-watt fluorescent lighting fixtures will go out of production by 2010. After that time, you will no longer be able to buy bulbs or parts for these fixtures. Start planning now to replace your old T-12 fixtures with the smaller, cooler, more efficient T-8 or T-5 fixtures and bulbs. In addition to the \$2.50 per bulb cost savings, the T-8 lamps offer better, truer color light that eliminates most of the flickering typical of the older bulbs, and they generate less heat. The reduction in heat can help save cooling costs as well. It's a good investment and should be done prior to 2010.

### **Solicitations from Marketers**

It has come to our attention that postcards are being sent and phone calls are being made by representatives from suppliers to the members of existing Chamber Cooperatives. In these postcards and phone calls, the supplier's representative informs you that your contract is about to expire and urges you to sign a new contract. Despite what the postcard or the caller may tell you, your current long-term contract is in effect for the period of time specified on your signed agreement. It is not ethical for someone to recommend to you that you cancel your current contract and face potential early termination fees. CQI Associates recommends that you simply ignore these postcards and/or phone calls.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions, contact the Chamber office or CQI Associates.