



To whom it may concern:

Regarding: Volunteer Energy Services (Energy Supplier to your Aggregation program)

In the last year we have witnessed and unprecedented volatility in the energy markets and a steep run-up in the price of electricity and natural gas costs. Unfortunately this has caused many suppliers to go out of business or scale back operations.

A long standing Ohio based supplier, Volunteer Energy, was one such supplier that has not fared well through this market and has announced it is entering Chapter 11 (bankruptcy) protection. Ultimately this means for Volunteer they are going out of business and closing operations.

What we know so far:

On Friday March 25, 2022, Volunteer Energy Services Inc filed for bankruptcy on approximately \$12.6 million in payments owed to its wholesale natural gas and electricity suppliers.

On March 28, 2022 it was ordered and granted in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio Eastern Division to have a scheduling expedited hearing In Regard: Volunteer Energy Services Inc., Debtor. Chapter 11 Case No 22-50804, Judge C Kathryn Preston,

On March 29, 2022, at 1:30 pm the First Day Motions was heard.

From everything mentioned above and taking into consideration the previous issues with Volunteer (over billing, changing rates), Volunteer is asking to return most of its customers to be switched to the "default service" or Utility provided for under applicable state law. Furthermore, it's safe to assume that VESI will **NOT** continue performing under its contracts.

What's Next?

April 2022, Volunteer will most likely be placing all customer back to Utility.

Trebel being one of the best in this industry, is pushing forward with alternative solutions.

First, we recommend all aggregation participants electric or gas that are currently being served by Volunteer Energy, be put back to the utility as the Utility is currently providing the best rates at this time. This does not mean rates at the utility are good. In fact, in many of the electric utility areas rates beginning in June will rise to 6.5 to possibly over 7 cents per kWh. Natural Gas rates are currently at over \$5.25 / Mcf. Since rates in the energy markets are at their highest in years we do not recommend entering into long-term contracts on their own. You could very easily find yourself locked into a bad rate for an extended period of time.



Following, around June or July, Trebel began to consider supplier risk through-out our industry and to seek out alternatives. We have taken steps to develop new programs based on today market trends. Trebel stands on its promise to do the right thing and only implement a program for communities that make sense for residents as well as all parties involved. We will strive for great opportunities in the coming weeks for your programs.

Sincerely,

Trebel Energy