



The Northeast Utilities System

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For more information, contact:
Joel Weinberg, 860-665-2046
or 800-789-2213, ext. 173

EASTERN SHORE EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM GETTING READY FOR MARYLAND'S NEW POWER PRICES

Group of Schools, Colleges, and Municipalities Choose Select Energy

BERLIN, Connecticut, June 30, 2004 忠 A combination of over two dozen high schools, elementary schools, colleges and universities that form the Eastern Shore Educational Consortium (ESMEC) are working with Select Energy, a leading energy provider in the Northeast, to lower electricity costs. Rate caps expire today in Maryland which will result in higher power costs for commercial customers that do not switch to competitive supply. A new wholesale competitive bidding process led to standard offer service rates which will now be market based. The new rates take effect tomorrow in the Baltimore Gas and Electric and Pepco service territories.

“Our mission is to provide our members a cost- efficient and reliable choice for power, and we feel that Select Energy meets those goals. They are one of the most experienced suppliers in the marketplace,” said David Downes, Downes Associates, energy consultant to ESMEC. “We have several members already on competitive supply, and we expect more contract signings over the next several weeks,” added Downes.

“Our partnership with the consortium allows members to avoid the volatility of today’s market and realize true savings on power costs,” said Stephen J. Fabiani, vice president, retail sales and marketing, Select Energy. “We are closely monitoring market prices and helping the membership understand the changes in Maryland’s electric legislation,” added Fabiani.

ESMEC was formed in 1986 as a cooperative administrative entity for the purpose of facilitating and administrating cooperative and joint programs by and between the boards of education of the nine counties located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. For more information contact R. Allan Gorsuch, Manager, ESMEC Energy Trust at 410-758-2403, ext 132 or visit www.esmec.org.

Select Energy Inc., headquartered in Berlin, Connecticut is the competitive energy marketing and services subsidiary of Northeast Utilities. Select Energy provides electricity, natural gas, renewable power and custom energy solutions to business and institutional customers throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. More information about the company is available at www.selectenergy.com.

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