



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2018

Contact: Chuck Keiper, Executive Director
NOPEC
ckeiper@nopecinfo.org
330-606-2134

Dave Jankowski, Marketing Director
NOPEC
djankowski@nopecinfo.org
440-249-7828

**NOPEC GIVING 500,000 ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS \$9 MILLION BREAK ON UTILITY BILLS
Residential and Commercial Customers Will See Reduced Rates on March to May Bills**

(Solon, Ohio) – Nearly 500,000 Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) electric customers will receive reduced rates on the generation portion of their utility bills thanks to a \$9 million price reduction program being implemented by NOPEC this spring.

The rate reduction will benefit all current NOPEC electric customers served by Ohio Edison and The Illuminating Company (CEI). On average, the rate reduction will equate to nearly \$18 for residential customers and about \$39 for small business accounts over the 4-month program period.

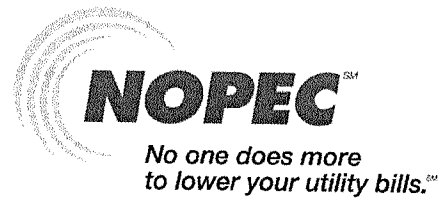
“We think this is a significant benefit for our members – and we’re happy to pass along this substantial price reduction on top of the bulk buying savings we’re able to offer our customers every day,” said Chuck Keiper, NOPEC’s executive director.

Ron McVoy, chairman of the NOPEC Board of Directors and a North Kingsville Village councilman, said the give back reinforces NOPEC’s consumer advocacy role. “We like talking about standing up for consumers and helping lower utility bills,” McVoy said. “It’s even better when we back up that talk with \$9 million in rate reductions for our half-million electric customers.”

About \$5.4 million of the \$9 million comes from NOPEC’s settlement with its former electric supplier. In late 2016, FirstEnergy Solutions terminated its contract to provide electricity to NOPEC customers three years early. Keiper said NOPEC decided to add to the settlement proceeds to bring the total give back to \$9 million.

“The \$9 million represents a good portion of the benefit NOPEC customers would have received had that contract run to term. When combined with the \$25 million previously given back in the form of additional on-bill savings, these funds bring the total give back to NOPEC electric customers to well over \$34 million from 2010 to 2016,” Keiper explained.

All NOPEC customers who will benefit from this give back will receive a postcard in the mail in the next few weeks notifying them of the rate reduction program.



ABOUT NOPEC

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest non-profit public retail energy aggregation in the United States. Currently, NOPEC supplies electricity and natural gas to more than 800,000 residential and small business customers in 219 member communities in 14 Ohio counties.

Since 2001, NOPEC has saved its members more than \$300 million dollars in cumulative energy savings and have provided more than \$20 million in community energy efficiency grants. For more information about NOPEC, visit nopec.org.