



# Municipal Aggregation: Get Plugged In

## Ratepayer Advocate Plans New Publication *Municipal Aggregation In New Jersey: How To Deliver The Benefits Of Utility Deregulation To Your Local Community*

The Ratepayer Advocate has consistently supported energy aggregation as the best way to provide the lowest possible energy rates for residential, small business and state and local governments. On February 27, 2003, Governor James E. McGreevey signed into law legislation simplifying the energy aggregation process for municipalities in New Jersey, paving the way for money-saving opportunities for residential and business customers throughout the state. The law orders the Board of Public Utilities to adopt rules and regulations requiring an electric or natural gas public utility to assist municipal and county aggregators in establishing a government energy aggregation program at the request of the governing body of a county or municipality. The law also provides a role by the Ratepayer Advocate in the municipal aggregation process as a reviewer and analyst of bid notices, bidding documents and written agreements.

One of the new provisions, supported by the Ratepayer Advocate, requires the residents of a municipality to affirmatively decline to participate in the government aggregation program. This approach will help to make the program attractive to energy suppliers, while streamlining the process for government aggregators and maintaining the highest level of consumer protection. The Ratepayer Advocate strongly supports governmental aggregation as the best opportunity to achieve lower rates for both businesses and residential customers in municipalities throughout the state.

Once the Board of Public Utilities adopts its final municipal aggregation rules, Ratepayer Advocate Seema M. Singh and her staff will complete a step-by-step, how-to guide: ***Municipal Aggregation in New Jersey: How to Deliver the Benefits of Utility Deregulation to Your Local Community*** to provide guidance for municipal and county officials planning to aggregate their communities' energy needs. It is anticipated that the manual will be available in the early summer of 2003.

To reserve a copy of ***Municipal Aggregation in New Jersey: How to Deliver the Benefits of Utility Deregulation to Your Local Community***, please complete the attached form and mail it to the address indicated, and, if prepaying, include a check payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. The costs for the manual, mailing and handling are: **\$25.00** for municipalities, other government agencies, and non-profit agencies and organizations. **\$40.00** for profit making entities.



### DIVISION OF THE RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

Working for ALL  
New Jersey Utility Consumers

**James E. McGreevey**  
Governor  
**Seema M. Singh, Esq.**  
Ratepayer Advocate



**MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION IN NEW JERSEY:  
HOW TO DELIVER THE BENEFITS OF UTILITY DEREGULATION  
TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**PRE-ORDER FORM**

**TO: The Division of the Ratepayer Advocate  
31 Clinton Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 46005  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
Phone: (973) 648-2690/ Fax: (973) 648-4848**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ copies of "Municipal Aggregation in New Jersey: How to Deliver the Benefits of Utility Deregulation to Your Local Community."

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