**JACKSONVILLE NEWS RELEASE FOR ELECTRIC AGGREGATION CONTRACT**

Jacksonville has recently signed a new electricity aggregation supply agreement through the regional buying group managed by Good Energy. Residents and eligible small businesses will receive opt-out notices regarding the electric aggregation program during the first half of April. The letters are required to be sent to all eligible customers whenever a new agreement is established.

Homefield Energy will continue to be the program’s electricity supplier for a term through June, 2019. Jacksonville’s new price of 6.007 cents per kilowatt-hour, will remain fixed throughout the three-year term.

As a reminder, if residents are approached by an electric marketer, it IS NOT part of the community’s aggregation program. No Homefield salesperson will initiate a call or visit to your community’s participants. Residents DO NOT have to sign a contract, or pay any fee to participate in or leave the program.

Customers will have until April 21 to opt-out of the program. After April 21, eligible accounts will be enrolled in the program and will see the new price on bills in July. During the term, customers in the program may opt-out with no cost or obligation by contacting Homefield Energy. Residents and eligible small businesses may also join the program at the contract rate at any time during the term provided the account is eligible to select an alternative supplier according to Ameren’s switching rules.

The market price for electricity has increased steadily since the current supply agreement became effective. The multi-year fixed price contract has protected participating communities from these steady increases in market prices. It is widely expected that market prices during the next three years will be particularly volatile.

The Ameren default rates for residential and small commercial customers already reflect the volatility in market prices. Ameren’s current residential supply cost is 6.77 cents/kilowatt hour. The rate for small businesses is approximately 7.3 cents. Future Ameren electric supply rates are unknown.

The three-year aggregation contract term provides residents and eligible small businesses the protection of a multi-year fixed electricity supply cost as a hedge against volatility and uncertainty. This is an option that the Ameren utility does not offer.