

NIMEC MEMBERS LOCK IN \$8 MILLION IN SAVINGS

The long awaited deregulation of Ameren officially arrived in January. In the newly deregulated environment, electric rates are set by the market annually, as opposed to the ICC. Because Ameren had agreed to freeze their rates for the previous 9 years, the new market rates are significantly higher.

Companies that continue to purchase power from Ameren in 2007 (via the market rate) have seen their rates soar 35% to 60%. Residential rates have jumped 40-50%.

In early October, NIMEC organized a bidding process for its ComEd membership. The results were better than expected. Total savings for the 65 members will exceed \$5 million over the 17 month term, an average of \$80,000 in savings per member.

Medium sized members will realize a 15% savings, while larger members will enjoy a

35% savings over the 2007 ComEd market rates.

Since the initial bid offering, an additional 45 members have joined NIMEC and taken their accounts to bid. About 10-15 new members are joining NIMEC each month.

NIMEC membership now totals 110. NIMEC has negotiated pricing for \$23 million of power purchases. NIMEC members have locked in savings of \$8.3 million.

Recently, NIMEC began working with companies in Ameren territory. NIMEC has helped four Ameren customers purchase their electricity from third party electric suppliers. Savings in the Ameren territory are less than those in ComEd territory, but are still averaging 5% to 15%, compared to Ameren's 2007 rates.

Any company desiring to join the co-op and realize similar savings is invited to do so.

Every month, NIMEC groups together new co-op members and takes their accounts to bid. All NIMEC contracts end in May 2008.

In the Spring of 2008, all new members will then be aggregated with all other co-op members. At that time, it is estimated that the members' volumes will approach \$40 million. This aggregated purchasing power will enable NIMEC to negotiate even greater savings for all members.