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Chamber Offers Members Electricity Aggregation Buying Program

Lebanon, PA – With the cost of electricity being one of the largest operational expenses faced by many businesses and with rates for PPL customers expected to escalate January 1 of next year with the expiration of current caps on PPL’s rates, the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce has enlisted the services of OnDemand Energy Solutions to establish an electricity aggregation buying pool program for its members. This new buying pool program is designed to provide Chamber member employers with the opportunity to offset some of the expected PPL electricity rate increases.

The Chamber’s buying pool, which will be aggregated with that of other chambers of commerce utilizing OnDemand’s services, will purchase electricity in bulk for a fixed time period as a way to lock in lower electricity prices for participating chamber member businesses and organizations. The Lebanon Valley Chamber will be part of an electricity buying pool currently consisting of 10 other Pennsylvania chambers and other partner organizations.

Chamber President and CEO Larry Bowman stated that, “We are pleased with the potential this program offers for helping our member employers offset a significant amount of the projected future increase in their electricity costs.”

The Chamber’s new electricity buying pool venture is not the organization’s first such aggregation program. The Chamber has similar programs in place through which its members can obtain health insurance, merchant payment processing services and office supplies. However, Bowman noted that, “With electricity purchases, larger and mid-sized users alike typically have not had the same pooling opportunity to obtain bulk prices that we are now working to coordinate.”

The Chamber, in conjunction with OnDemand Energy Solutions representatives, will be holding informational sessions on the new aggregation program in late July. The dates of these workshops are expected to be announced shortly.

While these initial sessions and a series of webinars will focus on first assisting PPL customers due to the expiration of their rate caps effective January 1, 2010, Met-Ed customers are also invited to attend these informational programs. Additional workshops focused on the Met-Ed territory and on Met-Ed customers will be held in the fourth quarter of this year.

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