

K<sub>3</sub>G home

First Energy Solutions Corp.:  
Kankakee's Electric supplier  
Stay in? Opt out?  
Get what you need to  
make your choice.



BTPD plans to buy failing Hidden  
Cove without your permission  
\* \* \* You Can Stop Them! \* \* \*

Deadline: June 20

www.kankakeegazette.com  
Forecast by yr.no/nws



## First Energy Solutions Corp. violates their contract; City of Kankakee disregards\* the violations

### Deadline to Opt-Out: Friday June 22

Posted by [kankakeegazette.com staff](#) | News & Opinion June 16, 2012, 6:30 a.m.

The City of Kankakee's choice for our electricity municipal aggregation program, First Energy Solutions Corp. (FES), forgot to provide accessible ways to opt-out of their program as required in their contract. And let's be honest about this: the City of Kankakee forgot to care!

According to the contract with the City of Kankakee, FES must provide the following (page 8, section 4.2.1.3 :

*In addition to receiving completed Opt-Out Notices from Eligible Customers by mail, the Supplier shall, at its own expense, provide, operate, and maintain a toll-free number and secure website for the use of Eligible Customers to opt out of the Program.*

[www.fes.com/kankakee](http://www.fes.com/kankakee) is the web address provided on the FES letter to the eligible customers in Kankakee. It appears to be for opt-out as required by the FES contract.

But when you enter the address, you

confirm you received my opt-out form. The clerk said they did not have anything to do with opting out. They usually just answer questions about rates and differences in rates and about the company. FES does not confirm to customers and if something unlikely happens, like FES misses scanning your opt-out form, you can always rescind within 30 days **after they switch you to FES electricity supply**. Oh, goodie!

According to the contract, FES is at least required to report to the City of Kankakee who FES has recorded as included and who's opting out. But so far, the FES record on following the contract regarding handling of Kankakee's eligible customers isn't really living up to the expectations of those who read their contract.

In addition to FES's *we don't resolve any problems we create, we don't answer the phone to confirm you're recorded on our opt-out and we don't make mistakes (I was told)*, the city of Kankakee seems to be taking a similar hands-off position. This statement is near the bottom of your FES letter by the opt-out form: "Please do



Hidden Cove Sportsplex, Bourbonnais, IL (KankakeeGazette.com images 2012)

## Bourbonnais Twnshp Park District Sticks it to taxpayers again

by Darrel Bruck

RSS - Posts

Posted by [kankakeegazette.com staff](#)  
News & Opinion · June 9, 2012 · 12:46 p.m.

### BTPD Board members:

Wayne Delabre: 815-932-2377  
Brian Hebert: 815-932-2896  
Dennis Lehnus: 815-929-9636  
John Betts: 815-939-0241  
Donna Brown: 815-933-6477

**Planning to purchase another apparently  
failed business!**

**Let the voters decide how to spend**

GAZETTE TOPICS

ARCHIVES

PREVIOUS EDITIONS (PDF)

get a web page talking about “enroll now”. As you can see in this PDF of the web page captured June 16, 2012, there is nothing here about opting-out.

Clerks reached in two separate calls to the toll-free number courteously said there is no website for opt-out, only opt-in. And there is also no opt-out by phone. One of the clerks placed me on hold to find the answer to my question of why no one could opt-out by phone or on the website.

She came back with this answer: “The company needs a signature on file from people who opt-out.” She said that’s why no one can opt-out on the phone or on a website. She was a good customer service agent and persistent in trying to answer my questions and provide information about FES procedures.

It is confusing, though. FES doesn’t seem to have any of the same concerns about someone **forging an opt-in** on another person’s account. No signature required for those anxious to give FES their business – toll-free phones and a special website await all opt-ins!

My first question to the FES clerk now seems rather naive: I would like you to

not call the city of Kankakee with aggregation program questions.”

Perhaps it doesn’t mean that the city of Kankakee won’t keep it’s own list of opt-outs if you send a note to them. After-all, it’s their program to help the city make a little extra money from FES, so they want it to work well. All of us want it to work well.

So it seemed like a good idea to notify the Illinois Commerce Commission of FirstEnergy Solutions violations of their contract with the city of Kankakee. The request is for ICC (if they are so empowered) to request that due to the lack of customer opt-out options and no customer service for opt-outs, FES extend it’s deadline to opt-out until 14 days after they have provided the required options in their contract with the people of Kankakee.

If not, maybe the next contract needs to be opt-in only.

**Read the complete contract** between the City of Kankakee and First Energy Solutions.

—Check back for more about FES and the City of Kankakee.—

\*Appears to be a violation of the City of Kankakee Council Code of Conduct:  
<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/disregard>  
dis·re·gard (d s r -gärd )  
tr.v. dis·re·gard·ed, dis·re·gard·ing, dis·re·gards  
1. To pay no attention or heed to; ignore.  
2. To treat without proper respect or attentiveness.  
Code of Conduct for City of Kankakee Council Members  
1.7 All Members of City Council shall work and strive to inspire public confidence in Kankakee City government  
1.8 All Members of City Council shall demonstrate honesty and integrity in every action and statement.

**Garbage!**  
**Kankakee overcharging residents**  
**\$12.50/month**  
Posted by [kankakeegazette.com](http://kankakeegazette.com) staff  
Updated June 9, 2012

Why is the City of Kankakee’s contract with Allied so high compared to Bourbonnais, Bradley and other towns in Illinois? Or is it?\*

At the Kankakee City Council Meeting November, 1, 2010, Mr. Richard Simms, Superintendent of Environmental Services Utility, explained that what the City was paying ABC Disposal, Inc. in their 2010 contract works out to a monthly per-household rate of around

### Illinois Commerce Commission resolves customer/utility disputes

Posted by [kankakeegazette.com](http://kankakeegazette.com) staff Jun 17, 2012

The Illinois Commerce Commission Consumer Services Division provides educational information on utility issues, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection.

You can talk with a representative by calling toll-free 1-800-524-0795. Or **complete the online form.**

Although ICC does not have regulatory power over private energy suppliers, they will work with you and a private energy supplier to settle disputes.

### their own tax dollars!

The Bourbonnais Township Park District is currently at the maximum debt level allowed under the Tax Cap Law.

They have now come up with a creative financing plan to borrow an additional \$3.1 million dollars to buy Hidden Cove and park upgrades. This will keep maximum taxation on property owners for years to come.

This is on top of the millions spent for the Lumber Yard Baseball field, Recreation Station, Skyline Road swamp land, \$800,000 Iowa Barn and other facilities.

This is a continuation of the Park District’s long history to obligate property owners to never-ending debt levels. BTPD shows no regard for the economic pains business owners and residents have experienced over the last five years.

The original formation of the BTPD was to preserve the Perry Farm, not empire building!

Illinois law gives registered voters in the district the right to sign a petition to put this kind of additional borrowing on the ballot in the form of a **binding** referendum.

The park district includes the Villages of Bourbonnais, Bradley and rural Bourbonnais Township.

We need your help to get 2000 signatures of registered voters by Wednesday June 20.

You can go to the following businesses to sign a copy of the petition:

- Larimer & O’Connor 729 W. Broadway, Bradley, 815-932-7493;
- Alexander Equipment Rental, 1511 Commerce Dr. Bourbonnais, 815-933-2122 and
- RR&J Rentals, 422 N. Kennedy Dr., Bradley, 815-939-0500.

To help collect signatures, download and print copies of the [Referendum Petition](#) and the [Instructions](#). Make as many blank copies as you want.

Deadline to collect petitions from circulators is Wednesday June 20. Call 815-933-9696 or email [dwb70@aol.com](mailto:dwb70@aol.com) when you are done collecting signatures. We will present all the petitions.

- 2012Jan16
- 2012Jan16 &17
- 2012Jun11



### GARBAGE!

**Kankakee Overcharges \$12.50/mo.**  
Why is Kankakee’s contract with Allied Waste so high compared to Bourbonnais, Bradley and other towns in Illinois? Or is it? [more](#)

### STORIES YOU MAY HAVE

#### MISSED



Sales Tax Lawsuits  
*Chicago Tonight*

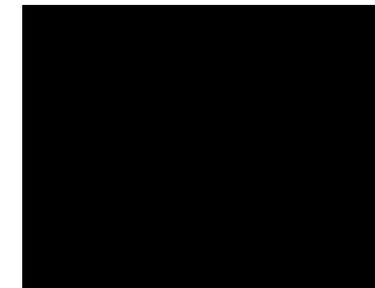


Cook County joins sales tax battle against Kankakee and Channahon



Watchdog Group: Quinn Weakens State Freedom Of Information Act

Funeral Home uses Cremation Alternative



*by ABC Action News*

The idea came from Scotland, the brainchild of biochemist Sandy Sullivan. Sullivan designed a machine that dissolves the body without using fire. [more»](#)

High School Students Help Pass Landmark Legislation



Kankakee River Valley Pill & Drug Disposal: program fully funded

\$17.00.

He went on to say that the new January 1, 2011 Allied Waste contract “is about \$200,000.00 less per year for year number one.”\*\* He then talks about how the rest of our solid waste payment is going somewhere else.

Officials may not be using this extra money for their personal legal fees or for gambling parties on a Mississippi riverboat. But a garbage bill should be a garbage bill not a fund to go somewhere else, perhaps to cover errors or hidden problems.[continue reading »](#)

### Wait, so how much is my electric bill?

Michael Sewall, New Lenox Patch



Decreased rates and increased taxes had some readers' heads spinning.

Starting this month, utility tax increases approved by the village [of New Lenox] go into effect, and they're expected to add about \$70 in annual costs for the average resident.

*But didn't we just get lower electricity rates?* [Continue reading »](#)

### Cincinnati Dumps Duke Energy for First Energy Solutions

Posted 04/28/2012 4:22 pm

Co-Authored by Phil Radford, Greenpeace and Sandy Buchanan, Ohio Citizen Action

First Energy Solutions won...A portion of this green electricity will come from local sources, including solar credits from the Cincinnati Zoo Solar canopy project...the average eligible household will save approximately \$133 per year on their electricity bills.

[continue reading »](#)

### North Aurora residents to pay less for electricity

Board not considering offer of “grants back”

Daily Herald By Susan Sarkauskas | Article updated 7/18/2011 11:04 PM

North Aurora residents will pay about 25 percent less for their electricity starting this fall. [continue reading »](#)

### CVS Refuses To Sell Texas Man Emergency Contraception

by Marie Diamond on Jan 6, 2012 at 7:45 p.m.

A Texas man has enlisted the ACLU to help him sue CVS/Pharmacy for gender discrimination after a pharmacist refused to sell him emergency contraception.

Jason Melbourne had already visited four pharmacies [Continue reading »](#)

#### SECTIONS

[CityCouncil](#)

[Community](#)

[County](#)

[How did my Aldermen vote?](#)

[How did my County Rep vote?](#)

[Is this what Ben intended?](#)

[Movies](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Pets](#)

[PublicScribe](#)

[SalesTax Sharing](#)

[Tell.gov](#)

