



July 25, 2018

Ellwood City Council  
525 Lawrence Avenue  
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Members of Ellwood City Borough Council,

We are hopeful Ellwood City Borough Council will soon propose local ordinances to resolve the ongoing issues involving Ellwood City Electric. After months of calls, correspondence and meetings with residents, current and former council members and business owners, we feel it is appropriate to reiterate our concerns and communicate input on behalf of Ellwood City Electric consumers.

Our concern is that if current practices remain unchanged, residents and businesses will continue to leave Ellwood City and efforts to attract new residents and businesses will be stifled. Implementation of policy changes will reduce costs, ensure consumer protections, and increase transparency for Ellwood Electric customers. Below are several actions we believe should be implemented related to Ellwood Electric, no later than August 31, 2018:

1. Set the total per kWh rate for 12 months, to be implemented with a minimum of three months' notice.
  - The total cost of electricity should be no higher per kWh than from primary local provider, First Energy.
2. Adhere to all PUC requirements for shutoff of electricity for consumers, including but not limited to: winter terminations, children, elderly, and medical certificates.
3. Increase the payment period on bills to 20 days.
4. Permit all residents to use a budget payment plan.
5. Replicate policies of other electric providers as it relates to the landlord/tenant relationship to ensure landlords are not responsible for the bills of tenants.
6. Waive or significantly reduce reactivation fees and prohibitive costs for turning power back on at a property after a shutoff is resolved.
  - It is understood that options to prevent abuses of this policy may need to be implemented.

7. Provide additional transparency for Ellwood City Electric consumer and taxpayers.
  - Hold specific Ellwood Electric board meetings separate from monthly borough council meetings.
  - Allow residents to see how and where the electric dollars are being spent, keeping those monies separate and trackable from the general fund budget.

The Borough should operate Ellwood City Electric in a manner in which the taxpayer-funded profits from the electric system are returned to the citizens and community. As an entity regulated by rules established by its own locally elected body, it is critical to remain in tune with consumer needs while maintaining uniform rates.

These proposals reflect feedback we have received from our constituents and what we believe will help the electric service continue to improve and develop. It is our belief that a long-term commitment to system improvement from the Borough will enhance user experience, provide consumer protections and encourage growth in Ellwood City. We are hopeful Ellwood City Borough Council will take action to ensure the protection of its customers and the growth of its community.

We thank you for your time and attention, and look forward to continuing to work together to improve Ellwood City Electric for our constituents. Please feel free to contact our offices should there be any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Representative Aaron Bernstine  
10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Elder Vogel Jr.  
47<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District