

# Energy Assistance Program Receives \$86,000 to Help Low-Income Delawareans with Electric Bills

☒ Governor Markell joined the Division of the Public Advocate (DPA) today in announcing that the Delaware Energy Assistance Program (DEAP) will have an additional \$86,000 this year to help low-income Delawareans pay their summer electric bills. The funding derives from a 2012 settlement between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Constellation Energies Commodities Group, Inc.

In Delaware, the funds will be used to defray energy costs for electric consumers through the Summer Cooling Assistance Program (SCAP). The program is focused on assisting the elderly and those with disabilities who may have difficulty going to air conditioned public places for refuge during heat waves because of mobility issues.

“Extreme weather can have a severe impact on our most vulnerable populations,” said Governor Markell. “As a community, we have an obligation to help those in need – whether it is providing them with heat in the winter or a way to stay cool in the summer. This money will certainly aid in those efforts and ensure 350 more households are safer during the hottest months of the year.”

A ceremonial check representing \$86,811.43 was presented today by the Division of the Public Advocate to Dr. Anne Farley, Director of the Division of State Service Centers for the Department of Health and Social Services, and Leslie Lee, the administrator of DEAP. DEAP is a federally-funded program for low-income families who need help meeting their home energy

costs.

“This is welcomed assistance for some of the most vulnerable people we serve,” said Dr. Farley. “Through our community partner, Catholic Charities, this aid will go toward keeping many Delaware seniors and people with disabilities more comfortable in their homes this summer.”

In 2012, the FERC and Constellation Energy Commodities Group entered into a Stipulation and Consent Agreement which resolved an investigation brought under the Commission’s Anti-Manipulation Rule. The DPA became a party to the case as a member of a group of consumer advocates who petitioned to have a role in determining how the proceeds of the disgorged profits would be distributed.

For more information about DEAP and the Summer Cooling Assistance Program, please visit <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dssc/liheap.html>