

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION REGULAR OPEN MEETING

Thursday, May 4th, 2023

Springfield, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice at 11:30 AM
at 527 E. Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois.

PRESENT IN PERSON:

CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chair

ANN McCABE, Commissioner

MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner

CONRAD REDDICK, Commissioner

STACEY PARADIS, Commissioner

Reported In Person By:

Deann K. Parkinson: CSR 84-002089

1 (The time is 11:28 a.m.)

2 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Good morning. I
3 have 11:30. Under the Open Meetings Act, I call
4 the meeting for 2023 regular open meeting to
5 order. Commissioners Carrigan, McCabe, Reddick
6 and Paradis are with me in Springfield. We have a
7 quorum.

8 We have one request to speak from Toni
9 Oplt. Under 2 Illinois administrative code
10 section 1700.10, any person desiring to address
11 the Commission shall be allowed up to three
12 minutes. We are going to run a timer. I'm going
13 to run it from my phone. And I want to please
14 note that the Commission will not respond directly
15 to any comments.

16 Mr. Oplt, you may begin. But before
17 that, can you please state and spell your name.
18 And then once you've done that, I will go ahead
19 and start the timer for three minutes.

20 MS. OPLT: Hi, my name is Toni Oplt.
21 It's T-O-N-I. The last name is O-P-L-T.

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: You may begin.

23 MS. OPLT: Well, thank you so much. I,
24 my name is Toni Oplt, and I am an Ameren Gas, gas

1 customer. I am also a member of the Illinois
2 Sierra Club and a chair of the Metro East Green
3 Alliance.

4 Nearly this time last year I attended
5 and spoke at an ICC led community meeting in East
6 St. Louis. One of our environmental justice
7 communities here in the Metro East.

8 At that time I made the point that it
9 serves no one to be in an us-them relationship
10 with major utilities like Ameren. The climate
11 crisis is here, and we all need to be part of the
12 solution.

13 My question then as now is, what will it
14 take for Ameren to put people and planet before
15 profit? And come to the climate solutions table
16 in good faith, willing to work alongside all of
17 us, not just investors, to make a better future?

18 Like many of Ameren's customers, my
19 utility bill is one of my most expensive monthly
20 payments. And while I am at the moment in a
21 position to cover my bills, many of my neighbors
22 already find this a terrible hardship. Further
23 rate hikes will threaten their well being.

24 Considering Ameren Illinois Gas made 123

1 million in profit in 2022, contributing to its
2 overall profit of 1.074 billion, I find the
3 current request for further rate hikes difficult
4 to understand.

5 Their current profits follow a 71
6 million dollar rate hike in 2021, which gave them
7 record profits for that year too. Which brings me
8 back to the obviously unpopular notion that Ameren
9 might do better as a partner in the solutions to
10 our climate crisis. Rather than taking more away
11 from their customers, they might try putting
12 people before their profits, rolling up their
13 sleeves to support a renewable energy future,
14 instead of squandering customers' money on fossil
15 fuel infrastructure that will need to be retired
16 shortly.

17 Natural gas is toxic, explosive, and
18 causes approximately one-fifth of the asthma cases
19 in Illinois. And is contributing heavily to
20 climate change.

21 Locking in these rate hikes will allow
22 Ameren to continue to spend billions on gas
23 infrastructure. Meanwhile, being woefully
24 negligent on building out the desperately needed

1 grid for renewables. Their shareholders may
2 suffer in this sort of partnership, it's true, but
3 Ameren seems to have had little trouble creating
4 sacrifice zones when it has needed to in the past.
5 So perhaps a few million less in their investors'
6 pockets wouldn't matter so much. At least it
7 shouldn't.

8 Thank you again for this opportunity to
9 speak with all of you today, and for all that you
10 do to regulate the utility situation in Illinois.

11 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you.

12 BRAD: Excuse me, madam chairman, I
13 received word that I think the sound, they are
14 trying to work with the sound on the web stream,
15 so I think we should pause for a few minutes.

16 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We will go ahead and
17 pause. I will note that it's being recorded too
18 by the court reporter, so there is a transcript.

19 BRAD: It's recorded as well, so we will
20 get the sound put into the video from the WebEx as
21 well, and it is being captured.

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Brad, our head of
23 IT, just noted that the WebEx is recording today's
24 meeting and the sound is included in that. And

1 you said it's also being -- it's closed captioned
2 as well. So, do you think that's okay to proceed?

3 BRAD: I think it's okay to proceed
4 because technically you don't have to broadcast.
5 As you mentioned, people can read the caption, and
6 it's recorded.

7 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. This
8 concludes our public comments. We're going to
9 move on to our transportation agenda.

10 There are edits to the March 23rd, 2023,
11 transportation regular open meeting minutes.

12 There are no edits to the April 5th, 2023,
13 transportation regular open meeting minutes. Are
14 there any objections to approving the minutes as
15 edited? Hearing none, the minutes are approved.

16 Items RR-1 through RR-5 concern various
17 public safety improvement projects at the railway
18 crossings across Illinois. The orders approve the
19 projects, authorize the construction, and approve
20 project costs apportionment.

21 Are there any objections to consider
22 these items together and approving the orders?
23 Hearing none, the orders are approved.

24 Motor carrier items, item MC-1 concerns

1 an application for renewal of a commercial
2 relocation towing license. The order grants the
3 renewal, finding that the applicant meets the
4 permitting requirements.

5 Are there any objections to approving
6 the order? Hearing none, the order is approved.

7 Items MC-2 and MC-3 concern applications
8 for common carrier certificates of public
9 convenience and necessity to transport household
10 goods. The orders grant those certificates,
11 finding that the applicants meet the permitting
12 requirements.

13 Are there any objections to considering
14 these items together and approving the orders?
15 Hearing none, the orders are approved.

16 This concludes our transportation
17 agenda.

18 (The time is 11:37 AM.)
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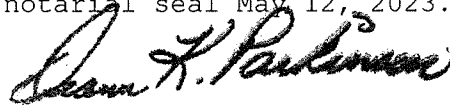
1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
2 COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN)

3 I, DEANN K. PARKINSON, a Notary Public
4 in and for the County of Champaign State of
5 Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing
6 meeting was taken on May 4, 2023.

7 That said meeting was taken down in
8 stenographic notes and afterwards reduced to
9 typewriting under my instruction and said
10 transcription is a true record.

11 I do hereby certify that I am a
12 disinterested person in this cause of action; that
13 I am not a relative of any party or any attorney
14 of record in this cause, or an attorney for any
15 party herein, or otherwise interested in the event
16 of this action, and am not in the employ of the
17 attorneys for either party.

18 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
19 my hand and affixed my notarial seal May 12, 2023.



DEANN K. PARKINSON, CSR
NOTARY PUBLIC

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<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>a.m 2:1 Act 2:3 action 8:7,9 address 2:10 administrative 2:9 affixed 8:11 agenda 6:9 7:17 ahead 2:18 5:16 Alliance 3:3 allow 4:21 allowed 2:11 alongside 3:16 Ameren 2:24 3:10 3:14,24 4:8,22 5:3 Ameren's 3:18 ANN 1:15 applicant 7:3 applicants 7:11 application 7:1 applications 7:7 apportionment 6:20 approve 6:18,19 approved 6:15,23 7:6,15 approving 6:14,22 7:5,14 approximately 4:18 April 6:12 asthma 4:18 attended 3:4 attorney 8:8,8 attorneys 8:10 authorize 6:19 Avenue 1:9</p>	<p>Brad 5:12,19,22 6:3 brings 4:7 broadcast 6:4 building 4:24</p>	<p>CONRAD 1:17 consider 6:21 considering 3:24 7:13 construction 6:19 continue 4:22 contributing 4:1 4:19 convenience 7:9 costs 6:20 County 8:2,3 court 5:18 cover 3:21 creating 5:3 crisis 3:11 4:10 crossings 6:18 CSR 1:23 8:13 current 4:3,5 customer 3:1 customers 3:18 4:11 customers' 4:14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>faith 3:16 find 3:22 4:2 finding 7:3,11 follow 4:5 foregoing 8:4 fossil 4:14 fuel 4:15 further 3:22 4:3 future 3:17 4:13</p>	<p>interested 8:9 investors 3:17 investors' 5:5 item 6:24 items 6:16,22,24 7:7,14</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 4:8 better 3:17 4:9 bill 3:19 billion 4:2 billions 4:22 bills 3:21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>call 2:3 Capitol 1:9 caption 6:5 captioned 6:1 captured 5:21 CARRIE 1:14 carrier 6:24 7:8 Carrigan 1:16 2:5 cases 4:18 cause 8:7,8 causes 4:18 certificates 7:8,10 certify 8:4,7 chair 1:14 3:2 chairman 2:2,22 5:11,12,16,22 6:7 Champaign 8:2,3 change 4:20 climate 3:10,15 4:10,20 closed 6:1 Club 3:2 code 2:9 come 3:15 comments 2:15 6:8 COMMERCE 1:2 commercial 7:1 Commission 1:2 2:11,14 Commissioner 1:15,16,17,18 Commissioners 2:5 common 7:8 communities 3:7 community 3:5 concern 6:16 7:7 concerns 6:24 concludes 6:8 7:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>Deann 1:23 8:3,13 desiring 2:10 desperately 4:24 difficult 4:3 directly 2:14 disinterested 8:7 dollar 4:6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>gas 2:24,24 3:24 4:17,22 go 2:18 5:16 going 2:12,12 6:8 good 2:2 3:16 goods 7:10 grant 7:10 grants 7:2 Green 3:2 grid 5:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>justice 3:6</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>E 1:9 East 3:2,5,7 edited 6:15 edits 6:10,12 either 8:10 employ 8:9 energy 4:13 environmental 3:6 event 8:9 Excuse 5:12 expensive 3:19 explosive 4:17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>hand 8:11 hardship 3:22 head 5:22 Hearing 6:15,23 7:6,15 heavily 4:19 hereunto 8:10 Hi 2:20 hike 4:6 hikes 3:23 4:3,21 household 7:9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>K 1:23 8:3,13</p>
			<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>ICC 3:5 Illinois 1:2,5,9 2:9 3:1,24 4:19 5:10 6:18 8:1,4 improvement 6:17 included 5:24 infrastructure 4:15,23 instruction 8:6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>led 3:5 license 7:2 little 5:3 Locking 4:21 Louis 3:6</p>
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<p>monthly 3:19 morning 2:2 Motor 6:24 move 6:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 2:17,20,21 2:24 Natural 4:17 Nearly 3:4 necessity 7:9 need 3:11 4:15 needed 4:24 5:4 negligent 4:24 neighbors 3:21 notarial 8:11 Notary 8:3,13 note 2:14 5:17 noted 5:23 notes 8:5 notice 1:8 notion 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O-P-L-T 2:21 objections 6:14,21 7:5,13 obviously 4:8 okay 6:2,3 once 2:18 one-fifth 4:18 open 1:3 2:3,4 6:11 6:13 Oplt 2:9,16,20,20 2:23,24 opportunity 5:8 order 2:5 7:2,6,6 orders 6:18,22,23 7:10,14,15 overall 4:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>Paradis 1:18 2:6 Parkinson 1:23 8:3,13 part 3:11</p>	<p>partner 4:9 partnership 5:2 party 8:8,9,10 pause 5:15,17 payments 3:20 people 3:14 4:12 6:5 permitting 7:4,11 person 1:12,22 2:10 8:7 phone 2:13 planet 3:14 please 2:13,17 pockets 5:6 point 3:8 position 3:21 PRESENT 1:12 proceed 6:2,3 profit 3:15 4:1,2 profits 4:5,7,12 project 6:20 projects 6:17,19 public 6:8,17 7:8 8:3,13 pursuant 1:8 put 3:14 5:20 putting 4:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>question 3:13 quorum 2:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>railway 6:17 rate 3:23 4:3,6,21 read 6:5 received 5:13 record 4:7 8:6,8 recorded 5:17,19 6:6 recording 5:23 Reddick 1:17 2:5 reduced 8:5 regular 1:3 2:4 6:11,13 regulate 5:10</p>	<p>relationship 3:9 relative 8:8 relocation 7:2 renewable 4:13 renewables 5:1 renewal 7:1,3 Reported 1:22 reporter 5:18 request 2:8 4:3 requirements 7:4 7:12 respond 2:14 retired 4:15 rolling 4:12 RR-1 6:16 RR-5 6:16 run 2:12,13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>sacrifice 5:4 safety 6:17 seal 8:11 section 2:10 serves 3:9 set 8:10 shareholders 5:1 shortly 4:16 Sierra 3:2 situation 5:10 sleeves 4:13 solution 3:12 solutions 3:15 4:9 sort 5:2 sound 5:13,14,20 5:24 speak 2:8 5:9 spell 2:17 spend 4:22 spoke 3:5 Springfield 1:5,9 2:6 squandering 4:14 SS 8:1 St 3:6 STACEY 1:18 start 2:19</p>	<p>state 2:17 8:1,3 stenographic 8:5 stream 5:14 suffer 5:2 support 4:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>T 1:16 T-O-N-I 2:21 table 3:15 take 3:14 taken 8:4,5 technically 6:4 terrible 3:22 thank 2:23 5:8,11 6:7 think 5:13,15 6:2,3 threaten 3:23 three 2:11,19 Thursday 1:4 time 2:1 3:4,8 7:18 timer 2:12,19 today 5:9 today's 5:23 Toni 2:8,20,24 towing 7:2 toxic 4:17 transcript 5:18 transcription 8:6 transport 7:9 transportation 1:3 6:9,11,13 7:16 trouble 5:3 true 5:2 8:6 try 4:11 trying 5:14 typewriting 8:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>understand 4:4 unpopular 4:8 us-them 3:9 utilities 3:10 utility 3:19 5:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p>	<p>various 6:16 video 5:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>want 2:13 We're 6:8 web 5:14 WebEx 5:20,23 whereof 8:10 willing 3:16 witness 8:10 woefully 4:23 word 5:13 work 3:16 5:14 wouldn't 5:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>year 3:4 4:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <p>ZALEWSKI 1:14 2:2,22 5:11,16,22 6:7 zones 5:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1.074 4:2 11:28 2:1 11:30 1:8 2:3 11:37 7:18 12 8:11 123 3:24 1700.10 2:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>2 2:9 2021 4:6 2022 4:1 2023 1:4 2:4 6:10 6:12 8:4,11 23rd 6:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
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