

Staff Report
Public Utilities Bureau

May 5, 2022

Subject:

Commission action is necessary to initiate Equitable Energy Upgrade Program workshops to ensure timely compliance with certain deadlines prescribed in new Section 16-111.10, which was added to the Public Utilities Act by Public Act 102-0662.

Background:

Public Act 102-0662 declares that Illinois “should pursue options to enable many more Illinoisans to access the health, environmental, and financial benefits of new clean energy technology.” In order to accomplish this objective, Public Act 102-0662 directs the Commission to “open an investigation into and direct all electric public utilities in this State to adopt an Equitable Energy Upgrade Program that permits customers to finance the construction of energy projects through an optional tariff payable directly through their utility bill, modeled after the Pay As You Save system, developed by the Energy Efficiency Institute.” In particular, the Commission is to establish Program guidelines that electric utilities must abide by when implementing the Program and shall adopt all rules necessary for the administration of the Program.

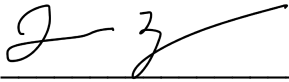
Prior to opening an investigation, and within 270 days after the effective date of Public Act 102-0662 (or no later than June 12, 2022), the Commission is to convene a workshop during which interested participants may discuss issues and submit comments related to the Program. Staff is recommending the Commission initiate the workshop process and direct Staff to conduct workshops beginning in June of this year. Staff notes that while the Commission is directed to convene a workshop, singular, it seems likely to Staff, based upon interest and concerns expressed to Staff by utilities and other stakeholders, that holding several workshops is probably necessary and certainly warranted.

At the conclusion of these workshops, Staff will prepare recommendations regarding guidelines with which electric utilities must comply when implementing the Equitable Energy Upgrade Program, as well as recommendations regarding how such guidelines should be administered and put into effect.

Recommendation:

For the reasons above, Staff recommends the Commission direct Staff to initiate a workshop process for the purpose of permitting interested participants to discuss issues and submit comments regarding the establishment of Equitable Energy Upgrade Program guidelines that electric utilities must abide by when implementing the Program.

Recommended and Approved by:



Dr. James Zolnierek
Bureau Chief
Public Utilities Bureau