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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION REGULAR OPEN MEETING
Thursday, February 23rd, 2023
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice via videoconference at
11:30 AM at 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago,
Illinois.

PRESENT:

- CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman (via Chicago office)
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner (via telephone)
- MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner (via Chicago office)
- ANN MCCABE, Commissioner (via Chicago office)

BRIDGES COURT REPORTING
BY: Quinn Dean
Notary Public

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Under the Open Meetings Act, I
2 call the February 23rd, 2023, Regular Open Meeting to
3 order. Commissioners Carrigan and McCabe are with me
4 in Chicago.

5 Commissioner Kimbrel is seeking to --
6 excuse me -- participate by phone. Commissioner
7 Kimbrel, are you there? Can you hear us?

8 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Yes, Madam Chair. I can
9 hear you. Thank you.

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Great. Are there any objections
11 to allowing Commissioner Kimbrel to participate by
12 phone?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, Commissioner
15 Kimbrel is granted permission to participate by phone.

16 We have one request to speak from Mardi
17 Klevs. Under 2 Ill. Adm. Code Section 1700.10, any
18 person desiring to address the Commission shall be
19 allowed up to three minutes. My advisor will turn on
20 the timer.

21 Okay. He's indicated he has three
22 minutes up on this phone and will start once you begin

1 speaking. Mardi Klevs, are you on?

2 MS. KLEVS: I am. Can you hear me?

3 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Yes, we can hear you. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. KLEVS: Great.

6 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Please state and spell your
7 name, and then when you start speaking, my advisor will
8 start the three minute clock, and I'll let you know
9 when time is up.

10 MS. KLEVS: Okay. My name is Mardi Klevs, that's
11 M-A-R-D-I K-L-E-V, as in "Victor," -S, as in "Sam," and
12 my gas provider is Nicor.

13 I am appreciative of this opportunity
14 to give public comment on the important public issue of
15 gas pricing and the pending rate hikes. I urge you to
16 reject Nicor's request for a new rate hike. I'm here
17 today on behalf of the many people in our state living
18 on low and middle incomes struggling to put food on the
19 table for their families. Nicor's asking a \$321 million
20 rate hike on top of the recent 2021 \$240 million
21 rate hike, which set a state record at that time. As a
22 result of the high utility rates, more than 820,000

1 customers have had their services shut off.

2 This new request is expected to further
3 increase the average consumer's bill by 928 a month or
4 approximately \$110 a year. \$110 a year might not seem
5 a lot to you, but to families that are struggling to
6 exist in an inflationary environment, it can lead to
7 poverty, homelessness, and other societal problems.

8 Nicor's parent company, Southern
9 Company Gas, recorded a \$3.6 billion in profits for the
10 first nine months in 2022. These kinds of profits are
11 outrageous, especially in light of the nature of the
12 compulsory service that Nicor provides.

13 People need to have access to energy
14 just as we have the need to breathe air and drink
15 water. I can understand that we need to pay for the
16 processing of extracting the gas and delivering it to
17 our homes, but I do believe that profits need to be
18 limited through regulation, and that's why utilities
19 are regulated, and where the ICC comes in. It's the
20 Commission's job to restrain the rapaciousness of these
21 companies. Utility bills are one important factor in
22 the contribution of growing inequalities in our

1 country.

2 Thank you again for this opportunity to
3 speak with all of you, and thank you for all the hard
4 work that you do regulating utility companies in
5 Illinois. Please do your job and protect the natural
6 gas resource. Thank you.

7 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Ms. Klevs.

8 This concludes our public utility
9 comments.

10 We're going to go ahead and move right
11 on to our Transportation Agenda. There are no edits to
12 the February 2nd, 2023, Regular Open Meeting minutes.

13 Are there any objections to approving
14 the minutes?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the minutes are
17 approved.

18 There are no railroad items on today's
19 agenda.

20 Under our motor carrier items, Items
21 MC-1 and MC-2 concern applications for renewal of a
22 commercial relocation towing license. The order grants

1 renewal, finding that the applicants meet the licensing
2 requirements.

3 Are there any objections to consider
4 these items together and approving the orders?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders are
7 approved.

8 Items MC-3 through MC-7 concern
9 stipulated settlement agreements regarding alleged
10 violations of the Illinois Commercial Transportation
11 Law. The orders accept the agreements.

12 Are there any objections to considering
13 these items together and approving the orders?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders are
16 approved.

17 This concludes our Transportation
18 Agenda.

19 (WHEREUPON the above-entitled matter
20 was adjourned at 11:35 AM.)

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