

Staff Report

Public Utilities Bureau

November 16, 2021

Subject:

Commission action necessary to initiate multi-year integrated grid planning workshops to ensure timely compliance with certain deadlines prescribed in new Section 16-105.17, which was added to the Public Utilities Act by Public Act 102-0662.

Recommended Action:

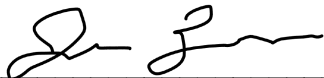
Public Act 102-0662 declares it the policy of the State to promote inclusive, comprehensive, transparent, cost-effective distribution system planning and disclosure processes that minimize long-term costs for Illinois customers and support the achievement of State renewable energy development and other clean energy, public health, and environmental policy goals. As part of this planning process, Section 16-105.17 requires the Commission to convene a workshop process for the purpose of establishing an open, inclusive, and cooperative forum regarding such investments by electric utilities serving more than 500,000 retail customers in the State, which includes Ameren Illinois Company and Commonwealth Edison Company. The workshop process is to be initiated by January 1, 2022, contain no fewer than six workshops, take place over a period of not less than five months, and must conclude no later than June 1, 2022.

Staff is recommending the Commission initiate the workshop process in early December because the work required by Section 16-105.17 following the workshops must be completed in exceedingly short order. At the conclusion of the workshop process, parties must be given the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations regarding the utility's multi-year integrated grid plan. A report must be prepared based upon the workshop process and stakeholder comments and recommendations, which must be submitted to the Commission no later than July 1, 2022. Stakeholders must again be given the opportunity to provide comments on the report. The Commission must then issue initiating orders no later than August 1, 2022, specifying the requirements applicable to the utilities' multi-year integrated grid plans and requiring the electric utilities subject to this Section to file the first multi-year integrated grid plan no later than January 20, 2023. These specified deadlines provide exceedingly little time for the Commission, Commission Staff, and any facilitator the Commission contracts with to facilitate the workshops, to complete these actions. Therefore, it is Staff's recommendation that the Commission initiate the workshop process prior to January 1, 2022 to enable, if feasible, workshop processes to commence prior to January 1, 2022 and conclude prior to June 1, 2022 and, thereby allow additional time for completion of post workshop work.

Summary:

For the reasons above, Staff recommends the Commission direct Staff to initiate a workshop process for the purpose of establishing an open, inclusive, and cooperative forum regarding electric utility multi-year integrated grid planning.

Recommended and Approved by:



Dr. James Zolnierek
Bureau Chief
Public Utilities Bureau