



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

I N D E X  
TRANSPORTATION

<u>Docket No.</u>	<u>Page</u>
T09-0110	7
T09-0135	7
T09-0137	7
T09-0138	7
T09-0142	7
241 RTV-O 159548 MC	8
247 RTV-R 112253 MC	8
68 RTV-R 47081 MC Sub 12	8
192 RTV-R 111780 MC Sub 3	8

1           CHAIRMAN BOX: Pursuant to the provisions of  
2 Illinois Open Meetings Act, I now convene a  
3 regularly scheduled bench session of the Illinois  
4 Commerce Commission. With me in Chicago Chicago are  
5 Commissioners Ford, O' Connell-Diaz, Elliott and  
6 Colgan. We do have a quorum.

7                       Before moving into the agenda, this is  
8 the time we allow the members of the public to  
9 address the Commission. Members of the public  
10 wishing to address the Commission must notify the  
11 Chief Clerk's office at least 24 hours prior to the  
12 bench session. According to the Chief Clerk's  
13 office, there is one request to speak and the  
14 speakers are permitted 5 minutes to address the  
15 Commission.

16                      Ms. Phillips. Just speak directly into  
17 it, about chest level.

18           MS. PHILLIPS: Can you hear me?

19           CHAIRMAN BOX: Oh, yeah.

20           MS. PHILLIPS: I call upon the Illinois Commerce  
21 Commission to hear my objections to the Peoples Gas  
22 Company's proposed rate hikes. The crux of my

1 argument is as follows: The rate hike cuts equally  
2 across a number of social categories, age, gender,  
3 social status or economic class and race or  
4 ethnicity. However, although all groups in the end  
5 must pay the same fee, the rate hike impacts them  
6 in various ways, namely, it negatively affects all  
7 but the upper middle and wealthy classes.

8           Senior citizens live on fixed incomes  
9 consisting of Social Security or Social Security  
10 supplemented by savings and investments. The  
11 recent economic recession and its aftermath has  
12 decimated their savings and the return on their  
13 investments, while the decision not to give a  
14 Social Security cost of living increase in 2010 has  
15 kept fixed income at a 2009 level.

16           At the opposite end of the age spectrum,  
17 a recent study reveals a high unemployment figure  
18 for our young, especially between the ages of 18  
19 and 24, a growing number of whom cannot afford to  
20 live apart from their elderly parents. Thus, our  
21 seniors are triply burdened, while their children  
22 cannot supplement their parents' meager incomes,

1 yet Peoples Gas proposes to increase the cost of  
2 living for the elderly in 2010.

3 More than one study shows that women  
4 earn less than men employed in comparable jobs. As  
5 a result, single women, whether parents or not,  
6 shoulder a greater economic burden than single  
7 employed men, yet Peoples Gas asks single women,  
8 many of whom are single moms, to pay as much as men  
9 for heat and gas for cooking.

10 The working poor and those who subsist  
11 beneath the poverty level in Chicago, many of whom  
12 are currently unemployed, due to adverse economic  
13 conditions and many of whom compromise racial or  
14 ethnic minorities, cannot afford to pay for food,  
15 clothing and shelter, let alone absorb higher rates  
16 for heat, yet Peoples Gas proposes to raise the  
17 price of gas.

18 It defies all logic and reason to  
19 increase the economic burdens of senior citizens,  
20 single women and the unemployed and working poor at  
21 a time when economic conditions have been close to  
22 depression levels, when the economic outlook is

1 shaky and when Chicago suffers a brutally cold  
2 winter. Yet Peoples Gas asks a rate increase of  
3 those least able to afford it at the most  
4 unpropitious time.

5           The Bible at Deuteronomy 15:11 teaches  
6 the following: Since there will never cease to be  
7 some in need on the earth, I therefore command you,  
8 open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in  
9 your land. Let us pray that the ICC will heed the  
10 Lord's commandment, thereby fulfilling its promise  
11 to be a consumer advocate.

12       THE COURT: Thank you very much.

13           We begin with the transportation agenda.  
14 We have minutes to approve from the December 2nd,  
15 2009 bench meeting. Is there a motion to approve  
16 the minutes.

17       COMMISSIONER FORD: So moved.

18       THE COURT: Is there a second?

19       COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Second.

20       CHAIRMAN BOX: It's been moved and seconded.

21 All in favor say aye.

22   (Chorus of ayes.)

1 CHAIRMAN BOX: Opposed? The vote is 5-0  
2 approving the minutes.

3 Starting with the railroad agenda, Items  
4 are RR-1 through RR-5 will be taken together.  
5 These are stipulated agreements for safety  
6 improvements to railroad crossing. Approximately  
7 \$1.2 million in grade crossing protection funds  
8 will be used. Staff recommends entering the orders  
9 approving the stipulated agreements.

10 Is there a motion to enter the orders?

11 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: So moved.

12 CHAIRMAN BOX: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN BOX: Moved and seconded.

15 All in favor say aye.

16 (Chorus of ayes.)

17 CHAIRMAN BOX: Opposed? The vote is 5-0. The  
18 orders are entered.

19 We will use this 5-0 roll call vote for  
20 remainder of the transportation agenda, unless  
21 otherwise noted. And that concludes the railroad  
22 portion of today's agenda.

1                   Turning to Motor Carriers, Items MC-1  
2 through MC-2 will be taken together. These are  
3 applications for a commercial relocater's license.  
4 Administrative Law Judge Kirkland-Montague  
5 recommends entering the orders granting the  
6 application for the commercial relocater's license.

7                   Is there any discussion? Any  
8 objections? Hearing none, the orders are entered.

9                   Items MC-3 through MC-5 will be taken  
10 together. These are applications for renewal of  
11 commercial relocation towing licenses. Staff  
12 recommends approving the applications for renewal  
13 of the relocater licenses.

14                   Is there any discussion? Any  
15 objections? Hearing none the orders are entered.

16                   Ms. Kirkland-Montague, anything else to  
17 come before the Commission today?

18           JUDGE KIRKLAND-MONTAGUE: No.

19           MR. MATRISCH: Nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

20           THE COURT: Thank you. That concludes the  
21 Transportation agenda.

22           COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: I have a question, do we



1 have an MC-5?

2 CHAIRMAN BOX: I have an MC-4.

3 MR. ELLIOTT: That's what I have too.

4 MR. MATRISCH: Mr. Chairman, there was just an  
5 MC-4, there wasn't an MC-5.

6 THE COURT: We will have to redo those  
7 evaluations this morning, you're right.

8 (Whereupon those were all the  
9 proceedings had in the  
10 above-entitled matter on this  
11 date.)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

