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BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION  
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, April 27, 2022  
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice at 11:30 a.m., at  
160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

PRESENT:

- CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman
- MARIA BOCANEGRA, Commissioner
- ANN McCABE, Commissioner
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
- MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner

BRIDGES COURT REPORTING  
BY: Jennifer Orozco,  
Notary Public

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Under the Open Meetings  
2 Act, I call the April 27, 2022, Regular Open Meeting to  
3 order.

4 Commissioners Bocanegra, Carrigan,  
5 Kimbrel, and McCabe are with me in Chicago. We have a  
6 quorum.

7 We have no requests to speak and no  
8 Transportation Agenda.

9 Moving on to our Public Utilities  
10 Agenda.

11 Item O-4 on our agenda concerns the  
12 Baseline Grid Assessment Reports prepared by The  
13 Liberty Consulting Group pursuant to Section 16-105.10  
14 of the Public Utilities Act. And for logistical  
15 reasons, we're going to hear this item first.

16 So we have John Antonuk from Liberty  
17 Consulting Group's -- he's the co-founder and  
18 president. So I'm just going to go ahead and turn over  
19 to Mr. Antonuk before we open up to Commissioner  
20 questions.

21 MR. ANTONUK: Thank you.

22 I have to start by saying I began my

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1 career as a staff for the Pennsylvania Public Utility  
2 Commission --

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I don't know if your mike  
4 is on. Sorry --

5 MR. ANTONUK: I began my career as a staff for  
6 the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission some years  
7 ago. I'm not sure that sitting here like this again  
8 makes me feel young or just confirms my advancing age.  
9 But in any event, it's a pleasure, and I look forward  
10 to chatting with you today.

11 We undertook our work in support of the  
12 Energy Transition Act, which became effective about six  
13 months ago. It calls for a number of things. Most  
14 relevant to our work being developing programs,  
15 initiatives, and directives to further safe, reliable,  
16 and affordable electricity while transitioning to clean  
17 energy; supporting a responsible transition away from  
18 carbon-intensive generation; and most particularly  
19 relevant to what we have done, increasing public  
20 participation in utility breakdown processes,  
21 particularly planning for the future of the  
22 distribution grid.

1                   Our engagement responded to a subset of  
2 requirements. Specifically, those calling for  
3 independent baseline assessments of the distribution  
4 grids of Commonwealth Edison and Ameren. We performed  
5 a number of solicitation attachments that subsets  
6 elements, and there are basically seven of them.  
7 Producing independently verified data sets that helps  
8 set a baseline for planning future grid spending and  
9 activities, describing current grid conditions and  
10 capabilities, examining capital projects undertaken  
11 between 2012 and 2020, including but not limited to  
12 those addressing advanced metering infrastructure or  
13 AMI; summarizing noncapital initiatives, basically  
14 asset management, intended to optimize grid reliability  
15 in facilities. Things like inspection, and  
16 maintenance, and management as examples.

17                   Creating a data baseline to provide  
18 stakeholders a data-rich tool when the -- multi-year  
19 integrated planning process in which they'll  
20 participate. And identifying deficiencies in data  
21 material distribution planning. And I don't want to  
22 return to that issue when I speak, but I want to say we

1 did not.

2                   And at Staff request, we also added a  
3 description of the system planning organizations  
4 practices and methods now in place at each of the two  
5 utilities.

6                   A robust participating grid planning  
7 process takes broad and detailed information, and the  
8 Act recognizes that in setting up the three-part  
9 sequence. Hard work focuses on the first step, which  
10 is to set a foundation for the more important work to  
11 come. Basically, those three elements are the  
12 independent baseline assessment, which I'm here to talk  
13 about, workshops now underway and proceeding well, as  
14 we understand it, to provide for stakeholder review and  
15 data input into the MYIGPs, which is Multi-Year  
16 Integrated Grid Plan. And I don't know why this  
17 occurred to me, if you change those letters around, it  
18 spells PYGMI, which I think is probably a very inept  
19 description for the size of the task and the importance  
20 of the results that are to follow.

21                   The Staff absolutely kicked off the  
22 work that we began. They solicited the audit we were

1 selected to perform, and they also submitted data  
2 requests to companies back in September. And I mention  
3 that because I want to commend that we had a tight time  
4 schedule. They produced a really good baseline set of  
5 data requests. We went to school on those answers, and  
6 I don't think we'd have met the schedule without their  
7 help, so I would be remiss in not commending them for  
8 getting the ball rolling for us.

9                   We did study those responses. We  
10 issued many additional requests. The companies were  
11 very supportive. Probably got a little tired of us,  
12 but never gave up trying to get us the data we asked  
13 for. We conducted a number of interviews to understand  
14 the data and the processes used for planning. We  
15 performed independent analysis of that data trying to  
16 sort it and categorize it. We categorized information  
17 about system conditions and all its components:  
18 investments made, activities performed, cost above any  
19 changes in service reliability, trying wherever we  
20 could to align these different aspects of promoting  
21 reliability by common purpose and spending.

22                   Our team as -- they're about all as

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1 veteran as I am in the industry, so we applied that a  
2 lot of years of judgment formed in the industry about  
3 grid planning, design, engineering, operation,  
4 maintenance, and performance measurement -- all of  
5 which were important in producing the reports. And  
6 what we tried to do is create a structure for providing  
7 stakeholders in the coming planning processes, a  
8 comprehensive and multi-dimensional picture of how the  
9 network has changed since 2012, how spending amounts in  
10 the balance among those spending categories have  
11 changed, what the network can do now, and in what  
12 condition the stakeholders will find it when they begin  
13 their planning processes.

14           The report did not examine, nor did we  
15 make judgments about the networks future direction.  
16 Instead, we sought to provide a detailed yet  
17 effectively categorized description that will  
18 facilitate stakeholders when they formulate those  
19 judgments as they go through the planning process.

20           Our role did include providing an  
21 understanding of the value obtained through capital and  
22 O&M spending on the activities they produced over the

1 nine years we studied. We look for that value through  
2 changes in industry accepted measures of performance,  
3 what's called those outputs. Things like outage  
4 frequency and duration and changes and outages by  
5 cause. For example, tree contacts, tree falls,  
6 equipment failures, and even animal contacts, which,  
7 here, not surprisingly, was a material cause of  
8 alleges. We did the same for the inputs that produced  
9 those outputs. Those inputs reflect investments of  
10 work activities, and they drive those outputs. Things  
11 like automation, replacement of aging equipment,  
12 introduction of new technology, inspection, and  
13 maintenance.

14 We also provided descriptions of  
15 capital and O&M programs and initiatives and their  
16 costs and the changes in them over time. I want to  
17 strongly emphasize, however, that we were not tasked  
18 with addressing, nor did we form judgments about  
19 whether the benefits that we talked about in the report  
20 were large enough or whether they were in full  
21 proportion to the costs in obtaining them or whether  
22 different patterns or levels of expenditure would have



1 produced greater or lesser results. We did the best we  
2 could to identify the benefits, but kind of making  
3 value judgments about the degree to which those  
4 benefits were worth the money spent was not a part of  
5 our scope, nor, to be honest with you, do I understand  
6 how you could feasibly even attempt to do that over a  
7 period that is so long and was set by so many different  
8 factors, and applicable to programs that all contribute  
9 to reliability but not always in ways that are clearly  
10 measurable.

11           The Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plans --  
12 the non-PYGMIs -- to come will require a tremendous  
13 amount of historical, current, and projected data that  
14 has to be applied through planning using values,  
15 methods, and practices -- processes that are still in  
16 the process of being determined as the workshops  
17 proceed and as things will play out when the actual  
18 planning process commences.

19           The Act establishes 11 goals for the  
20 plans and I'm going to focus on what a number of those  
21 goals require as specific outputs, which I think will  
22 help put our work in perspective.

1                   One of those outputs is a description  
2 of the utilities distribution system planning process.  
3 We believe we've done that for both utilities.

4                   Next, is a detailed description of the  
5 current operating conditions for the distribution  
6 system by operating area and including baseline system  
7 data about substation capacity, distributed energy  
8 resources, and things of that nature. We have begun to  
9 do that. I think we've made a strong contribution  
10 there, but there is still development in that area to  
11 come. And that development will come as the  
12 stakeholders in working with the Company -- the  
13 Company understands better what stakeholders are  
14 looking for and stakeholders understand better what the  
15 Company is capable of providing and what limits on  
16 public access to network data need to be preserved,  
17 because there are vulnerable parts of the network and  
18 publishing certain kinds of information about them  
19 would allow folks with bad intent to take advantage of  
20 those vulnerabilities.

21                   So I believe we've made a start to  
22 that, but -- and hopefully provided a framework for its

1 future development. But that's an area I expect will  
2 undergo significant advancement as the state -- as the  
3 workshops in the planning process contributes.

4 The next output is for each of the  
5 preceding five years: distribution, operation, and  
6 maintenance expense. I think we've done that for the  
7 period through 2020. And in cases where we saw  
8 significant changes in 2021, we tried to capture some  
9 of those as well.

10 The next output is a five-year-long  
11 range forecast -- five-year-long range forecast  
12 distribution system capital investments and operational  
13 and maintenance expenses. That's a result of the  
14 planning process that comes, so we haven't touched  
15 that.

16 Next, system data on distributed energy  
17 resources on each utility's distribution system. We've  
18 provided that as well. And, again, that's something  
19 that as we go forward, certainly all hope -- we'll see  
20 significant development.

21 Next, is the hosting capacity and  
22 interconnection requirements for each of the two

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1 utilities available on the website. Again, we've tried  
2 to do a description of what exists now, but I believe  
3 everybody's hopeful that the process that's beginning  
4 through the workshops, and will continue through the  
5 planning process, will refine and advance that aspect  
6 of the expected outputs as well.

7                   And then finally, a narrative  
8 discussion of the utilities' vision for the  
9 distribution system over the next five years. Again,  
10 our focus was on what happened through 2020 and in some  
11 cases through 2021, so that -- we didn't touch that  
12 either.

13                   The specific things we do provide in  
14 the report -- there's a chapter for each -- are:  
15 "System Description and Configuration." What does the  
16 system look like now? By area, by customer type, by  
17 resource, and network type. "Capital Investment and  
18 O&M Spending." To what did the money go and how our  
19 expenditures changed the configuration and capabilities  
20 of the system since 2012. That's an aspect of value  
21 that's important because it tells us what the network  
22 can do now that it couldn't do before, and it tells us

1 what it can do better. And I think it also lays a  
2 platform for deciding what we want it to do better in  
3 the future.

4           The next chapter is "Distribution  
5 System Condition." The question we try to answer there  
6 is: What is the shape of the system now? Does it show  
7 the benefits of sound care and feeding? As is not  
8 unexpected, the systems here have significant levels of  
9 age and equipment. They take care and feeding, and  
10 they take a balance between when it is best to replace  
11 and when it is best to essentially put more money into  
12 maintenance.

13           Next is "Distribution System  
14 Performance." That chapter seeks to answer the  
15 question of: How has the system performed? Have its  
16 performance results shown improvement or degradation  
17 since 2012? That to us is the most central aspect of  
18 identifying value in a tangible way.

19           The next chapter addresses "Advanced  
20 Meeting Infrastructure," or AMI. The question we try  
21 to answer there is: Is it fully deployed? How is it  
22 performing? And how do its costs compare with what

1 were expected?

2                   Next, as I mentioned, "Distributed  
3 Energy Resources." We discussed penetration levels in  
4 the current interconnection process. As I mentioned,  
5 we have a chapter on distribution system planning, and  
6 I think that's useful primarily for the stakeholders in  
7 understanding how this massive information is being  
8 used by the utilities to perform planning. And it  
9 should help the stakeholders to figure out what aspects  
10 of the planning process their participation can be most  
11 useful in influencing.

12                   And lastly, we produced the database  
13 which compiles key distribution, performance,  
14 investment, and asset-related data. And there's just a  
15 world of that information. Not easily penetrable, but  
16 what the database does is it provides every bit of --  
17 essentially every bit of data we had, and it's in a  
18 format that allows interested parties to query that  
19 database in an almost endless variety of queries that  
20 they're free to define as they see fit and as fits  
21 their needs. We obviously use that database to produce  
22 the report. The goal was to try to allow stakeholders

1 to use it the same way we did, based on whatever their  
2 values, their goals, their interests, and concerns are.

3 The EIMA, the Energy Infrastructure  
4 Modernization Act, had a lot of influence on our work.  
5 A lot of money was spent on those programs. And  
6 those -- and the EIMA also called for performance-based  
7 rates, too, which makes those performance measures I  
8 was talking about earlier irrelevant. The EIMA called  
9 for infrastructure spending of about 2.6 billion for  
10 ComEd and just over 700 million for Ameren to be spent  
11 over 10 years. So obviously that work is essentially  
12 complete. And I'll talk a little bit about it in a  
13 minute. In fact, I'll do it right now.

14 ComEd spent the money expected. It was  
15 split just about equally between Smart Grid-related  
16 investments and reliability-related investments.  
17 That's about 1.3 million dollars for each. Of the 1.3  
18 that went to Smart Grid, AMI was about \$900 which is  
19 very close to what it was estimated to be.

20 For Ameren, it was authorized to spend  
21 441 million on Smart Grid upgrades and 274 million on  
22 system modernization and upgrades. Of the 441 that was

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1 assigned to Smart Grid for Ameren, they spent about 300  
2 million for AMI, which is close to the expected amount.

3 In terms of ComEd's expenditures for  
4 both capital and O&M over the period, the total amount  
5 spent was \$16.9 billion from 2012 to 2020. And those  
6 expenditures began at a \$1.3 billion per year pace in  
7 2012, and they peaked at \$2.3 billion in 2016. They  
8 had been moderately lower thereafter, although the 2020  
9 level got back to 2.2 billion which is pretty close to  
10 the 2016 peak.

11 I think what's most interesting about  
12 that is that while the IIP additions were substantial  
13 at \$2.5 billion, they were only 15 percent of the  
14 dollars spent. Non-IIP plan additions were roughly  
15 three times more at 48 percent. Operation and  
16 maintenance, kind of the -- not necessarily the  
17 stepchild in the industry, but often the forgotten  
18 actor when you're talking about money -- accounting for  
19 25 percent. It was 4.2 billion compared to the 2.5 in  
20 IIP investments. And then there is another general  
21 category, and I'll talk about that in a minute. And  
22 that amounted to 12 percent.

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1                   Basically, that general category --  
2 general and intangible -- it amounts -- it covers  
3 things like tools and vehicles, real estate, and IT  
4 projects. That's best seen as a -- kind of a supporter  
5 of the direct categories. You don't build vehicles,  
6 like, for the same reason you build a line. A line  
7 transports electricity, and a vehicle gets the workers  
8 to the line to build it. So all those G&I categories  
9 are basically that kind of supporting expense. And I  
10 think it's important to point that -- because they're  
11 substantial and they're also often forgotten. And  
12 they're not avoidable, but it is hard to tie them to  
13 any specific level of enhancement.

14                   When you look at the capital additions,  
15 they were 12.5 million of that 16.9. And a full  
16 15 percent of them were in this G&I category. The two  
17 categories that are most -- I'll call subject to  
18 adjustment -- where I would expect the planning process  
19 to have the most impact are "Corrective Maintenance" at  
20 23 percent and "System Performance" at 30 percent. So  
21 that's, roughly, about half.

22                   The other categories are much less

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1 within control or at discretion. And let me explain  
2 what they are so you'll see that.

3 Capacity Expansion: When you can't  
4 deliver electricity within reliability guidelines.  
5 Capacity expansion has taken eight percent of the  
6 expenditures. Customer operations, six percent.  
7 Relocation of facilities at public request near  
8 highways and streets, three percent. And New Business,  
9 customers show up and the facilities aren't there to  
10 serve them, 14 percent.

11 If you add those categories together  
12 with G&I, you come up with 46 percent of the total  
13 dollars spent on capital at ComEd over the nine-year  
14 period, which suggests that when you're talking about  
15 the degree to which planning discretion applies, you're  
16 not talking about anything close to 100 percent of the  
17 capital. A lot of these dollars are essentially  
18 bespoke dollars.

19 Even corrective maintenance, which is  
20 one of the two discretionary categories, is driven in  
21 large part by the work needed to recover from storms.  
22 So you would have to also consider a significant part

1 of that as nondiscretionary as well. So the value --  
2 one of the values of doing this categorization -- and  
3 it kind of shows the amount of money that is kind of in  
4 play in terms of applying different values and  
5 different approaches or whatever balance of values and  
6 priorities the stakeholders and the Commission find --  
7 determine is appropriate.

8 In terms of results, under the category  
9 set by the EMI, System Average Frequency of  
10 Interruptions. That tells you, on a system basis, how  
11 often interruptions occur. And the other one is called  
12 CAIDI -- Customer Average Interruption Duration Index.  
13 So CAIDI is duration, how long outages last. SAFI is  
14 how frequently they occur. And there's a third  
15 category I'll get to in a minute.

16 But EIMA sets targets for SAFI and  
17 CAIDI, and Commonwealth Edison bettered those targets  
18 in each year between 2012 and 2020. And when you  
19 measure performance excluding major event days,  
20 principally major storms, their frequency index  
21 performance improved by 41 percent since 2012, and  
22 their duration index performance improved by 26 percent

1 since 2012. Those are notable improvements. And as I  
2 was pointing out before, you know, \$16.9 billion behind  
3 those improvements. So they were not free.

4 The EIMA also set targets for reducing  
5 the number of what are called CERT customers. That's  
6 Customers Exceeding Reliability Targets. They're the  
7 customers who get the worst performance, either in  
8 terms of how frequently they're interrupted or how long  
9 they're interrupted. They're measured by numbers of  
10 customers and ComEd's CERT customers went from more  
11 than 18,000 in 2012 to 649 in 2020. So that's a pretty  
12 dramatic improvement in that result.

13 Turning now to Ameren. Their dollars  
14 were much less. I think I said 16.9. Their  
15 expenditures were six. Their split between capital and  
16 IIP, and capital and non-IIP is similar, though. They  
17 spent the 700 million dollars on IIP that was targeted.  
18 They spent 3.4 billion -- you have to forgive me. I  
19 keep saying "million." I guess I'm so old it's just  
20 hard for me to think in billions. It's a Doctor Evil  
21 thing. I don't know if you saw that movie where he was  
22 going to hold up the world for \$5 million and he was

1 reminded that that's not a real number anymore.

2 But anyway, their distribution between  
3 IIP capital expenditures and non-IIP is similar. They  
4 spend 55 percent of their total CapEx on non-IIP and  
5 11 percent or roughly one-fifth on IIP. And their O&M  
6 also was very sizable -- 34 percent of their capital  
7 and O&M expenditures of 6 billion. And their portion  
8 of the IIP spent of that 700 for AMI was 300, which  
9 again, was at targeted level.

10 Their SAFI And CAIDI performance shows  
11 different results -- pretty significantly different.  
12 They did succeed in meeting or bettering the EIMA  
13 targets for both frequency -- or for frequency, rather,  
14 and duration. They actually improve their frequency  
15 index performance by 18 percent over the nine years.  
16 However, their duration performance, while meeting the  
17 EIMA target, actually declined by 80 percent. It  
18 was -- that's not a wholly surprising direction. I  
19 don't want to talk about the values, but directionally,  
20 it's logical for a company that's much more non-urban  
21 to experience those remaining customers whose  
22 performance has been approved to suffer longer

1 durations. The farther out, they're harder to get to.  
2 There are fewer of them on circuits, and therefore,  
3 when you're prioritizing restoration, they don't always  
4 tend to be the place you go first, because the -- you  
5 know, the hours and the dollars you spend to get them  
6 back up are higher than they are for customers where  
7 fixing the facilities that are down will restore a  
8 larger number of customers.

9                   So directionally, I think that's not an  
10 illogical result. But why CAIDI declined in the face  
11 of the improvements they made is not a question that we  
12 were able to dig into and analyze and answer.

13                   Their CERT customers dropped against  
14 the frequency target. They were small to begin with.  
15 There were only 23 of them that were interrupted with  
16 enough frequency to make the CERT designation. That  
17 fell to zero. On the duration side, however, they did  
18 not meet the target. The numbers were still fairly  
19 low. They went from 319 in 2012 to 1,095 in 2020. So  
20 the numbers are not within target, but they don't show  
21 it worsening. That's kind of more than -- probably  
22 within the kind of estimating area you're dealing with

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1 when you're talking about 1.2 million customers.

2           The last area I want to talk about is  
3 AMI. Both finished on schedule and within budget and  
4 with, you know, pretty remarkable success in customers  
5 opting in. Ameren finished in 2019, ComEd in 2018.  
6 Both started in 2013. Ameren only had 3100 customers  
7 opt out, out of 1.2 million who had AMI meters  
8 installed. And for ComEd, the numbers were similar.  
9 They only had 5600 opt out, out of a total of  
10 4.2 million meters installed.

11           The costs were as expected and our  
12 observation of the results -- and there's a, you know,  
13 I have a list of 12 to 14 areas where we looked at how  
14 AMI has changed performance, and we saw results that  
15 were in line with what we would expect in terms of  
16 improved performance. And their costs for  
17 installations were -- per meter -- were roughly  
18 comparable as well.

19           That pretty much brings me to the end  
20 of what I was sure I wanted to tell you. Now, I think  
21 it's up to you to tell me what else you'd like to hear.

22           CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Antonuk.

1                   Actually, I want to ask a question kind  
2 of where you ended on AMI. And I know that you said  
3 you're -- you know, you're not -- with this report  
4 you're collecting data and not necessarily  
5 characterizing it, whether the improvements matched  
6 costs. And you talked about these lists of  
7 improvements. I have -- I'm looking at both Ameren's  
8 and ComEd's -- the list on page 79 on Ameren and page  
9 96 on ComEd. And I'm doing quick scan, and there's a  
10 number of bullet points listed. But if there's a  
11 bullet that is on the ComEd report that's not on  
12 Ameren, are we to assume that that benefit was not  
13 realized because of AMI? Is that a fair way to read  
14 the reports in comparing and contrasting different  
15 utilities?

16                   MR. ANTONUK: I would say -- and Chris Kozlosky,  
17 whose on the phone -- she does work for us -- she'll  
18 correct me if I'm wrong. I think that that list --  
19 those lists, while they're pretty much in common, are  
20 kind of tracking from the companies -- kind of rack up  
21 of expected benefits. Unless she can tell me something  
22 different in the next minute or so, we would have to --



1 and we're certainly happy to do this -- is take a look  
2 and try to line up the improvements identically. And  
3 we can do that. You know, we can do that. And then  
4 also if it is a case where it appears that there was a  
5 lag or a lack of improvement in one versus the other,  
6 we can tell you that.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I don't know if you're able  
8 to speak to your experience if there are -- if there  
9 exists additional benefits not listed here that could  
10 be realized from the AMI infrastructure that's  
11 currently in place. It's an open-ended question.

12 MR. ANTONUK: That's a pretty complete list. And  
13 Chris has looked at AMI installations for us and for  
14 others, and we've looked at it as well many times. So  
15 that list is not a surprising list. I don't think  
16 there's anything missing. I think the -- it's not easy  
17 to see exactly what the stakeholders, through your  
18 process, are going to want to see changed. So I would  
19 not rule out the possibility that additional benefits  
20 or uses could be identified, but I think this is a  
21 pretty comprehensive list.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Thank you. I want

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1 to ask you something on the DER interconnection time.  
2 I'm looking at a chart on page 104 of the ComEd report,  
3 and the chart speaks to the average days between DER  
4 application and interconnection -- and I'm going to  
5 quickly turn it so I have it in front of me.

6           And there's chart on the top of the  
7 page, and there's years 2015 to 2020. And there's  
8 three bar graphs: Residential -- and other. And we  
9 see a downward slope in the amount of time between  
10 application interconnection. So for 2015, it goes down  
11 until 2017 and then starts inching back up -- 2018,  
12 2019, 2020. For example, in 2018, you see an upward  
13 trend. 2019, you have average day for residential DER  
14 interconnection of 109. In 2020, it goes to 133 days.  
15 And similar things are happening, particularly in  
16 "Other." In 2019, the "Other" category has 771 days  
17 average between application interconnection going up to  
18 790.

19           So my question is -- I mean, I think  
20 this is an obvious answer, but it seems like there is  
21 an upward trend in the time between application  
22 interconnection and -- so were you able to ascertain

1 the reasoning -- is there anything that you were able  
2 to capture as to why there's an increase of delay  
3 between application and interconnection.

4 MR. ANTONUK: We did not. We did not kind of  
5 analyze the -- kind of the fundamentals of what was  
6 dragging that performance. We did see that -- what you  
7 saw. And I think the -- kind of where we saw our  
8 mission was kind of saying, "Here's the data," and the  
9 assumption is that the folks who were applying and the  
10 folks who will be participating in the process will  
11 kind of have their own views about what's going on and  
12 whether it's satisfactory, whether the nature of the  
13 application is changing. So we felt it was important  
14 to highlight the data so that the folks who are going  
15 to be engaged in the process could kind of see that and  
16 in effect, ask the right questions and do the analysis.

17 We tried to -- we applied a lot of  
18 judgment in assessing what we think is important  
19 information. What we tried to stop at was kind of  
20 saying, "What's our opinion about the quality of the  
21 underlying performance?" I thought that was just  
22 getting a step ahead of the game, you know, for us to

1 be injecting that when we were tasked really with kind  
2 of saying, "Give us the data so that we can use it to  
3 probe questions like you're asking," and a lot of other  
4 questions. You know, why did -- you know, if ComEd's  
5 CAIDI and SAFI have performed so well, should they  
6 still be spending money on the things that improve it  
7 or have they tapped that out? Conversely, should  
8 Ameren be worried more?

9                   So we deliberately said to our team,  
10 "Don't go there." Because the fear was now, we're  
11 basically, in effect, setting the agenda -- what we  
12 think is important versus kind of saying, "Here's all  
13 the data for everybody to say what is important." Now,  
14 I will say we have been retained to assist the staff in  
15 participating in the planning process. So I will tell  
16 you I look forward to jumping into those questions at  
17 this point. But frankly, we just felt we weren't being  
18 fair to the process if we start to drive what we were  
19 doing by those kinds of considerations.

20                   CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. And then just  
21 finally, I referenced this chart for the ComEd report.  
22 I'm not seeing a similar chart in the Ameren report.

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1 So I'm either missing it or if you could explain why  
2 the same analysis, to that degree, wasn't performed for  
3 Ameren.

4 MR. ANTONUK: No. I can find out what we have  
5 got on that. And we can even do more than that if we  
6 didn't get that information from Ameren. We did the  
7 best we could to kind of keep the reports as close as  
8 we could, but the time was tight and the -- you know,  
9 the responses were different from company to company.  
10 ComEd's response in this based on the size of the  
11 Company was obviously -- you know, they brought  
12 capabilities to answering questions that were, I guess,  
13 both admirable but also a function of how big they are.  
14 So I can tell you that it -- we'll dig that out if we  
15 have it, and if we don't, we can get it and will do so  
16 if you'd like us to.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I appreciate that. Thank  
18 you.

19 Other Commissioners have questions?

20 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: I do.

21 Commissioner Bocanegra. Thank you for  
22 the presentation. I just have one question.

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1                   To what extent was it asked, or whoever  
2 was requesting the information -- or is it of any value  
3 to look at any sort of transmission-related or even  
4 generation-related issues that might have impacted this  
5 baseline distribution grid assessment?

6           MR. ANTONUK: We did look at the -- kind of the  
7 top end of the distribution grid as the receiver of  
8 power energy from the transmission grid. We did not  
9 look at all at -- generation, which is basically, you  
10 know, a power pull -- regulated function now. We did  
11 not see anything on the transmission side that  
12 indicated that there was a lack of sources serving the  
13 top end substations. So I think we were comfortable  
14 with that. Now, the state of those transmission  
15 resources, how well they're backed up, and all those  
16 things -- we didn't look at. But we did look at  
17 whether it appeared to us that the sources that were  
18 available to those highest level substations at the  
19 distribution grid were well connected.

20           COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Okay. Thank you.

21           COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Hi, sir. In your ComEd  
22 report, you highlighted some discretionary categories?

1 MR. ANTONUK: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: I'm not seeing that in the  
3 Ameren report. Did you do that as well? I'm just  
4 looking at the table of contents.

5 MR. ANTONUK: We did not -- probably to that same  
6 level. I know we had an ability to get from ComEd data  
7 that, in some cases, was more detailed and divisible,  
8 if you will. I think with Ameren, the issue was there  
9 was data but the ability to kind of assemble it in the  
10 same way, in the time we had, was much more difficult.

11 By the way, the answer I got from our  
12 folks is ComEd's -- while the response time increased,  
13 the number of applications is increasing. So in that,  
14 suggests to me, it's basically -- was a resource issue.  
15 They had an increase in the number, and that number  
16 stressed the system. So which of course suggests --  
17 not necessary, but certainly fixable, a fixable  
18 situation.

19 And frankly, I think when you're done  
20 getting through this planning process, you're probably  
21 going to see the structure that both companies use to  
22 respond is one -- is going to change for a lot of

1 reasons, not the least of which is just the numbers of  
2 applications.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Last call for questions.

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: All right. Mr. Antonuk,  
6 thank you for taking the time to present and answer our  
7 questions. We appreciate it.

8 MR. ANTONUK: It was great to be here.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. We are going to go  
10 ahead and proceed with the rest of our agenda.

11 There are edits to the April 7th, 2022,  
12 Regular Open Meeting Minutes.

13 Are there any objections to approving  
14 the Minutes as edited?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Minutes  
17 are approved.

18 Under Electric Items, Item E-1 concerns  
19 Mount Carmel Utility Company's proposed Rider D -  
20 Parallel Generation Service. This filing is an annual  
21 adjustment made in accordance with directives of  
22 Part 430 of the Commission's rules and will slightly

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1 increase the rates pertaining to purchases of  
2 electricity from cogeneration and small power  
3 production facilities. There is -- rates will go into  
4 effect on June 1, 2022. Commission Staff has reviewed  
5 the revisions, finds them to be reasonable, and  
6 recommends not suspending the filing.

7 Are there any objections to not  
8 suspending the filing?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is  
11 not suspended.

12 Item E-2 concerns a complaint against  
13 ComEd for alleged voltage issues. We will be holding  
14 this item for later disposition.

15 Item E-3 concerns a complaint against  
16 ComEd for alleged overbilling. The parties filed a  
17 stipulation and Joint Motion to Dismiss, indicating  
18 that all issues have been resolved and requesting that  
19 the Commission dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

20 Are there any objections to granting  
21 the Motion to Dismiss?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Motion is  
2 granted.

3 Item E-4 concerns Ameren's petition to  
4 reopen Docket 21-0158 concerning its 2022-2025 Energy  
5 Efficiency and Demand Response Plan. The Commission  
6 entered a final order in this proceeding on July 22,  
7 2021, approving the plan and the associated  
8 stipulation. However, Ameren filed a petition for  
9 reopening, asking the Commission to reopen the docket  
10 to modify the plan and provide an updated stipulation  
11 in conformance with Public Act 102-0662's amendment to  
12 Section 8-103B of the PUA. The ALJ has recommended  
13 that the Commission reopen the docket on its own  
14 motion, for the limited purpose of considering the  
15 modified 2022 plan and the 2022 stipulation.

16 Are there any objections to granting  
17 the petition to reopen for the limited scope  
18 recommended by the ALJ?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the petition  
21 is granted.

22 Item E-5 concerns ComEd's petition to

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1 reconcile revenues collected under its Rider Zero  
2 Emission Adjustment for the period of June 1 of 2020,  
3 through May 31 of 2021. The order approves the  
4 reconciliation as set in the appendix to the order,  
5 finding that the costs during the reconciliation period  
6 were prudently incurred.

7 Are there any objections to approving  
8 the order?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
11 approved.

12 Item E-6 concerns a citation for  
13 failure to file required quarterly and annual reports.  
14 Respondent has filed all reports, and the Commission on  
15 March 3 granted respondent's position to relinquish its  
16 license to operate as an ARES in Illinois. The order  
17 dismisses the citation with prejudice and waives  
18 penalties against the respondent.

19 Are there any objections to approving  
20 the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

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1 approved.

2 Items E-7 through E-9 concern  
3 applications for authority to install distributed  
4 generation facilities in Illinois. The order grants  
5 the certificates, finding that the applicants meet the  
6 requirements.

7 Are there any objections to considering  
8 these items together and approving the orders?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
11 are approved.

12 Items E-10 and E-11 concern  
13 applications for certificates of service authority to  
14 install, maintain, and repair electric vehicle charging  
15 stations. The order grants the certificates, finding  
16 that the applicants meet the requirements.

17 Are there any objections to considering  
18 these items together and approving the orders?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
21 are approved.

22 Item E-12 concerns a petition for

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1 confidential treatment of petitioner's report. The  
2 petitioner filed a motion to withdraw the petition.

3 Are there any objections to granting  
4 the motion to withdraw.

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion is  
7 granted.

8 Items E-13 and E-14 concern requests  
9 for proprietary treatment of information in the  
10 petitioner's reports. The orders grant the  
11 protections, finding that the information is highly  
12 proprietary and confidential.

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

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
17 are approved.

18 Items E-15 through E-17 concern  
19 MidAmerican's, ComEd's, and Ameren's proposed revisions  
20 to their respective Rate Net Energy Metering of  
21 Eligible Renewable Electrical Generating Facilities  
22 tariffs. On January 20, 2022, the Commission suspended

1 all three companies' proposed submissions through  
2 May 12, 2022. The Commission's investigation in this  
3 matter has not been concluded and it is necessary,  
4 therefore, to extend the period of suspension for an  
5 additional six months through November 12 of 2022. The  
6 order suspends the filings.

7 Are there any objections to considering  
8 these items together and approving the resuspension  
9 orders?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
12 are approved.

13 Item E-18 concerns Mt. Caramel's  
14 proposed rate increases for electric and gas service.  
15 On January 20 of 2022, the Commission suspended the  
16 proposed rate increases through May 18 of 2022. The  
17 Commission's investigation in this matter has not  
18 concluded, and it is necessary, therefore, to extend  
19 the period of the suspension for an additional six  
20 months through November 18 of 2022.

21 Are there any objections to approving  
22 the resuspension order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
3 approved.

4 Items E-19 through E-22 concern  
5 proceedings to terminate abandoned ABC licenses.  
6 Respondents failed to appear at the hearings and had  
7 not provided evidence that they filed their compliance  
8 recertification reports or that they are in good  
9 standing with the Illinois Secretary of State -- or  
10 that they possess valid licenses or permit bonds. The  
11 orders terminate the abandoned licenses and note that  
12 the respondents are not relieved from the requirements  
13 to file their reports or to pay any penalty for failure  
14 to do so.

15 Are there any objections to considering  
16 these items together and approving the orders?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
19 are approved.

20 Items E-23 through E-27 concern  
21 applications for certifications to install energy  
22 efficiency measures in Illinois. The orders grant the

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1 certificates, finding that the applicants meet the  
2 requirements.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Moving onto our Gas Items. Item G-1  
9 concerns RESA and ICEA's emergency motion to reopen on  
10 the Commission's own motion and for interim order in  
11 Docket 20-0606, which is Nicor's proposed  
12 revenue-neutral tariff filing to address issues arising  
13 from the storage study in Docket No. 18-1775. The  
14 motion raised concerns related to customer billing  
15 associated with the pending elimination of Rider 25,  
16 set for May 1, 2022, which was established when the  
17 Commission approved changes to Nicor's transportation  
18 tariffs.

19 Nicor Gas filed its verified response  
20 to the motion on April 20 of 2022, which set forth an  
21 agreed resolution of the concerns raised in the motion.  
22 No party opposes the proposed resolution. The order

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1 reopens the record on the Commission's own motion to  
2 postpone the scheduled elimination of Rider 25 until  
3 May 1 of 2023. The order directs Nicor to file  
4 compliance tariffs for its Rider 25 and Rider 34  
5 consistent with the language changes set forth in  
6 Exhibit 1 to the response. The order also directs  
7 Nicor to modify its process processes on or before  
8 April 30, 2023, to ensure that customers moving from  
9 Rider 25 to Rate 74 on May 1 of 2023 will be billed on  
10 a calendar month basis, consistent with the practice  
11 for current Rate 74 customers.

12 Are there any objections to granting  
13 the motion to reopen and approving the order on  
14 reopening?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion is  
17 granted, and the order is approved.

18 Item G-2 concerns a complaint against  
19 Nicor alleging various charges regarding gas service  
20 disconnection and reconnection to petitioner's  
21 property. Nicor has filed a motion to dismiss. The  
22 order grants the motion and dismisses the matter with

1 prejudice, finding that the Complainant has failed to  
2 state a cause of action upon which relief may be  
3 granted and that portions of the allegations are barred  
4 by the statute of limitations. The order also denies  
5 Complainant's motions to file a second amended  
6 complaint, finding that the underlying operative facts  
7 alleged in these motions have not effectively changed  
8 and, therefore, do not provide a basis for granting.

9 Are there any objections to approving  
10 the order?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
13 approved.

14 Item G-3 concerns a complaint against  
15 Peoples Gas for certain charges. Peoples states that  
16 the issues central to the complaint have been resolved  
17 and that Complainant seeks no further relief. Peoples  
18 has attempted to execute a joint stipulation with the  
19 Complainant, but the Complainant has failed to appear  
20 at two consecutive status hearings. The order  
21 dismisses the complaint for want of prosecution.

22 Are there any objections to approving

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1 the order?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
4 approved.

5 Item G-4 concerns an application for  
6 certification to operate as an alternative gas  
7 supplier. The order grants the certificate, finding  
8 that the applicant meets the requirements.

9 Are there any objections to approving  
10 the order?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
13 approved.

14 Moving onto our Telecommunications  
15 Items. Item T-1 concerns a petition for determination  
16 of the amount and form of supplemental assistance to be  
17 provided by local exchange telecommunications carriers.  
18 The order also finds that Illinois operates a  
19 statutorily-mandated telephone assistance program,  
20 which provides state support for the federal Lifeline  
21 program, and determines that the Universal Telephone  
22 Service Assistant Program should provide connection fee

1 assistance to the eligible new subscribers for an  
2 amount up to \$35. The order also authorizes eligible  
3 telecommunications carriers to continue to pass through  
4 to their qualified low-income customers the full amount  
5 of federal Lifeline support, which is \$5.25.

6 Are there any objections to approving  
7 the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is  
10 approved.

11 Items T-2 and T-3 concern applications  
12 for a certificate of authority to provide  
13 telecommunications services in Illinois. The orders  
14 grant the certificates, finding that the applicants  
15 meet the requirements.

16 Are there any objections to considering  
17 these items together and approving the orders?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders  
20 are approved.

21 Items T-4 through T-8 concern requests  
22 for confidential treatment of the petitioner's reports.

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1 The orders grant the protection, finding that the  
2 information is highly proprietary and confidential.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Moving on to our Water and Sewer Items.  
9 Item W-1 concerns a joint petition by Aqua Illinois,  
10 Aqua Water Holdings, and Essential Utilities for  
11 approval of restructuring and for a proposed updated  
12 Affiliated Interest Agreement. The restructuring will  
13 create a water utility holding company within the  
14 Essential Utilities corporate structure. The order  
15 approves the restructuring and approves Aqua Illinois'  
16 updated Affiliated Interest Agreement with Aqua  
17 Services as set in the appendices, finding that they  
18 are in the public interest.

19 Are there any objections to approving  
20 the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

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1 approved.

2 Moving on to our Other Business.

3 Item O-1 concerns approval of batches, contracts, and  
4 confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block  
5 Program.

6 Are there any objections to approving  
7 the program administrator's submissions?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
10 submissions are approved.

11 Item O-2 concerns April 2022  
12 Solicitations of Bids to Sell Zonal Resource Credits to  
13 Ameren. Are there any objections to approving the  
14 procurement administrator's recommendations on  
15 selection of winning bids?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
18 recommendations area approved.

19 Item O-3 concerns approval of batches,  
20 contracts, and confirmations under the Illinois Solar  
21 For All program.

22 Are there any objections to approving

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1 the program administrator's submissions?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
4 submissions are approved.

5 Item 0-4 concerns the Baseline Grid  
6 Assessment Reports prepared by The Liberty Consulting  
7 Group pursuant to Section 16-205.10 of the Public  
8 Utilities Act. We already heard this item at the  
9 beginning of the meeting today, so no further action is  
10 taken under this item.

11 So this concludes our Public Utilities  
12 Agenda.

13 Judge Teague Kingsley, do we have other  
14 matters to come before the Commission today?

15 JUDGE TEAGUE KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Do the Commissioners have  
17 other business to discuss?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none and without  
20 objection, the meeting is now adjourned. Thanks.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22 was adjourned.)

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