

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Good morning. Under the
2 Open Meetings Act and in accordance with the
3 Governor's Executive Orders, I call the May 13,
4 2021, Regular Open Meeting to order. Before I
5 proceed, for clarity of the record, I would ask
6 everyone to state their name before speaking and to
7 speak slowly and clearly so that the court reporter
8 can capture everything that is said.

9 I've already checked that all four
10 commissioners are present. We have a quorum.

11 We have 11 requests to speak.
12 Under 2 Illinois Administrative Code Section
13 1700.10, any person desiring to address the
14 Commission shall be allowed up to three minutes.
15 However, Subsection D of the same section requires
16 that the total time for presentations at any
17 meeting shall be limited to 30 minutes unless the
18 commissioner moves for and the Commission approves
19 a longer period. To give everyone a fair chance to
20 speak, I would like to motion the commissioners to
21 allow extending the public speaking beyond 30
22 minutes. That will allow all 11 speakers to have

1 their full three minutes to present to the
2 commission. Is there a second?

3 MS. BOCANEGRA: I'll second. Commissioner
4 Bocanegra.

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections to
6 extending the public speaking period beyond 30
7 minutes?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the public
10 speaking period is extended.

11 Going in the order we received the
12 requests to speak, will hear from the following 11
13 people. First: Shannon Baucom. Second: Mark
14 Stoermann. Third: Reggie Greenwood. Fourth:
15 Arthur Paganini. Fifth: Howard Hohl. Sixth: Beau
16 Barber. Seventh: Benjamin Theobald. Eighth:
17 Cameron J. Williams. Nine: Melinda Ann Hilker.
18 Tenth: Lawrence J. Maushard. And eleventh: Allan
19 Max Axelrod.

20 Under 2 Illinois Administrative
21 Code Section 17.10, any person addressing --
22 desiring to address the Commission shall be allowed

1 up to three minutes. Only one person may speak on
2 behalf of any organization. Please note that the
3 Commission will not respond directly to any
4 comments. Any person wishing to provide further
5 comments may submit a written statement to the
6 Commission. The written comments may be submitted
7 by going onto the ICC website at icc.illinois.gov.
8 Go to the e-Docket system and look for the related
9 docket, and in that docket click, "File a Comment"
10 link. You can also call the ICC Consumer Services
11 Division at 800-524-0795 and they will help you
12 submit the comment.

13 First, Shannon Baucom, are you on?

14 MS. BAUCOM: Yes, ma'am.

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Ms. Baucom, please state
16 and spell your name, and my policy adviser, Tetyana
17 Rabczak will start the clock for three minutes.

18 MS. BAUCOM: Thank you, Chairman. My name
19 is Shannon, S-H-A-N-N-O-N, Baucom, B-A-U-C-O-M.

20 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Okay. You may proceed.

21 MS. BAUCOM: Okay. Thank you for this
22 opportunity. Hello, Commission. My name is

1 Shannon Baucom. I own and operate MESKA Solutions,
2 a woman-owned business, leading my team across
3 multiple states to develop biogas projects. I am
4 here today to speak in support of the Nicor Gas
5 Renewable Gas Interconnection Pilot. My team and I
6 partner with swine and dairy farmers to convert
7 organic waste into renewable natural gas using
8 anaerobic digestion technology. Projects bring
9 additional revenue to the rural farms and jobs to
10 this community.

11 According to AgSTAR, published by
12 the EPA, Illinois has the potential to produce over
13 five million MMBtu per year of biogas, resulting in
14 47 thousand tons of methane reduction from swine
15 manure alone. That's not even considering the
16 beef, poultry, and dairy sectors of Illinois. I
17 know that there's a lot of potential for RNG in
18 Illinois and my team and I would be excited to
19 bring projects to the state.

20 However, Nicor Gas's
21 interconnection costs make the potential far less
22 attractive. Approving this tariff will bring jobs

1 to Illinois, provide Illinois farms with an
2 additional steady stream of income and lower their
3 costs of manure management. According to the
4 Environmental and Energy Institute, buildings of
5 51.84 billion cubic feet of biogas projects in the
6 state, in Illinois, could add over 15,000 temporary
7 jobs and one thousand permanent jobs. In closing,
8 I ask the Commission to approve this tariff for the
9 benefit of the rural communities and the
10 environment. Thank you, Commission.

11 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Ms. Baucom.
12 Next is Mark Stoermann. Mark Stoermann, are you
13 on?

14 MR. STOERMANN: I am.

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Good morning. Please state
16 and spell your name and then we will start the
17 clock.

18 MR. STOERMANN: Mark Stoermann, M-A-R-K,
19 S-T-O-E-R-M-A-N-N. Good morning. I'm Mark
20 Stoermann, Chief Operating Officer of Newtrient and
21 a board member of the American Biogas Council. I'd
22 like to start by thanking the Commission for the

1 opportunity to share our support of Nicor's
2 Renewable Gas Pilot Program on behalf of all
3 potential RNG projects and the Dairy Farmers of
4 Illinois.

5 Newtrient is an organization that
6 was founded by the leading milk cooperatives
7 representing nearly all US dairy farms, and our
8 mission is to reduce the environmental footprint of
9 dairy and make it economically viable to do so.
10 The American Biogas Council was one of the only
11 nationwide trade associations representing the
12 entire US biogas industry. We represent companies
13 and individuals throughout the biogas supply chain
14 that are dedicated to maximizing the production and
15 use of biogas from organic waste. Dairy farmers
16 have long been skilled at the production of milk
17 and meat by up-cycling feed and byproducts that are
18 not food for humans. Manure, long known as an
19 excellent fertilizer, has remained a vexing
20 problem.

21 In ever-increasing public and
22 regulatory scrutiny, drives the need for new and

1 innovative products, practices, and technologies.
2 Anaerobic digestion is one of these innovative
3 technologies that represents an opportunity to
4 continue the up-cycling process by taking manure
5 and other organic wastes and converting them into
6 renewable energy. In the AD process, it reduces
7 odors and makes nutrients in the effluent more
8 available to the crops grown for feed and thus
9 continues the natural cycle of nutrients on the
10 farms. More importantly, in some respects, is the
11 opportunity for anaerobic digestion to reduce the
12 greenhouse gas emissions from manure and for the
13 system to create a replacement for fossil fuels.

14 The primary impediment to
15 digestive project development is the lack of
16 financial incentives available and the cost of
17 these systems. We strongly believe that once the
18 proper incentives are in place, the costs -- and
19 costs are lowered, digestors will be adopted on
20 farms and wherever organic wastes are generated.
21 Many digestors on dairies, as well as other biogas
22 projects, are now considering the production of

1 renewable natural gas instead of electricity
2 because of the increased demand for RNG in the
3 transportation and energy sectors.

4 Once RNG is created, then it's
5 indistinguishable from other natural gas already in
6 the pipeline that simply needs to be injected into
7 the gas grid to replace the use of geologic sourced
8 gas. Helping to reduce the cost of injecting and
9 monitoring RNG systems is the basis of Nicor's
10 renewable gas pilot program. RNG production from
11 organic waste represents the comprehensive systems
12 approach taken on farms and by other
13 waste-to-energy projects. A well-designed biogas
14 system closes disconnected carbon and nutrient
15 cycles, all the while offering additional revenue
16 to farmers and project developers. By reducing the
17 cost of connecting these systems to the gas grid,
18 the Nicor Renewable Gas Pilot Project facilitates
19 these types of projects and provides benefits for
20 the entire State of Illinois.

21 In closing, I would like to thank
22 the Commission once again and strongly encourage

1 you to approve Nicor's Renewable Gas Pilot Program
2 on behalf of dairy farms and the RNG projects of
3 Illinois.

4 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next, Reggie
5 Greenwood.

6 MR. GREENWOOD: Good morning. My name is
7 Reggie Greenwood.

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Good morning. Go ahead,
9 Mr. Greenwood.

10 MR. GREENWOOD: I'm from the Chicago
11 Southland Economic Development Corporation.

12 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: You may proceed,
13 Mr. Greenwood.

14 MR. GREENWOOD: Thank you. My name is
15 Reggie Greenwood. I'm having some video trouble,
16 sorry. I'm the executive director of the Chicago
17 Southland Economic Development Corporation. Our
18 area of work has been South Cook County and East
19 Cook County.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, this is the
21 --

22 MR. GREENWOOD: You may know that this area

1 is a center for production of meat. There are farm
2 deli production companies here, for example, Carl
3 Buddig is one and there are three or four. The
4 meat production companies are having to take waste
5 from here and drive it to a landfill. So this
6 movement of trucks itself is a very challenging
7 contribution to our natural (inaudible), then of
8 course using a landfill in a (inaudible) seems
9 particularly unfair. So this particular bill would
10 create incentive for companies to develop a
11 methodology of capturing this organic waste from
12 (inaudible) of deli meats made in (inaudible).
13 It's not just (inaudible) production. It's also an
14 opportunity to capture waste from, you know,
15 grocery stores that are also being trucked to
16 landfills. Particularly now that we have
17 (inaudible) during the (inaudible) working as well.
18 So this particular bill would create an opportunity
19 for new development to occur in my region, which
20 indeed has significant economic challenges. We
21 have a high unemployment rate, so this would work
22 to their advantage to create on terms successful

1 jobs and my organization would work closely with
2 new companies to be able to train people for these
3 jobs. So I look forward to working with the
4 Commission about the tariffs (inaudible) for the
5 Nicor tariff.

6 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Greenwood.
7 We had a little bit of difficulty hearing you. I
8 would recommend if you could file your comments.
9 Perhaps the easiest way to do that is to call the
10 Consumer Services Division. I'll read the number
11 again. It's (800) 524-0795, and they can help you
12 file under the Nicor Renewable Natural Gas Case.

13 MR. GREENWOOD: Can you repeat that number?
14 524?

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: (800) 524-0795.

16 MR. GREENWOOD: Thank you.

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, sir. Next is
18 Arthur Paganini.

19 MR. PAGANINI: Yeah. My name is Arthur
20 Paganini. That's spelled A-R-T-H-U-R, last name
21 Paganini, P-A-G-A-N-I-N-I. All right. So my name
22 is Arthur. I'm representing the Party for

1 Socialism and Liberation in Champaign-Urbana. I'm
2 here with No Ameren Shutoffs, and I'm here to ask
3 that the ICC reinstate the moratorium on utility
4 shutoffs until the pandemic is under control and we
5 have totally, like, full herd immunity.

6 Really what I wanted to talk about
7 today was the profits that these utility companies
8 are getting, especially Illinois American Water.
9 Let me just read their posted increases in profits
10 per share from 2019 to 2020. So in the second
11 quarter, at the peak of the unemployment crisis, it
12 was 3.2 percent. At the third quarter, it was 9.8
13 percent. In the fourth quarter, it was 48 percent.
14 And I just really wanted to highlight this because
15 what we've heard so far is that this pandemic has
16 been really hard for everyone, that everyone is in
17 this together, everyone's suffering, but it's
18 really clear that not everyone is suffering. It
19 seems like the people who really are suffering are
20 those who don't have, you know, who aren't on the
21 boards of these companies, who aren't profiting.

22 There are people who are

1 benefiting from this, and it's the people who are
2 supposed to be providing. These power companies,
3 they have the power to provide people water, to
4 provide people electricity, but they're --
5 obviously, their priority right now is to be making
6 as much money as possible. And it's not even like
7 they're -- like breaking even, like, their profits
8 are growing. They're benefiting, they're getting
9 bigger. And it's ridiculous to me that anyone can
10 be complicit in this and that anyone would allow
11 this, especially a -- like, a government body
12 that's supposed to represent the interests of the
13 people.

14 Illinois has had over like a quarter and --
15 like one-and-a-quarter million cases, over 23,000
16 deaths. And at the same time since September 2020,
17 over 87,000 households have either had their power
18 or water shut off and those are that are most
19 affected are working-class families, they don't
20 have backup, they don't have substantial savings.
21 People are going into debt over this, they're owing
22 these power companies who are profiting, by the

1 way, and I don't -- I think it's kind of ridiculous
2 that not only do these families have to face COVID,
3 but they also have a face this -- this problem that
4 is fully fixable by the ICC and I just think -- I
5 think a lot of the people here in this meeting
6 right now, they realize that -- that by endorsing
7 this -- the state government is endorsing this
8 behavior, and in some ways, it is complicit or
9 responsible for the suffering of those affected.

10 So really that's all I have to
11 say. Once again, I'm asking the ICC re-impose the
12 moratorium on utility shutoffs. Thank you very
13 much.

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is Howard
15 Hohl.

16 MR. HOHL: Good morning. My name is Howard
17 Hohl, my last name is spelled H-O-H-L.

18 After a quick review on the web
19 recently, it appears that there are more than 30
20 states that are allowing some sort of use of green
21 gas in the pipelines that meet gas specifications
22 for those pipelines. I'm personally involved with

1 a number of these different gas, green gas
2 conversions, with landfill gas, anaerobic digestion
3 from dairy cows, pigs, turkeys, you name it,
4 they're all -- they all generate green gas. And
5 this gas, or green gas, is cleaned completely to
6 the pipeline specification that the owners give us.

7 The reasons I'm sharing this with
8 you today is what these real situations are in
9 action today in over 30-plus states that are
10 allowing green gas in US pipelines today, including
11 those in our friends to the north, the Canadians,
12 are also even a more aggressive approach of -- of
13 greening up their gas system called
14 decarbonization. Green gas displaces a portion of
15 the natural gas, or brown gas as we call it in the
16 business, once fed in the pipelines. The green
17 attributes that come with the green gas moves in
18 the pipeline to the end-user. That user pays the
19 pipeline fees to move that grass -- gas to the
20 end-user, just like it always does. The difference
21 is the green attributes can be shared with the
22 pipeline as well as the owner of the aggregates

1 they are purchased.

2 What's different? The brown gas
3 is typically formed by geological natural gas
4 coming from the center of the earth, and that goes
5 into the pipelines. The green gas is made from cow
6 manure as I mentioned earlier, turkey, landfills,
7 and anaerobic digestion again different feedstocks.
8 Almost any organic manure product that comes from
9 cows, chickens, and -- or animals we can eat, is
10 making green gas. The green gas is purified to
11 meet those same gas specifications of the pipeline
12 owners who supply the gas to homes and businesses.
13 The big difference between the two types of gases
14 is the green gas brings the green attributes that
15 reduces the carbon generation on the earth. On
16 earth.

17 Everywhere we go in the US or
18 Canada, consumers are asking to purchase green gas
19 for my home or business. They thought -- the
20 thought that you can reduce or even generate a
21 negative carbon intensity where you displace brown
22 gas and actually reduce the carbon we produce

1 today. In my 25-plus years of being a Nicor
2 customer, this is a first that we'll reduce, at the
3 start of a minimum, reduction of the portion of
4 carbon consumed today and displace that carbon --
5 organic carbon that produces CO2 atmosphere to the
6 -- where we live. It's for these reasons that we
7 ask the Commission to approve Nicor's first step in
8 the journey for the gas for the RGI Pilot Program.

9 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Hohl. Next
10 is Beau Barber.

11 MR. BARBER: Hi. Can you hear me?

12 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: We can hear you,
13 Mr. Barber.

14 MR. BARBER: All right. Thank you. Hi, my
15 name is Beau Barber, spelled B-E-A-U, B-A-R-B-E-R.
16 And I am a democratic precinct committee person in
17 the Champaign County Democratic Party. I'm calling
18 in today to voice support amongst many others, as
19 you've heard before, for the several times that
20 we've been here before, and will continue being
21 here to call for a moratorium until this pandemic
22 is cleared up. We don't even have half of the

1 people vaccinated yet. This is a problem.

2 I know they passed like a thing
3 recently with the UDAP, or the Utility
4 Disconnection Avoidance Program, that helps, like,
5 what? That only helps 10 percent of the 800,000
6 households that I think that the -- it was the
7 attorney general that said there was 800,000
8 households at risk and this only helps 10 percent
9 of them.

10 There's no need for any fancy math
11 or any kind of statistic, like any real analysis to
12 see that this is not -- this is not good enough.
13 It's appreciated. It is be -- I'll say it's better
14 than nothing. Is it going to -- is it going to
15 resolve the situation and stop several people from
16 being evicted from their homes or losing their
17 power because of -- because, you know, if they lose
18 their power, they can be evicted from their homes.
19 Is this going to stop people from, you know, having
20 family forced apart because if you have a child in
21 the household with the power turned off, that child
22 is taken away from their parents. Is -- is that

1 good, you know, is -- is that good enough?

2 You know, I guess it is to the
3 rest of the people in power and governance, but
4 it's not good enough for me. It's not good enough
5 for all the people in this state that are suffering
6 right now. You know, we're -- what? It's -- it's
7 the 13th. In about two days, what -- unless it's
8 like they wait until the end of the weekends, maybe
9 it'll be on Monday, I don't know when the heck
10 they're going to do it, they're going to release
11 all the numbers for the number of shutoffs that
12 happen. It's -- you know, even if it's a number
13 that's lower than before, that's still not good.

14 It -- I don't know how to express
15 this to all of you besides the fact that the
16 measures and mean test -- mean-testing program that
17 has been set up still are not good enough. I don't
18 know how -- any other way else to say it. I mean,
19 I -- I don't know. I feel like I'd rather talk to
20 a wall or something, at least it's not going to say
21 something that's going to be inflammatory or just
22 out of its -- out of its way, just -- I don't know.

1 I -- I apologize. I'm just -- I'm
2 incredibly frustrated. I -- I had to put my cat
3 down the other day, I -- I've had a stressful
4 semester, I'm behind on my research, I'm trying to
5 also help with trying to make sure that people
6 don't get their houses shut off. I'm coordinating
7 with people in the Champaign-Urbana area to check
8 in on houses to make sure they're not shut off.
9 And I mean, I already did this in the fall. Why
10 the hell am I doing it again? Do your job. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is
13 Benjamin Theobald.

14 MR. THEOBALD: Yes. Hello. Can hear me?

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: We can hear you,
16 Mr. Theobald.

17 MR. THEOBALD: Yes. My name is Benjamin
18 Theobald, first name is B-E-N-J-A-M-I-N, last name
19 Theobald, T-H-E-O-B-A-L-D. I am here also with the
20 movement, No Ameren Shutoffs. I'm a member of
21 DCUDSA. (phonetic) I am here, also, to once again,
22 request that you extend or advise that Governor J.

1 B. Pritzker extend the moratorium on utilities to
2 prevent any more shutoffs. I believe this is my
3 seventh time speaking here at the ICC.

4 Last week, the senate of the
5 Illinois student government assembly passed a piece
6 of legislation requesting that utility shutoffs be
7 -- the moratorium be put on utility shutoffs and
8 now this kind of recently -- the sponsors were Ari
9 Kelo, Senator Gregory Davidson, Senator Alexandra
10 Gergova, Senator Ashley Winteres and Senator Dana
11 Ume, and the President Enoma Egiebor with the
12 office --

13 I'll just kind of read some of the
14 endorsements: "Utility shutoffs are a health risk
15 and massive danger to Illinoisans, and a new
16 significant outbreak of COVID-19, a novel severe
17 acute respiratory illness that could spread among
18 people through respiratory transmissions, whereas
19 on -- on January 30, 2020, the WHO declared an
20 outbreak of COVID-19 to be a public health
21 emergency and declared a worldwide pandemic in
22 March 11, 2020."

1 But -- and then -- there were over
2 121 water disconnections happened through the city
3 of Urbana during the voluntary moratorium that was
4 announced by the ICC on November 25th. Governor
5 Pritzker had the authority, 20 ILCS Section 17, to
6 enact a mandatory moratorium on utility connections
7 from all providers, including private corporations,
8 municipal utilities, and all the other -- and all
9 other utility providers. There is the Illinois
10 Bill, HP2877, the COVID-19, Federal Emergency
11 Rental Assistance Program Act, which includes
12 federal apportions to rent and utility providers,
13 and that's already passed the Illinois House of
14 Representatives.

15 Right now, I think -- I believe
16 the late -- the current data of fully vaccinations
17 are at 35.8 percent, so we're still not at half
18 yet, we're still not even at 50 percent and right
19 now there was an article in the New York Times that
20 said that herd immunity, you know, it's not going
21 to happen anytime soon. And last night, the New
22 York Governor Cuomo -- the governor of New York,

1 they signed a statewide moratorium extending their
2 utility shutoffs moratorium for, I believe a few
3 more months and -- due to financial harm to the
4 COVID-19 pandemic, and I believe that's my time.

5 So I'm, again, asking you to -- to extend
6 the moratorium. Thank you.

7 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is Cameron
8 J. Williams.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. Can you hear me?

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: We can hear you,
11 Mr. Williams.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. My name is Cameron
13 Williams. That's spelled C-A-M-E-R-O-N, Williams,
14 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I am speaking here today on
15 behalf of the No Ameren Shutoff campaign. I'm also
16 speaking on behalf of the Central Illinois
17 Democratic Socialists of America as their co-chair.
18 I am here to again ask -- I really don't want to
19 say, "ask," what -- I really want to demand a
20 utility shutoff moratorium.

21 It has been -- we have been in
22 this pandemic for over a year now and now that

1 things are starting to finally get a little better
2 with the vaccines coming out, we still have, you
3 know, hundreds and thousands of people contracting
4 COVID-19, also dying from COVID-19. And yet,
5 though we're still in the midst of this pandemic,
6 Illinois has continued to come up short in
7 providing the adequate assistance for its -- its
8 -- thousands of people are suffering from COVID-19
9 and yet they're also having to suffer from worrying
10 and stressing about their utilities being shut off.
11 It is appalling, it is unforgivable.

12 The facts are facts, that the
13 places along the lines of Texas and Arkansas have a
14 lower per capita COVID caseload, and yet they have
15 a moratorium, yet we don't, here in Illinois. I
16 stated this last time I was on here, the same thing
17 that these states who, you know, I want to believe
18 Illinois is better than, has been than for decades.
19 They're doing better on this, during the pandemic,
20 taking care of their citizens, than we are here in
21 Illinois. It doesn't make any sense to me.

22 People, hundreds of people, are

1 still having their utilities shut off, and
2 suffering when they don't have to. We can do
3 something. We can stop shutoffs. People have
4 bills, power bills and water bills in the thousands
5 upon thousands of dollars to no fault of their own.
6 And we have to do something about it. You guys
7 have to do something about it. You have to talk to
8 the Governor Pritzker, I'm not sure why you haven't
9 done this yet, it doesn't make any sense to me why
10 we don't have a mandatory shut -- moratorium on
11 shutoffs.

12 People are suffering, you know,
13 people are dying, and they should not have to worry
14 about their water and their power being shut off
15 during this terrible, terrible time in our history.
16 So I am begging you, I am pleading with you,
17 please. Have a mandatory eviction and utility
18 shutoffs moratorium immediately. Thank you for
19 your time.

20 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is Melinda
21 Ann Hilker. Melinda Ann Hilker?

22 MS. HILKER: Yes, I apologize. My name is

1 Melinda Hilker, M-E-L-I-N-D-A, Hilker, H-I-L-K-E-R.

2 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: You can -- you may proceed,
3 Ms. Hilker.

4 MS. HILKER: I want to thank you for taking
5 the time to allowing us all to speak. I just want
6 to highlight a couple of things about some of the
7 profits within Ameren Corporation, comparatively to
8 the circumstances of Illinois citizens.

9 Unlike Illinois citizens, Ameren
10 has actually, this past quarter, increased their
11 profits, per share, by 54 percent. And yet
12 Illinois citizens are being asked to beg and barter
13 and plead just to keep their utilities on to keep
14 their families safe.

15 We also have, in the past -- this
16 last quarter, for Ameren, the revenue for Ameren
17 was an increase of 1.566 billion. That is an
18 annual -- that is a quarterly increase of 8.75
19 percent. And for the overall year, while we were
20 in a pandemic, Ameren has achieved a 12-month
21 increase of revenue, of almost 2.17 percent. And
22 that calculates to \$5.92 billion in revenue.

1 So from my understanding, your job
2 is to negotiate between the citizens and this
3 corporation. Obviously, we have utility
4 corporations that are benefiting, but our citizens
5 of this state are not.

6 There is loopholes through each of
7 these incentive programs. Each of them have
8 blockades for the most vulnerable of our state, and
9 those are who we are here to speak about and I
10 plead and beg for you, now, to help us and help the
11 citizens of Illinois, right now, get the protection
12 they need and continue a moratorium until we are at
13 herd immunity, until we are at a recovery stage.

14 Obviously, these corporations are
15 profiting. So why can't -- why is there not a
16 negotiation happening to allow the burden that is
17 pushed on the citizens just to be eased for even a
18 small amount of time? Even if it's just six more
19 months to give people the breathing room they need
20 so they don't have to fear for that knock on the
21 door, or that car pulling up to turn off the
22 utilities at night. Thank you.

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is
2 Lawrence J. Maushard. Second call for Lawrence J.
3 Maushard. It appears Mr. Maushard is not on.

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Last: Allan Max Axelrod.

6 MR. AXELROD: Can you hear me?

7 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: We can hear you,
8 Mr. Axelrod.

9 MR. AXELROD: Thank you. My name is Allan
10 Max Axelrod, spelled A-L-L-A-N, M-A-X,
11 A-X-E-L-R-O-D. I am the campaign lead of No Ameren
12 Shutoffs, the \$0 all-volunteer coalition of 48
13 member organizations and counting. We formed in
14 July of last year and since then have advocated for
15 and won four statewide moratoria. This is not
16 something that we're doing with any sort of
17 professional career interest. This is basic
18 preventative policy as documented in the
19 Congressional Research Services 2007 Pandemic
20 Influenza and Analysis of State Preparedness and
21 Response Plans. It's in Table 8; we've been
22 through this before.

1 What we've also been through
2 before is that on September 4th, you had sent out a
3 letter to the corporate utilities urging them to
4 not shut off people's utilities and to adopt early
5 protections, and then you went ahead and published
6 a press release on September 9th of 2020 for the
7 same thing.

8 And since the change in president,
9 from Trump to Biden, there's been a very curious
10 dynamic with the continued trends of Ameren
11 Illinois, meeting or exceeding their profits per
12 share regardless of the moratorium status.

13 You have not spoken up for people
14 over profits.

15 Meanwhile, Urbana has. Meanwhile,
16 Bloomington has. Meanwhile, the Macon County
17 Democratic Party has. Meanwhile, the Champaign
18 County Democratic Party has. Meanwhile, the
19 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign student
20 government, that is the next generation of
21 politically engaged young people, have spoken up
22 about this for people over profits, and you have

1 not. And as of this week, the Peoria City Council
2 has spoken up for people over profits when you have
3 not.

4 We're not asking you to spend
5 money. We're asking you to speak. What is it
6 going to take? How many units of political bodies
7 will it take before you so much as advocate for
8 basic preventative policy for the people most in
9 need? And this is not academic. Yes, the caseload
10 is going down in large part due to the UDAP Program
11 right now, but the Poor People's Campaign has a
12 contingent in Joliet, where they have vulnerable
13 community members who are going to be disconnected
14 on May 15th.

15 Are you going to be silent while
16 that happens to them?

17 Because currently, you have been,
18 you know this, you've been told this. It is up to
19 you to use your privileged position to speak on
20 behalf of vulnerable people and not settle for
21 means that will only help 10 percent of the most
22 vulnerable people. If the UDAP program was

1 sufficient these folks wouldn't be getting shut off
2 this week. The Poor People's Campaign would not be
3 organizing to prevent shutoffs in Joliet this week.
4 It's not sufficient. You knew this. The Attorney
5 General told the people this. Act. Thank you.

6 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Axelrod.
7 This concludes our public comments.

8 We're moving on to our Public
9 Utilities Agenda.

10 There are no edits to the April
11 9th, 2021, Special Open Meeting Minutes. There are
12 edits to the April 15th, 2021, Regular Open Meeting
13 Minutes. Are there any objections to approving the
14 minutes as edited?

15 (No verbal response.)

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

18 Under our Electric Items. Item E-1
19 concerns ComEd's reconciliation proceeding for its
20 Rider PORCB, which makes available to retail
21 electric suppliers consolidated billing and
22 purchase of receivable services as required by the

1 Public Utility Act. The order initiates the next
2 round of annual reconciliation proceedings for the
3 4th POR application period, which comprises
4 calendar years 2019 and 2020. Are there any
5 objection to approving the order?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
8 approved.

9 Item E-2 concerns a request by
10 Solo Energy Solutions for confidential treatment of
11 its ABC Re-certification Report. The orders
12 dismisses the petition because the Illinois
13 Administrative Code already affords the report
14 proprietary treatment for two years after the date
15 of filing, rendering the request moot. Are there
16 any objections to approving the order?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
19 approved.

20 Item E-3 through E-6 concern
21 requests for confidential treatment of petitioner's
22 reports, the orders grant the protection, finding

1 that the information is proprietary and
2 confidential. Are there any objections to
3 considering these items together and approving the
4 orders?

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Items E-7 and E-8 concern
9 citation proceedings for failure to comply with
10 Part 454 of the Commission rules. The respondents
11 failed to appear for their hearing to show cause
12 why the Commission should not revoke or suspend the
13 certificates, or take any other actions against the
14 respondents. Those orders suspend the Certificate
15 of Service Authority for a period of two years.
16 Are there any objections to considering these items
17 together and approving the orders?

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Item E-9 concerns Docket 20-0499,
22 which is a complaint against Clean Choice Energy

1 regarding deceptive business practices in violation
2 of the Commission's rules governing alternative
3 retail electric suppliers. Clean Choice petitioned
4 the Commission for interlocutory review of the
5 ALJ's February 25th ruling on Clean Choice's Motion
6 to Dismiss and the March 29th ruling on Clean
7 Choice's Motion for Clarification. We'll be
8 holding this item today for later disposition.

9 Item E-10 concerns ComEd's request
10 for reconciliation of revenues under its Riders
11 Uncollectible Factors, or Rider UF, for the period
12 of June 19 through May of 2020. The order approves
13 the reconciliation, finding that the costs were
14 prudently incurred. Are there any objections to
15 approving the order?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
18 approved.

19 Item E-11 concerns an application
20 for a license to operate as a retail electric agent
21 broker and consultant in Illinois. The order
22 denies the application, finding that the applicant

1 has not demonstrated the requisite managerial
2 competence necessary to be certified to provide the
3 services. The applicant has not filed any response
4 or errata to address the deficiencies in its
5 applications. Are there any objection to approving
6 the order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
9 approved.

10 Items E-12 through E-15 concern
11 petitions to cancel Certificates to Operate as
12 Retail Electric Agents, Brokers, and Consultants in
13 Illinois. The petitioners state that they have
14 ceased operations in Illinois and no longer have
15 any customers in Illinois. The orders cancel those
16 certificates and direct the petitioners to file any
17 outstanding annual reports with the Commission
18 within 60 days of the date of the order. Are there
19 any objections to considering these items together
20 and approving the orders?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders

1 are approved.

2 Items E-16 and E-17 concern
3 applications for Certification to Operate as an
4 Installer of Distributed Generation Facilities in
5 Illinois. The orders grant the certificates,
6 finding that the applicants meet the requirements.
7 Are there any objections to considering these items
8 together and approving the orders?

9 (No verbal response.)

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

12 Item E-18 through E-19 concerns
13 petitions for approval to release Ameren's
14 non-residential customers. There are no disputes
15 between the parties as to the customer release.
16 The orders grant the petitions. Are there any
17 objections to considering these items together and
18 approving the orders?

19 (No verbal response.)

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

22 Item E-20 concerns Docket 21-0337,

1 which is Ameren's Application for Authority to
2 Incur Debt pursuant to Section 6-102 of the Public
3 Utilities Act. The order grants the authority and
4 directs Ameren to pay a fee pursuant to Section
5 6-108 of the Act. Are there any objections to
6 approving the order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
9 approved.

10 Items E-21 through E-34 concern
11 petitions to cancel Certificates of Service
12 Authority to Install Energy Efficiency Measures.
13 The orders cancel the certificates. Are there any
14 objections to considering these items together and
15 approving the orders?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
18 are approved.

19 Items E-35 through E-55 concern
20 applications for Certifications to Install Energy
21 Efficiency Measures in Illinois. The orders grant
22 the certificates, finding that the applicants meet

1 the requirements. Are there any objections to
2 considering these items together and approving the
3 orders?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Under Gas Items: Item G-1 concerns
8 Docket 19-0294, which reviews the accuracy and
9 prudence of Nicor's qualified infrastructure plant,
10 or Rider QIP expenses and reconciliation of the
11 costs and revenues. In its brief on exceptions,
12 the Illinois Attorney General's Office requests
13 oral argument pursuant to Section 9-201C of The
14 Public Utilities Act. Regarding the AG's
15 exceptions to the proposed order. I'm going to
16 call a roll on this vote. If you are in favor of
17 granting the Attorney General's requests for oral
18 argument, please say, "Aye." If you are opposed
19 and would like to deny it, please say, "Nay."
20 Commissioner Bocanegra?

21 MS. BOCANEGRA: Nay.

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Carrigan?

1 MR. CARRIGAN: Aye.

2 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Kimbrel?

3 MR. KIMBREL: Aye.

4 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: I vote aye. The three
5 aye's have it and the request for oral argument is
6 granted.

7 Item G-2 concerns Docket 19-0369,
8 which is Nicor's request to reconcile revenues
9 under Rider 30, which allows Nicor to recover from
10 certain groups of customers, costs, fees, and
11 charges related to state-mandated energy efficiency
12 measures and on-bill financing programs. The
13 revenue reconciliation is for the 2019 calendar
14 year. The order approves the reconciliation as set
15 in the appendices to the order, finding that the
16 costs during the reconciliation period were
17 prudently incurred. Are there any objections to
18 approving the order?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
21 approved.

22 Item G-3 concerns Nicor Gas's

1 requests for reconciliation of revenues under its
2 Rider 26, or Uncollectible Expense Adjustment, for
3 the period of June 1st, 2019, to May 31, 2020. The
4 order approves the reconciliation as set in the
5 appendix to the order, finding that the costs were
6 prudently incurred. Are there any objections to
7 approving the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Item G-4 concerns a complaint
12 against Ameren regarding whether a gas line was
13 improperly removed from a customer's property
14 without his permission. The order denies the
15 complaint, finding that the complainant failed to
16 prove that the company acted improperly. Are there
17 any objections to approving the order?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
20 approved.

21 Item G-5 concerns a complaint
22 against Peoples Gas regarding billing charges. The

1 complainant argues that Peoples Gas is incorrectly
2 charging her late fees and interest and that her
3 bills should be reduced. The order denies the
4 complainant part and grants in part, finding that
5 the complainant failed to show that Peoples Gas was
6 incorrectly charging her for her actual gas usage,
7 but also that Peoples Gas was unable to provide
8 billing statements prior to September 24 of 2018 or
9 to show late fees assessed, or to prove that
10 complainant was given notice of these fees. The
11 order directs Peoples Gas to remove late fees and
12 interest from the complainant's account that were
13 released -- excuse me -- that were assessed prior
14 to September 24 of 2018 and enter into a payment
15 plan with the complainant to pay the remaining
16 balance. Are there any objections to approving the
17 order?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
20 approved.

21 Item G-6 concerns complaint
22 against Peoples Gas regarding billing charges. The

1 complainant argues that her service was shut off
2 without notice and disputes a high gas bill. The
3 order denies the complaint, finding that Peoples
4 Gas provided sufficient evidence that tampering
5 occurred with the complainant's gas meter, that the
6 complainant benefited from the tampering and that
7 Peoples Gas's method of calculating estimated gas
8 usage was reasonable. However, the order also
9 encourages Peoples Gas to continue to allow the
10 complainant to receive gas services under the
11 re-establishment account so long as she remains
12 current on her monthly statements, adheres to all
13 rules, regulations, and terms and conditions of
14 service, and makes timely payments in accordance
15 with any deferred payment agreement established by
16 the company. Are there any objections to approving
17 the order?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
20 approved.

21 Item G-7 concerns Docket 20-0606
22 which is Nicor's proposed revenue-neutral tariff.

1 Filing to address issues arising from the storage
2 study. The order approves modifications to Nicor's
3 transportation program tariff to, among other
4 changes, address daily cash-outs, monthly
5 cash-outs, and the nomination charge changes. The
6 order finds that the tariff modifications are
7 warranted, just, and reasonable. The order
8 increases the group size limit for a daily read
9 account. The order also eliminates Rider 25. Are
10 there any objections to approving the order?

11 (No verbal response.)

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

14 Item G-8 concerns a request by
15 Green Mountain Energy Company for proprietary
16 treatment of information and its supplemental
17 compliance report. The order grants the
18 protection, finding that the information is highly
19 proprietary and confidential. Are there any
20 objection to approving the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Item G-9 concerns a request for Nicor for
3 consent to amend a credit agreement to which
4 affiliated interests are parties. The order grants
5 the request subject to reporting requirements,
6 finding that financing proposal is in the public
7 interests and that the proposed reporting
8 requirements are reasonable. Are there any
9 objections to approving the order?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
12 approved.

13 Under our Telecommunications Items.
14 Items T-1 through T-6 concern the cancellation of
15 Certificate of Service Authority to Provide
16 Telecommunication Services for companies that filed
17 documents with the Secretary of State in recent
18 years, surrendering their authority to transact
19 business in Illinois. The order cancels the
20 certificates. Are there any objections to
21 considering these items together and approving the
22 orders?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
3 are approved.

4 Item T-7 concerns a petition from
5 Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation
6 regarding the amount and form of supplemental
7 assistance that can be provided by local exchange
8 carriers to eligible new subscribers. Petitioner
9 also seeks authorization to distribute \$750,000 of
10 Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program
11 funds to qualified charitable organizations. The
12 order sets a supplemental assistance level and
13 authorizes distribution of funds. Are there any
14 objections to approving the order?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
17 approved.

18 Items T-8 and T-9 concern requests to expand
19 eligible telecommunications carriers' designations
20 so that the carriers can receive federal funding,
21 including funding awarded through the FCC's Rural
22 Digital Opportunity Fund auction. The orders grant

1 the applications. Are there any objections to
2 considering these items together and approving the
3 orders?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Items T-10 -- excuse me. T-10 through T-15
8 concern requests for proprietary treatment of
9 information in the petitioner's reports. The
10 orders grant the protections, finding that the
11 information is proprietary and confidential. Are
12 there any objections to considering these items
13 together and approving the orders?

14 (No verbal response.)

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

17 Item T-16 concerns a petition from Deploycom
18 Northern Corridor to cancel its Certificates to
19 Provide Local and Inner Exchange Telecommunications
20 Services. The order cancels the certificate and
21 directs the petitioner to file any outstanding
22 annual reports with the Commission within 60 days

1 of the date of the order. Are there any objections
2 to approving the order?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
5 approved.

6 Under Water and Sewer Items. Item
7 W-1 concerns a complaint by a customer against
8 Illinois American Water regarding a high bill for
9 water usage. The order denies the complaint,
10 finding that the customer failed to prove that she
11 is otherwise not responsible for the water usage.
12 Are there any objections to approving the order?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
15 approved.

16 Item W-2 concerns a request from Aqua
17 Illinois for a special permission to file and put
18 into effect on less than 45 days' notice, revisions
19 to its water service tariff for University Park.
20 Since University Park has been the subject to a
21 lead advisory warning, Aqua has not charged its
22 University Park customers based on water usage

1 because the lead advisory might cause customers to
2 be using more water. Without this filing, Aqua
3 will have to start charging University Park
4 customers based on their actual water usage alone.
5 This filing will temporarily extend the application
6 of historical-based sewer consumption charges for
7 certain residential customers in University Park
8 through October of 2021 or until the customer is
9 removed from the lead advisory warning. Are there
10 any objections to granting this special permission?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the special
13 permission is granted.

14 Under our Other Business. Item O-1
15 concerns approval of batches, contracts, and
16 confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block
17 Program. Are there any objections to approving the
18 program administrator's submissions?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
21 submissions are approved.

22 This concludes our Public Utilities Agenda.

1 Judge Teague-Kingsley, do we have any other matters
2 to come before the Commission today?

3 THE COURT: No, Madam Chairman.

4 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Do the commissioners have
5 any other business to discuss?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: I have three announcements.

8 First, I wanted to note that this
9 week is National Police Week and I'd like to take
10 this opportunity to thank our ICC Police Officers
11 for their service and dedication to the people of
12 the State of Illinois.

13 Earlier today we recognized one of
14 our own ICC Police Officers who gave the ultimate
15 sacrifice. In 1994, Officer Terry Emerick died in
16 the line duty while conducting a roadside stop in
17 Vandalia, Illinois. Officer Emerick had stopped a
18 semi-trailer on the shoulder of the roadway when
19 his patrol car was struck by another semi-trailer
20 causing fatal injuries. Today we hung a plaque in
21 the lobby of our Springfield office to serve as a
22 permanent reminder of Officer Emerick.

1 The ICC Police Department also
2 named their Medal of Valor Award the Terry Emerick
3 Medal of Valor Award. This award will be awarded
4 to an ICC Police Officer who performs an act of
5 exceptional bravery with an awareness of the
6 possibility that the act could result in great
7 bodily harm or death to himself.

8 Second, I want to welcome our new
9 general counselor, Natalia Delgado. Natalia is the
10 first Latina to hold the position and lead the
11 office of general counsel. Natalia brings to the
12 position a very strong legal background and vast
13 government experience.

14 Before joining the ICC, Natalia
15 held the position of the city prosecutor and deputy
16 of the legal information and prosecutions division
17 for the City of Chicago Department of Law. Prior
18 to that, she served as the deputy director of
19 policy for The Cook County State's Attorney's
20 Office and spent over five years as deputy chief
21 legal counsel, chief of litigation for the Illinois
22 State Police. In 2010 to 2011, she served as

1 associate general counsel for the governor in
2 Illinois. She's practiced law for Pretzel and
3 Stouffer and started her career as a law clerk in
4 the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook
5 County.

6 Ms. Delgado earned her Bachelor of
7 Arts from Colby University and her Doctorate of Law
8 from DePaul University College of Law. Natalia
9 replaces Phillip Kosanovich, who has transitioned
10 to become the first Director of Ethics and
11 Accountability.

12 Welcome to the ICC, Natalia, we
13 are looking forward to working with you.

14 And finally, I wanted to remind
15 customers at risk of service disconnections about
16 the state's Utility Disconnection Avoidance
17 Program, or UDAP, created by Governor J. B.
18 Pritzker that allocates about 80 million to help
19 household in crisis. Through the UDAP program,
20 eligible customers that are LIHEAP or PIPP
21 recipients and are at risk of disconnection may
22 receive a one-time credit of at least \$250 up to

1 \$5000 for each eligible utility account.

2 LIHEAP is The Low Income Home
3 Energy Assistance Program and PIPP is the
4 Percentage of Income Payment Plan. Both programs
5 are designed to help eligible low-income households
6 pay for home energy services. If you believe you
7 are eligible for LIHEAP or PIPP but not currently
8 signed up for the program, please call your LIHEAP
9 agency to see if you qualify. To find your local
10 agency, call DCEO's dedicated Help Illinois
11 Families Hotline at 1 (833) 711-0374 or visit
12 www.helpIllinoisfamilies.com.

13 I also want to remind customers
14 that if you receive a disconnection notice and --
15 that you can avoid being shut off from the service
16 if you act quickly. Call your utility and work out
17 a deferred payment arrangement. The utility can
18 also tell you whether you qualify for bill payment
19 assistance to reduce what you owe in arrearages.

20 And finally, I'd like to remind
21 about the other resources that are currently
22 available to customers. First, the eligible

1 Illinoisans can enroll in LIHEAP by calling 1 (877)
2 411-WARM.

3 Second, that the Help Illinois
4 Families Initiative is the state effort to provide
5 home energy assistance relief to eligible
6 Illinoisans through May. Residents may learn more
7 about the initiative by visiting the website of the
8 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

9 And third, also, that the ICC
10 stands ready to assist customers navigate their
11 options. The ICC has both English and
12 Spanish-speaking consumer counselors to help you
13 file a complaint Monday through Friday, 8:30 to
14 5:00. The number is 1 (800) 524-0795. There is
15 also additional information on the ICC's website at
16 icc.Illinois.gov under the "Consumers" tab.

17 Hearing no further comments or
18 objections, the meeting is now adjourned. Thank
19 you.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled
21 matter was adjourned at 12:30
22 p.m.)