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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITY SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice via videoconference
at 11:00 a.m. at 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago,
Illinois.

PRESENT:

- CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairman
- SADZI M. OLIVA, Commissioner
- MARIA S. BOCANEGRA, Commissioner
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
- MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner

SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY
BY: JO ANN KROLICKI, CSR (Via teleconference)
License No. 084-002215

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. I have
2 11:00 o'clock.

3 Can I just confirm that the
4 court reporter is on?

5 THE REPORTER: Yes, I am.

6 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you.

7 Commission Bocanegra?

8 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Here.

9 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Carrigan,
10 I see you. I just want to make sure I can hear you.

11 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Good morning,
12 Chairman. I can hear you.

13 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Great.

14 I have Commissioner Kimbrel here with
15 me.

16 Commissioner Oliva?

17 COMMISSIONER OLIVA: Yes, here I am.

18 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. I just wanted to
19 confirm before we begin. I'm going to open up the
20 meeting.

21 Under the Open Meetings Act and in
22 accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders, I

1 call the June 18, 2020, Special Open Meeting to
2 order.

3 Before we proceed, for clarity of the
4 record and since the court reporter is participating
5 remotely, I would ask everyone to state their name
6 before speaking and to speak slowly and clearly so
7 that she can capture everything that is said.

8 I have already noted that all four
9 Commissioners are dialed in and can hear, so we do
10 have a quorum.

11 We have no requests to speak.

12 We have no Transportation Agenda.

13 We only have three items on our
14 Public Utilities Agenda.

15 Item 1 concerns LifeEnergy's
16 Application For Rehearing. The Commission opened
17 this docket to investigate whether LifeEnergy
18 complied with recent amendments to Part 412 of the
19 Commission rules with respect to retail electric
20 suppliers.

21 The Commission entered its final
22 Order on May 27, 2020, finding LifeEnergy in

1 violation and assessing a penalty.

2 LifeEnergy is now seeking a rehearing
3 stating that the Commission's Order is punitive and
4 not allowed by Illinois law.

5 LifeEnergy did not introduce any new
6 evidence or make any new arguments in its Application
7 for Rehearing. The Commission has already considered
8 LifeEnergy's arguments in its final Order and
9 rejected them.

10 Are there any objections to denying
11 the Rehearing?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
14 Rehearing is denied.

15 Item 2 is a Second Interim Order
16 in the docket of 20-0309, Moratorium on Disconnection
17 of Utility Services During the Public Health
18 Emergency.

19 Over the course of the last two
20 months, the parties in this docket, including
21 Commission Staff, utilities, consumer advocates, and
22 the industry representatives negotiated to reach a

1 settlement. These negotiations involved detailed
2 discussions of various proposals from the standpoint
3 of effectiveness, feasibility, lawfulness, and cost
4 recovery among other things.

5 The Staff notes the negotiations were
6 all conducted by all parties in good faith. As a
7 result of the negotiations, the parties reached an
8 agreement and produced two stipulations, one
9 concerning large utilities and the other concerning
10 small utilities.

11 The stipulating parties include the
12 Illinois utilities, Commission Staff, and consumer
13 advocates, including the AG, CUB, and the City of
14 Chicago. The Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers do
15 not oppose the stipulation.

16 On June 10th and 17th, the Commission
17 Staff filed Motions requesting that the Commission
18 enter an Order approving and adopting both
19 Stipulations.

20 The Second Interim Order adopts both
21 stipulations, finding that the terms of the
22 stipulations are reasonable and that they provide an

1 appropriate resolution for this docket.

2 Are there any objections to approving
3 the Second Interim Order that adopts the
4 Stipulations?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order
7 is approved.

8 By approval of this Order, the
9 Commission effectuates an extraordinary, landmark
10 stipulated agreement with incredible consumer
11 protections, acknowledging that people are truly
12 struggling during these unprecedented times.

13 I'd like to thank all of the parties
14 for their time, hard work, and compassion in
15 presenting this unanimous stipulation to the
16 Commission.

17 Finally, Item 3 concerns a Commission
18 Resolution to Promote the Federal Lifeline Assistance
19 Program. Lifeline is the program of the Federal
20 Communications Commission or FCC that provides
21 eligible low income customers with monthly discounts
22 on internet or phone service. Those eligible to

1 receive a discount must already participate in
2 certain federal benefit programs, such as Medicaid,
3 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP,
4 Federal Public Housing or the Veterans Pension and
5 Survivor's Benefit, or have a household income at or
6 below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.
7 FCC has temporarily eased the documentation
8 requirements for applications by income.

9 The promotion of the Lifeline Program
10 is imperative to ensure that Illinois residents have
11 access to affordable voice and broadband service
12 during the current public health crisis.

13 The Resolution links to the program's
14 website and to the Link-Up Illinois program, which is
15 a program funded entirely through voluntary donations
16 that subsidizes the cost of phone installations for
17 Lifeline participants.

18 Are there any objections to adopting
19 the Resolution?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
22 Resolution is adopted.

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This concludes our Public Utilities
Agenda.

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

JUDGE TEAGUE KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Do any of the
Commissioners have any other business to discuss?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none and
without objection, the meeting is adjourned. Thank
you.

(WHEREUPON, the above-entitled
matter was adjourned.)