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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
REGULAR OPEN MEETING
PUBLIC UTILITY
JULY 8, 2021
Springfield, Illinois

- CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman
- MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
- MARIE S. BOCANEGRA, Commissioner

- Erikia T. Schuster, IL CSR
- Alaris Litigation Services

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Good morning. I
2 have 11:30. I am going to start the meeting.

3 Under the Open Meetings Act, and in
4 accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders,
5 I call the July 8th, 2021 Regular Open Meeting to
6 order.

7 Commissioner Bocanegra, Commissioner
8 Carrigan and Commissioner Kimbrel are with me in
9 Springfield, so with four, we have a quorum.

10 We have one request to speak,
11 Mr. Allan Axelrod. Under 2 Ill. Adm. Code
12 Section 1700.10, any person desiring to address
13 the Commission shall be allowed up to three
14 minutes. My adviser Jordan Graham will have the
15 timer up on the screen, which it's up already, I
16 can see. Only one person may speak on behalf of
17 any organization. Please note that the
18 Commission will not respond directly to any
19 comments.

20 Mr. Axelrod, are you there?

21 MR. AXELROD: Yes, can you hear me?

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you.

23 Mr. Axelrod, please state and spell your name and
24 then we will start the timer when you begin

1 speaking.

2 MR. AXELROD: Thank you. My name is
3 Allan Max Axelrod, A-L-L-A-N, M-A-X,
4 A-X-E-L-R-O-D. I'm the campaign lead of a group
5 called No Ameren Shut Off, a coalition that was
6 formed about 359 days ago when receiving notice
7 from Ameren Illinois that they intended to enact
8 very unsafe policies by sending off shut off
9 notices and shutting people off during the
10 pandemic in this arising coronavirus. Since the
11 transition from phrase three to phrase four in
12 this state, we went from hundreds of cases in the
13 state to well over a thousand pretty
14 consistently.

15 Upon the formation of No Ameren Shut
16 Offs, we have won three consecutive utility
17 shut-off moratoria, the third of which has been
18 eligibility criteria, which then made it so that
19 it was harder for people to be protected and that
20 led to over 81,000 households being disconnected
21 in a time period of nine weeks after exposing
22 Governor Pritzker's financial conflict of
23 interest relative to utility industry and
24 disrupting numerous of his press conferences, a

1 fourth moratorium was enacted on the
2 November 25th, following, of course, the early
3 concessions two weeks before and Ameren Illinois
4 one week before.

5 In 2021, upon the expiration of that
6 last moratorium that took the number of power
7 shut-offs from thousands of them to single
8 digits, we started to see similar things happen
9 again. Under the decreasing coronavirus
10 caseload, we saw it stall two weeks after utility
11 shut offs began. A week after that stall, that's
12 when utility disconnection avoidance program was
13 enacted, and of course, after that the caseload
14 resumed to go down to the lowest level it has
15 been ever since.

16 We have not fully found out if that
17 program continues, but we will. One of the
18 things that I'm letting you-all know is that you
19 have illustrated through your receipts the
20 complete failure and that is why we are in the
21 midst of organizing a multi statewide coalition.
22 You have been dealing with a strong together
23 coalition with very poor communication
24 infrastructure. That is going to change. You

1 were asked to speak up before utility shut offs
2 for Joliet. You did not. You were asked to
3 speak up when utility disconnections were not
4 being sent to the public health district by the
5 water utilities, you did not. The same for the
6 power utilities. You even excluded people from
7 commenting in person in your chambers recognizing
8 the severity of the coronavirus pandemic,
9 providing protection for yourselves when you
10 would not do over all of our residents. So get
11 ready to look at the last year as the good old
12 days, because we're going to start a colation in
13 multistate capacity. We're --

14 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: That's time, Mr.
15 Axelrod. Thank you. This concludes our public
16 comments, so we're going to move onto our agenda.

17 We are moving onto our Public
18 Utilities Agenda. There are edits to the
19 June 10th, 2021, Public Utilities Regular Open
20 Meeting minutes.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the Minutes as edited?

23 Hearing none, the minutes are
24 approved.

1 Item E-1 concerns Ameren's proposed
2 tariff filing which would create the Rider
3 Optional Electric Vehicle Charging Program.
4 Under the Rider, Ameren would establish six
5 electric transportation programs and construct
6 charging facilities for its residential and
7 commercial customer classes. The order modifies
8 certain aspects of the Rider and finds that, as
9 modified, Ameren's Rider EVCP is just and
10 reasonable.

11 Before I call the vote, I just wanted
12 to make a personal note with an issue I have with
13 the order as proposed. I still have concerns
14 with the design of the DS-1 residential charging
15 program that is in the order. The demand
16 charge-based structure that Ameren proposed seems
17 to be too burdensome and confusing for the
18 residential customers, considering that the
19 demand change will be applied to the entire
20 household, regardless of whether the customer
21 changes its EV on a particular date or month.

22 I would have preferred that the order
23 to side with the ELPC's and the AG's position
24 that would reject the DS-1 residential charging

1 program (both the Delivery Credit and the
2 Delivery Charge) and direct Ameren instead to
3 design a volumetric-based approach for the
4 residential charging customers. In other words,
5 I would have accepted the ELPC's Exceptions 1 and
6 2 in their BOE. Because I agree with so much of
7 the proposed order, though, I will be voting
8 today to concur with the order.

9 So this concludes my personal
10 comments. I'm going to move onto calling a roll
11 for approving the order. If you are in favor of
12 approving the order, please say "aye," and if you
13 are opposed, please say "nay."

14 Commissioner Bocanegra?

15 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner
17 Carrigan?

18 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner
20 Kimbrel?

21 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER ZALEWSKI: I'm voting to
23 concur, so the ayes have it and the order is
24 approved.

1 Item E-2 concerns Oasis Power's
2 petition to withdraw a certificate of authority
3 to operate as an ARES in Illinois. The order
4 grants the Petition finding that doing so will
5 not deprive Illinois residents of any necessary
6 electric service and is not otherwise contrary to
7 the public interest.

8 Are there any objections to approving
9 the order?

10 Hearing none, the order is approved.

11 Item E-3 concerns a motion by the
12 commission to rescind an alternate retail
13 electric supplier's certificate of authority to
14 operate as an ARES in Illinois. Entrust Energy
15 East defaulted the PJM, which rendered the
16 Entrust incapable of meeting its financial and
17 supply requirements as an ARES in Illinois and
18 rendered it incapable of providing retail
19 electric service to Illinois consumers. The
20 order rescinds Entrust's certificate of
21 authority, effective 30 days from the order.

22 Are there any objections to approving
23 the order?

24 Hearing none, the order is approved.

1 Items E-4 and E-5 concern
2 applications for a certificate of service
3 authority to operate as installers of distributed
4 generation facilities in Illinois. The order
5 grants the Certificates, finding that the
6 applicants meet the requirements.

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

10 Hearing none, the orders are
11 approved.

12 Items E-6 and E-7 concern petitions
13 to cancel certificates to operate as retail
14 electric agent, broker or consultants in
15 Illinois. The orders cancel the certificates and
16 require filing within 14 days any required
17 Section 454 compliance reports for 2020 that
18 petitioners have not yet filed.

19 Are there any objections to approving
20 the order?

21 Hearing none, the order is approved.

22 Item E-8 concerns a request to cancel
23 a certificate of service authority to install
24 energy efficiency measures in Illinois. The

1 Administrative Law Judge in this docket explains
2 that the Commission granted the requested relief
3 at its regular open meeting on June 24th of 2021,
4 and therefore recommends the docket be dismissed
5 as moot.

6 Are there any objections to
7 dismissing the docket?

8 Hearing none, the docket is
9 dismissed.

10 Items E-9 through E-21 concern
11 requests to cancel certificates of service
12 authority to install energy efficiency measures
13 in Illinois. The orders cancel the Certificates.

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

17 Hearing none, the orders are
18 approved.

19 Items E-22 through E-30 concern
20 applications for certification to install energy
21 efficiency measures in Illinois. The orders
22 grant the Certificates, finding that the
23 applicants meet the requirements.

24 Are there any objections to

1 considering these items together and approving
2 the orders?

3 Hearing none, the orders are
4 approved.

5 Items G-1 and G-2 concern Peoples Gas
6 and Nicor's petitions to issue long-term debt
7 through various financial instruments. The
8 Commission Staff has reviewed the filings and
9 does not object to granting the petitions. The
10 orders grant the petitions.

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

14 Hearing none, the orders are
15 approved.

16 Items T-1 and T-2 concern requests
17 for proprietary treatment of information in the
18 petitioners' reports. The orders grant the
19 protections, finding that the information is
20 highly proprietary and confidential.

21 Are there any objections to
22 considering these items together and approving
23 the orders?

24 Hearing none, the orders are

1 approved.

2 Item T-3 concerns Verizon
3 Communications' petition to cancel Illinois RSA 1
4 Limited Partnership's and Rockford MSA Limited
5 Partnership's Certificates of Service Authority.
6 After the dissolution of the two aforementioned
7 providers, services will continue to be marketed
8 under the name of Verizon Wireless. The order
9 cancels the certificate, finding that the
10 discontinuance of service will not deprive
11 customers of any necessary telecommunications
12 service and is now otherwise contrary to the
13 public interest.

14 Are there any objections to approving
15 the order?

16 Hearing none, the order is approved.

17 Item T-4 concerns a request from
18 Sprint Communications to cancel a certificate of
19 service authority to provide telecommunications
20 services. The order cancels the certificate,
21 finding that cancellation will not deprive any
22 Illinois customer of necessary telecommunications
23 service and is not otherwise contrary to the
24 public interest.

1 Are there any objections to approving
2 the order?

3 Hearing none, the order is approved.

4 Item T-5 concerns an application from
5 NewPhone Wireless for a certificate of Wireless
6 Authority to operate as a reseller of
7 telecommunications services throughout Illinois.
8 The order grants the Certificate finding that the
9 applicant meetings their requirements.

10 Are there any objections to approving
11 the order?

12 Hearing none, the order is approved.

13 Under the Water and Sewer Items, Item
14 W-1 concerns Utility Services of Illinois's
15 request to reconcile revenues under its 2020
16 Public Utility Fund Deficit Supplemental Customer
17 Charges. The order approves the reconciliation
18 as set in the appendix to the order, finding that
19 the costs during the reconciliation period were
20 prudently incurred.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the order?

23 Hearing none, the order is approved.

24 Items W-2 and W-3 concern Utility

1 Services of Illinois's application for approval
2 to purchase the water and wastewater utility
3 assets of Rockvale Corporation and Cedar Water
4 Company. The Petitioners also seek issuance of a
5 certificate of public convenience and necessity
6 for the applicant to provide water and wastewater
7 service in a new service territory, approval of
8 rates and accounting treatment for the
9 transaction, and the authorization for Rockvale
10 and Cedar to discontinue operations as Illinois
11 public utilities. The order approves the
12 purchases, grants the certificates, approves the
13 rates, approves the accounting treatments and
14 authorizes the abandonment of service and
15 discontinuance of operations, subject to the
16 conditions enumerated in the orders.

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

20 Hearing none, the orders are
21 approved.

22 Under the Petitions for Rehearing,
23 Item PR-1 concerns a petition for rehearing in
24 Docket No. 21-0005, which is Starlink Services'

1 application for designation as an eligible
2 telecommunications carrier so that the applicant
3 can receive federal funding. The order
4 recommends the Commission deny the application
5 for rehearing, finding that the applicant
6 provides no new facts or evidence to support its
7 position, and that the Commission order properly
8 considered the issue and explained its reasoning.

9 Are there any objections to denying
10 the Application for Rehearing?

11 Hearing none, the Application is
12 denied.

13 Under Other Business, Item O-1
14 concerns approval of Batches, Contracts and
15 Confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block
16 Program and the Solar For All Program.

17 Are there any objections to approving
18 the Program Administrator's Submissions?

19 Hearing none, the Submission is
20 approved.

21 So this concludes our Public
22 Utilities Agenda.

23 Judge Teague Kingsley, do we have
24 other matters to come before the Commission

1 today.

2 JUDGE TEAGUE KINGSLEY: No, Madam
3 Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Do the
5 Commissioners have any other business to discuss?
6 I just want to remind customers that if you do
7 receive a disconnection notice, that you can
8 avoid being shut off from service if you act
9 quickly, call your utility, and work out a
10 deferred payment arrangement. The utility can
11 also tell you whether you qualify for bill
12 payment assistance to reduce what you owe in
13 arrearages.

14 And I want to continue to remind
15 about a few other resources that are currently
16 available to our customers. The Illinois
17 Commerce Commission continues to stand ready to
18 assist customers navigate their options. The ICC
19 has both English and Spanish speaking consumer
20 counselors that can help you file a complaint.
21 They are available Monday thru Friday from 8:30
22 to 5, and the number is 1-800-524-0795. This is
23 also additional information on our ICC website at
24 ICC.Illinois.gov under the Consumer's tab.

1 With no other comments and without
2 objections, the meeting is now adjourned. Thank
3 you.

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