1	BEFORE THE						
2	ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION						
3	PUBLIC UTILITY REGULAR OPEN MEETING						
4	Wednesday, August 19, 2020						
5	Chicago, Illinois						
6							
7	Met pursuant to notice at 1:00 P.M., at 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.						
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9	PRESENT:						
10	CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman						
11	MARIA BOCANEGRA, Commissioner (via videoconference)						
12	SADZI M. OLIVA, Commissioner (via videoconference)						
13	D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner						
14	MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner						
15	(via videoconference)						
16							
17							
18							
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20							
21	SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by BRAD BENJAMIN, CSR						
22	LICENSE NO. 084-004805						

CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Under the Open Meetings 1 Act and in accordance with the Governor's executive 2 orders, I call the August 19, 2020, Regular Open 3 4 Meeting to order. Before we proceed and for clarity of 5 6 the record, and since some Commissioners are 7 participating remotely, I would ask everyone to state their name before speaking and to speak slowly and 8 9 clearly so that the court reporter can capture everything that is said. 10 I've already checked that all five --11 all four Commissioners are with us, and we have a 12 13 quorum. 14 We have five requests to speak. Going in the order they were received: First is Allan Max 15 Axelrod; second, Kathryn Meade; third, John Keating; 16 fourth, Cristal Caballero; and fifth, Jared Miller. 17 Under 2 Ill. Adm. Code Section 18 19 1700.10, any person desiring to address the Commission shall be allowed up to three minutes. 20 21 Only one person may speak on behalf of any 22 organization. Please note that the Commission will

1 not respond directly to comments.

First, we have Mr. Allan Max Axelrod. 2 3 Mr. Axelrod, are you on? 4 MR. ALLAN MAX AXELROD: Yes. I'm on. CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. 5 6 MR. ALLAN MAX AXELROD: Thank you. Can you hear me? 7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you. 8 9 You're going to have three minutes. 10 And my advisor is going to set her timer. And I'll try to let you know -- I'll give you a 30-second 11 warning. 12 13 And then you may begin, but, please, 14 before you begin, please state and spell your name 15 for the court reporter. MR. ALLAN MAX AXELROD: All righty. My name is 16 Allan Max Axelrod; that is A-L-L-A-N M-A-X 17 A-X-E-L-R-O-D. I'm a member of the Champaign-Urbana 18 19 DSA, Democratic Socialists of America. And I am 20 speaking to you on behalf of the No Ameren Shutoffs 21 Campaign. That is a campaign that I've started in 22 July after I received notice from Ameren Illinois

1 that they intended to shut off utilities on

9

August 14th.

August 11th. Thankfully, that has been extended toSeptember 1st, but that's still inadequate.

We are in an emergency situation here. Since going into Phase IV, we've had 4 counties in a warning status on July 24th; 11 counties in a warning status, July 31st; 13 counties in a warning status on August 7th; 14 counties in warning status on

10 Our 7-day average number of new cases 11 is the same now as it was 81 days ago, well before we 12 entered Phase IV. We are at 70 percent, our highest 13 number of new cases in terms of the 7-day average in 14 Illinois since the pandemic began: 1,810 cases in our 7-day average today, as reported on 91-DIVOC.com, as 15 compared to 2,564. The insufficient economic support 16 17 available to households to payoff their utilities will make this much worse. 18

Ameren has offered \$500 for the first 16,000 households that qualify and request it. That barely covers three to four months of electric and gas for a single-person household and is woefully

1 inadequate for families.

2	I've spoken to one person whose
3	LIHEAP, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program,
4	assistance was \$900 and change. Even before the
5	pandemic, LIHEAP funding wouldn't last households
6	through the end of the LIHEAP season in May. The
7	State's supplementation was grossly insufficient. A
8	household receiving LIHEAP at this rate would be
9	lucky to pay off their utility debt let alone pay for
10	their utilities through the LIHEAP season.
11	And we know that Ameren intends to
12	shut off people's power as soon as they're allowed
13	to. Their Missouri branch has already done this. We
14	confirmed this from an anonymous employee, and
15	there's an editorial from the Kansas City Star, and
16	the corporation named in that report, Evergy, refused
17	to disclose the number of accounts disconnected since
18	they resumed in Missouri for July. Indiana has also
19	allowed their moratorium to expire.
20	And what we're asking you to do is to
21	acknowledge that, especially when Illinois American

22 Water announced that they would start shutoffs in

September, that this is unacceptable. Please follow
 the example of Connecticut - CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: 30 seconds.
 MR. ALLAN MAX AXELROD: -- extending the

5 utilities shutoffs for electric, gas, and water. And 6 they were able to extend the moratorium on shutoffs 7 of water through the end of April.

8 Don't repeat Indiana's mistakes. 9 Don't repeat Missouri's mistakes. Follow the lead of 10 Connecticut, and say no to utility shutoffs during 11 this pandemic.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Axelrod.

14 Next is Ms. Kathryn Meade.

15 Ms. Meade, are you on?

16 MS. KATHRYN MEADE: Yes. I'm here.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. You also have 18 three minutes. We're going to set our timer. And 19 before you begin, if you could please state and spell 20 your name, and then we'll start the timer.

MS. KATHRYN MEADE: Okay. My name is Kathryn
Meade; that's K-A-T-H-R-Y-N M-E-A-D-E. I'm a

resident of Chicago and a member of the Coalition to
 Democratize ComEd.

3 The voluntary moratorium on utility 4 shutoff is set to expire on September 1st, but this moratorium needs to be extended until the end of the 5 6 COVID crisis, which includes the period of economic 7 recovery. The pandemic is not over. On the contrary, numbers of cases are on the rise again in 8 9 Illinois just as schools across the state are poised 10 to reopen.

11 Access to utilities -- like, water and electricity -- are human rights at any time, but it 12 13 is reckless to allow a utility shutoff during a 14 public health crisis, making people unable to wash 15 their hands, cook food, or safely shelter in place. Summer is not yet over. Last year in 16 17 Illinois temperatures reached 97 degrees in 18 mid-September. It was 87 degrees here in Chicago on 19 the first day in October. Our beaches are closed. 20 Residents of Illinois need a way to stay hydrated and 21 to cool off in their homes. This is an issue of life 22 and death, especially for isolated older adults and

1 low-income residents.

As we head into the colder months, 2 3 people need to be able to heat their homes. Poorly 4 heated or cooled homes can cause adverse health conditions, like, asthma and respiratory conditions. 5 6 We know these make COVID more dangerous. A second 7 wave of COVID this fall could trigger another round of shutdowns and business closures at the height of 8 winter -- again an issue of life and death. 9 10 Before the COVID crisis even began, 11 nearly 90 percent of low-income homeowners in Chicago said they faced energy insecurity -- meaning, they 12 13 have to choose between paying their utility bills and 14 buying essentials, like, groceries and prescription drugs. No one should have to make these choices. 15 Last year ComEd shut off electricity 16 17 to over 218,000 Northern Illinois homes. Since the 18 pandemic things have gotten even worse, with 19 unemployment still over 10 percent and people feeling more insecure than ever. ComEd's now under federal 20 investigation for corruption and bribery. We simply 21 22 cannot allow our neighbors to be without water, gas,

1 and electric during a pandemic, while corrupt private 2 utility companies like ComEd profit.

3 Statewide, we cannot trust these 4 private utility companies to act in our public interest. The No Ameren Shutoff campaign downstate 5 6 has been organized by over a dozen grassroots 7 organizations to protect our vulnerable citizens. 8 The health crisis is ongoing. Shutting off utilities will only cause suffering and 9 10 spread the coronavirus. It's in all of our best 11 interests to feel safe and secure in our homes during a pandemic, and this includes energy security. 12 The 13 utility moratorium must be extended indefinitely, 14 until the COVID crisis is over. 15 Thank you. CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Ms. Meade. 16 Next is Mr. John Keating. 17 18 Mr. Keating, are you there? 19 MR. JOHN KEATING: I'm here. Can you hear and 20 see me? 21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Yes, we can. 22 Same thing: You'll have three minutes.

1 If you could state and spell your name, and then 2 we'll start the timer.

3 MR. JOHN KEATING: All right. My name is John 4 Keating, J-O-H-N K-E-A-T-I-N-G. I am a cofounder of 5 Education and Action Together, a local community 6 organization here in Springfield as well as a 7 candidate for the 96th District of the Illinois State 8 House of Representatives.

9 I'm not speaking here as just a 10 candidate; I'm speaking here as a father, as a son of 11 parents who rely on oxygen and other medical devices. 12 Turning off water during a health crisis, when 13 washing hands is one of the best ways to mitigate the 14 spread, is unconscionable.

We've seen an area in this district 15 and across Illinois, unemployment rates over 30 16 17 percent. That's something that hasn't been seen 18 since the great depression, and it's something that 19 prevents folks from having the basic human rights -access to things that are their basic human rights. 20 21 But this just isn't an issue of 22 conscious; this is an issue of constitution.

Students have a right to public education, free and 1 2 equal. Turning off the power when a majority of 3 districts in Illinois are going to remote learning 4 deprives them of that right to an education and opens the state to federal lawsuits that are going to 5 6 decimate an already decimated budget. 7 That concludes my remarks. Thank you. 8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Keating. 9 Fourth, Ms. Cristal Caballero. 10 Ms. Caballero, are you on? 11 (No response.) 12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Ms. Caballero? 13 (No response.) 14 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Looks like you're 15 not on. 16 Okay. Fifth, we have Mr. Jared Miller. 17 Mr. Miller, are you on? 18 19 (No response.) 20 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Not as well? Okay. All right. This concludes our public comments. So we're 21 22 moving on to our Public Utilities Agenda.

There are edits to the July 29th, 1 2020, Regular Open Meeting Minutes. 2 3 Are there any objections to approving 4 the Minutes as edited? 5 (No response.) CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Minutes 6 7 are approved. 8 Item E-1 concerns Docket 19-0855, which is a complaint against ComEd regarding net 9 10 metering. The complainant argues that ComEd should have reimbursed him for the electricity generated by 11 his solar array as soon as the smart meter was able 12 13 to make the readings. ComEd filed a motion to 14 dismiss the proceeding, arguing that the governing staff -- excuse me -- the governing tariff, Rider 15 POGNM, precludes the complainant from receiving 16 17 credit or compensation before the retail consumer's 18 normally scheduled meter reading or billing cycle 19 date. The Order dismisses the Complaint. 20 Are there any comments on this matter? 21 (No response.) 22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I have a couple comments

1 I'd like to make.

2 I agree that we are bound by the 3 language of Rider POGNM, but I'm concerned that the 4 outcome of today's decision is unfair to the customer in this docket and any other customers who installs 5 6 solar panels and expect the benefits of the smart 7 meters that were advertised to them when they were requested to fund the extensive AMI investment. 8 9 But, perhaps more than that, I worry 10 that the language creates a bureaucratic hurdle and 11 makes the rider detached from the technological and policy reality and conflicts with the goals of the 12 13 AMI investment. As a trained engineer, my hope is 14 that the installed AMI meters allow innovation and 15 technology to make the Illinois grid superior. We are a restructured state. As 16 17 regulators, we have a responsibility to ensure that a 18 robust retail marketplace exists to provide a myriad 19 of products and services that customers have wished 20 for. These products need the real-time data that AMI technology offers. The smart meters enable 21 22 instantaneous reading of the customer data in order

1 for customers, not just utilities, to realize
2 benefits of a smarter grid. Customers have paid for
3 the AMI investment and deserve the ability to access
4 the data.

It certainly was not an intended 5 6 consequence of the IEMA legislation that an ICC rider will prevent the customers from enjoying the benefits 7 of the AEMI [sic] infrastructure. And I would 8 9 encourage the Commission staff and electric utilities 10 to work together to come forward with proposed amendments to Rider POGNM and all other riders to 11 bring them into the 21st century and align them with 12 13 the IEMA goals. 14 Are there any objections to approving the Order? 15 16 (No response.) 17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order 18 is approved. 19 Items E-2 through E-10 concern 20 applications for certifications to install 21 Distributed Generation Facilities in Illinois. The

Order grants the certificates, finding that the

22

1 applicants meet the requirements.

2 Are there any objections to 3 considering these items together and approving the 4 Orders? 5 (No response.) 6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Orders 7 are approved. 8 Item E-11 concerns Docket 20-123, which is Ameren's request to reconcile revenue under 9 10 its Hazardous Materials Adjustment Clause Rider, or HMAC Rider, for the 2019 calendar year. The Order 11 approves the reconciliation as set in the Appendix to 12 13 the Order, finding these costs prudently incurred. 14 Are there any objections to approving the Order? 15 16 (No response.) 17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order 18 is approved. 19 Item E-12 concerns Docket 20-0426, 20 which is Ameren's filing to create a new 21 reconciliation tariff, Rider Modernization Action 22 Plan-Reconciliation, or Rider MAP-R. Ameren proposed

this tariff as a methodology to address the 1 transition away from annual formula rate updates 2 3 implemented under Rate MAP-P. The Commission staff 4 recommends that the Commission resuspend the filing because the Commission's investigation into the 5 matter has not concluded, and it is necessary to 6 7 extend the period of suspension for an additional six 8 months. 9 Are there any objections to approving 10 the Resuspension Order? 11 (No response.) 12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order 13 is approved. 14 Item E-13 concerns an application for certification to install, maintain, or repair 15 electric vehicle charging facilities. The order 16 grants the license, finding that the applicant meets 17 18 the requirements. 19 Are there any objections to approving the Order? 20 21 (No response.) 22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order

1 is approved.

2 Item E-14 concerns a petition to cancel a license as an Alternative Retail Electric 3 4 Supplier. The petitioner notes that it ceased operations and sold its assets. The Order cancels 5 6 the certificate, finding that it is not contrary to 7 the public interest and will not deprive customers of any necessary service. 8 9 Are there an objections to approving 10 the Order? 11 (No response.) 12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order 13 is approved. 14 Item E-15 concerns an application for 15 a license to operate as retail electric agents, brokers, and consultants in Illinois. The Order 16 17 grants the license, finding that the applicant meets 18 the requirements. 19 Are there any objections to approving the Order? 20 21 (No response.) 22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order

1 is approved.

2 Items E-15 through E-19 concern 3 applications for certifications to install energy 4 efficiency measures in Illinois. The Orders grant the certificates, finding that the applicants meet 5 6 the requirements. 7 Are there any objections to 8 considering these items together and approving the 9 Orders? 10 (No response.) 11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Orders 12 are approved. 13 Under our Gas items: Item G-1 concerns 14 Nicor Gas's reconciliation of revenues collected 15 under its coal tar riders for the calendar year of 2019. The Order approves the reconciliation as set 16 in the Appendix to the Order, finding that the costs 17 during the reconciliation period were prudently 18 19 incurred. 20 Are there any objections to approving 21 the Order? 22 (No response.)

CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order
 is approved.

Item G-2 concerns Liberty Utilities' 3 4 request to reconcile its revenues under its Rider Volume Balancing Adjustment, or Rider VBA, for the 5 2019 calendar year. The Order approves the 6 7 reconciliation as set in the Appendix to the Order, finding that the costs during the reconciliation 8 9 period were prudently incurred. 10 Are there any objections to approving 11 the Order? 12 (No response.) 13 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order 14 is approved? 15 Item G-3 concerns a petition to cancel a license as an Alternative Gas Supplier. The 16 17 petitioner has ceased operations and sold its assets. 18 The Order cancels the certificate, finding that it is 19 not contrary to the public interest and will not deprive customers of any necessary service. 20 21 Are there any objections to approving 22 the Order?

1	(No response.)							
2	CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order							
3	is approved.							
4	Under our Telecommunications items:							
5	Item T-1 concerns a joint application by Frontier							
6	Communications and its various affiliates for							
7	approval of its plan of reorganization. The							
8	Commission staff has reviewed the reorganization plan							
9	and has no objections to it. The Order approves the							
10	reorganization plan and disallows the applicants from							
11	recovering any costs incurred in accomplishing the							
12	proposed reorganization in future Illinois rate							
13	proceedings.							
14	Are there any objections to approving							
15	the Order?							
16	(No response.)							
17	CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order							
18	is approved.							
19	There are no Gas [sic] and Sewer							
20	items.							
21	Under our Miscellaneous items:							
22	Item M-1 concerns a Notice of Inquiry, or NOI,							

regarding rate design and affordability with respect
 to transportation electrification and other
 beneficial electrification.

The Commission seeks additional detail 4 5 regarding rate design including information on the 6 impact of electricity rate design in transportation 7 electrification, or TE, and TE infrastructure adoption. The Commission is also seeking information 8 9 on the impacts of electricity rate design on the 10 deployment of beneficial electrification more broadly 11 and information on what specific rate design should be adopted in Illinois. The Commission is further 12 13 interested in identifying the impact of such rates on 14 electric service and its affordability.

Accordingly, the Commission initiates this Notice of Inquiry as a vehicle for gathering information on these matters. The Notice sets deadlines for November 16th, 2020, for submission of initial comments and December 18th, 2020, for reply comments.

21 And I have a couple of comments I'd 22 like to add:

The transportation sector is among the 1 largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human 2 3 activities. Electrifying the transportation sector 4 is important and a necessary step to decarbonizing Illinois. While there are fewer than 25,000 5 6 registered electric vehicles on the road in Illinois, 7 it is the hope and expectation that this number will 8 rise.

9 As regulators, we have to ensure that 10 energy practices in Illinois do not impair beneficial 11 electrification adoption and deployment. Equally important is to identify the impact of rate designs 12 13 on electric service affordability so that we can 14 structure our rates accordingly in the future. This NOI will enable the Commission to gather information 15 to ensure that we have the support for the EV 16 17 adoption in our state.

18 Are there any other comments?
19 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Chair Zalewski, this
20 is Commissioner Bocanegra. Court Reporter, if you
21 have trouble understanding me, please let me know.
22 I want to start by saying today's a

very important day here in Illinois. I want to thank 1 Chair Zalewski, my fellow Commissioners in bringing 2 3 this matter before us today. I want to echo all of 4 Chair Zalewski's remarks and highlight the significance of this Notice of Inquiry for Illinois. 5 6 The future of transportation, from 7 personal use vehicles and public transit to package delivery trucks and industrial cargo fleets, will 8 undergo a transformation in the coming years. 9 This 10 investigation will address key questions about the 11 transition to transportation electrification: first, what Illinois must do to embrace and implement such 12 13 changes and, two, the impact on our ratepayers. 14 It is expected that, despite the economic effects of COVID-19, the share of EV users 15 in this country will continue to rise. This paired 16 17 with large-scale industrial adoption in transition to electric over fossil fuels will require that we 18 19 proactively address the impact on our grid to ensure efficient and reliable energy while meeting our 20 state's larger decarbonization goals. 21

I truly am looking forward to the

robust conversations from all of our stakeholders 1 implicated in this important issue. 2 3 Thank you. 4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Commissioner. Any other comments? 5 6 (No response.) 7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections 8 to approving the Notice of Inquiry. 9 (No response.) 10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Notice 11 of Inquiry is approved. 12 Under our Petitions for Rehearing: 13 Item PR-1 concerns Docket 19-0808, which is a 14 complaint against ComEd alleging that its smart meter 15 refusal fee is arbitrary and improper. The complainant has filed an application for rehearing, 16 stating that ComEd never addressed his claim of 17 extortion. 18 19 The Commission denies rehearing for 20 two reasons: First, the complainant failed to file 21 his application for rehearing within 30 days after 22 service of the Order; therefore, it was not timely

filed. Second, the complainant does not bring up any 1 2 new arguments or evidence to justify rehearing. 3 Are there any objections to denying 4 the Application for Rehearing? 5 (No response.) 6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the 7 Application is denied. Under our Other Business items: 8 9 Item 0-1 concerns approval of batches, contracts, and 10 confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block 11 Program. 12 Are there any objections to approving 13 the program administrator's Submissions? 14 (No response.) 15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Submissions are approved. 16 Item O-2 concerns authorization for 17 the Commission's executive director to execute a 18 19 contract for court reporting services for the Commission's Chicago office for fiscal years 2021 20 21 through 2023. 22 Are there any objections to

authorizing the executive director to execute the 1 2 contract? 3 (No response.) 4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the 5 authorization is granted. 6 This concludes our Public Utilities 7 Agenda. 8 Judge Teague Kingsley, do you -- we have any other matters to come before the Commission 9 10 todav? 11 JUDGE TEAGUE KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman. 12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Do any of the 13 Commissioners have any other business to discuss? 14 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Chair Zalewski, this 15 is Commissioner Bocanegra. I just quickly would like to share a quick update for everybody. 16 17 I just want to follow up to my recent remarks -- I believe it was last ROM -- where we gave 18 19 farewell to my prior legal and policy advisor fellow, 20 Will McCurry. I'm pleased to finally share that he 21 was recently selected to join NARUC, where he will be 22 working as a senior program officer in their Center

for Partnerships and Innovation, where he will be 1 primarily working with Staff on the newly and 2 3 recently created task force on emergency 4 preparedness. I just want to echo -- I'm so happy 5 6 for Will, but I also want to highlight that, you 7 know, we here at the ICC -- we strive to give our interns and fellows only the best experience and 8 9 exposure to utility regulation and policy issues. 10 And William no doubt took advantage of everything the 11 ICC had to offer. I'm proud of the work we did in helping him learn, grow, and excel. And I look 12 13 forward to interacting with William through NARUC in 14 the coming months and years. 15 That's all. Thank you. 16 That's great. CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thanks for 17 sharing. Do any other util- -- other 18 19 Commissioners have any business to discuss? 20 (No response.) 21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none and without 22 objections, this meeting stands adjourned.

1	Thank	you.			
2			(Whereu	ıpon	the matter
3			above	was	adjourned.)
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