

1                                   BEFORE THE  
2                                   ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION  
3                                   PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING  
4                                   Thursday, October 21, 2021  
5                                   Chicago, Illinois

6  
7           Met pursuant to notice via videoconference  
8   at 11:30 a.m. at 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago,  
9   Illinois.

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11                   PRESENT:

- 12                   CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman  
13                   D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner  
14                   MARIA S. BOCANEGRA, Commissioner  
15                   MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner

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21                   BRIDGES COURT REPORTING  
22                   BY: Jennifer Orozco, Notary Public

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Good morning. I have  
2 11:30.

3 Madam Clerk, are we ready to proceed  
4 in Springfield?

5 THE CLERK: We are, Madam Chair.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Then under  
7 the Open Meetings Act, I call the  
8 October 21st, 2021, Regular Open Meeting to order.

9 Commissioners Bocanegra, Carrigan,  
10 and Kimbrel are with me in Chicago. So we have a  
11 quorum.

12 We have no requests to speak.

13 Before we proceed with our agenda,  
14 for logistical reasons, we will first hear the  
15 report listed under Item 02 on today's agenda.

16 Item 02 concerns a report by the  
17 chief executive officer of Southern Company Gas,  
18 Ms. Kimberly Greene, and the president of Nicor  
19 Gas, Mr. John Hudson, on the compliance with  
20 Docket No. 15-0558.

21 Docket No. 15-0558 concerns a  
22 reorganization of Nicor Gas into Southern Company.

1 Ms. Greene and Mr. Hudson, if you  
2 want to come up and be seated, and then you may  
3 proceed.

4 If you could just state and spell  
5 your name for the court reporter, and then you may  
6 go ahead and give your remarks.

7 MS. GREENE: Thank you. I'm Kim Greene. K-I-M,  
8 Greene, G-R-E-E-N-E. And it's a pleasure to be  
9 with you all this morning, particularly in person.

10 Nicor Gas has now been a part of  
11 Southern Company's family for more than five years,  
12 and this is my fourth time having the privilege to  
13 present before you as chairman, president and CEO  
14 of Southern Company Gas.

15 In accordance with the agreed-upon  
16 commitments made to the Commission as part of the  
17 Southern Company merger approval process, John  
18 Hudson and I will be providing an update today on  
19 Southern Company Gas and Nicor Gas.

20 I'm here today to reinforce those  
21 merger commitments and I want to assure this  
22 Commission that we remain committed to both our

1 customers in Illinois and the communities that we  
2 serve.

3 Since the closing of the AGL  
4 Resources and Southern Company merger in 2016, we  
5 remain in full compliance with the merger  
6 conditions and all local, state and federal  
7 regulatory requirements with no issues to  
8 report.

9 We continue to provide access to  
10 clean, safe, and reliable natural gas service that  
11 our Illinois customers expect and deserve.

12 With respect to employment, we have  
13 met or exceeded all required employment thresholds,  
14 total employment, safety-related conditions, and  
15 executive management, and will continue to do so.

16 Our substantial infrastructures  
17 programs underway in Illinois create an ongoing  
18 need not only for internal skilled labor and  
19 corporate staff at Nicor Gas, but also for external  
20 resources provided by our labor partners.

21 In addition, the merger has not  
22 negatively impacted Nicor Gas' cost of capital. In

1 fact, the credit rating agencies have consistently  
2 noted the benefit Nicor Gas receives by  
3 being a part of the Southern Company family.

4 Maintaining store credit metrics supports a strong  
5 Nicor Gas.

6 We also continue to meet or exceed  
7 our community commitments. Our customers,  
8 neighbors, and communities deserve to have the  
9 support of strong corporate citizens such as Nicor  
10 Gas. We continue to invest more than \$2.2 million  
11 annually in our communities, funding, partnering  
12 with and volunteering to support a wide range of  
13 organizations. And that commitment continues to  
14 grow with new partnerships and alliances that John  
15 will speak to in greater detail.

16 Most importantly, we want our  
17 workforce and our purchasing to be reflective of  
18 the communities we serve because employee and  
19 supply diversity lead to local equitable  
20 prosperity.

21 The full details of our merger  
22 conditions compliance will be provided to the ICC

1 before year-end. I will add that since the merger,  
2 we have continued to demonstrate a strong track  
3 record of successful operation under the relevant  
4 conditions set forth and will for many years to  
5 come.

6                   Southern Company's focus is in  
7 providing excellent customer service across our gas  
8 and electric franchises. We work closely with each  
9 of our state-regulated utilities to reinvest  
10 capital, operate and construct a regulatory  
11 environment and have capital investment programs  
12 that support our number one value -- the safety of  
13 our employees and our communities.

14                   We are committed to serving existing  
15 and new customers with industry-related services  
16 and operational efficiency. In addition to safety,  
17 customer service remains a top focus of Southern  
18 Company and Southern Company Gas. As strong  
19 supporters of our communities in which we live  
20 and work, we share the concern about rising energy  
21 prices at a time when some customers continue to  
22 struggle in the wake of the pandemic.

1                   At Southern Company Gas, we are  
2 continuing with measures to moderate price spikes  
3 for natural gas by utilizing our storage fields,  
4 financial hedging strategies, and maintaining a  
5 diverse pipeline service portfolio across several  
6 pipelines. This allows gas to be purchased from  
7 all major supply regions. We maintain a broad  
8 portfolio of suppliers and utilize a combination of  
9 long, mid, and short-term purchasing strategies to  
10 mitigate customers' exposures to price swings and  
11 market volatility.

12                   John will speak more about additional  
13 efforts by Nicor Gas to ease the impact of natural  
14 gas price increases as well as bill payment and  
15 energy assistance options available to customers.

16                   Another top priority of Southern and  
17 Southern Company Gas is their recruitment,  
18 development, and retention of its employee talent.  
19 This fits well with our initiative in Illinois to  
20 maintain employment levels and hire and retain a  
21 well-qualified, capable and diverse workforce.

22                   Southern Company Gas has a proud

1 history of important work in diversity, equity, and  
2 inclusion. John will talk with you more about  
3 where we can and our influencing change,  
4 particularly in these areas of supplier diversity and  
5 sustainability.

6 Now nothing is more important to John  
7 and me than the safety and wellbeing of our  
8 employees, customers, and communities. I maintain  
9 that safety is not about counts and statistics;  
10 it's about people, human beings, and the communities  
11 we serve.

12 Both Southern Company Gas and Nicor  
13 Gas maintain strong records of compliance, safe  
14 operations and reliable delivery owing to the  
15 dedication of our employees and industry-leading  
16 practices. At every level we are committed to  
17 improvement by setting rigorous safety standards to  
18 ensure a safe and secure work environment across  
19 all of our operations, including Nicor Gas.

20 This continued emphasis on improving  
21 the safety and reliability of our system for the  
22 benefit of customers is supported by our



1 significant investment in energy infrastructure  
2 improvements, which John will speak to in greater  
3 detail.

4 We recognize the importance of  
5 natural gas as a fuel source for our customers and  
6 for economic development, particularly in heating  
7 homes and businesses through the winter.

8 When the pandemic began, we jumped to  
9 adapt and strengthen our efforts and protocols.  
10 I'm happy to continue to report that to this day,  
11 we have never had a break in service, despite the  
12 challenges brought by the virus and other factors  
13 like severe weather.

14 Protecting our employees and the  
15 customers we encounter for necessary service  
16 requests and jobs requires more than just BPE. It  
17 requires awareness and good judgment. I'm proud to  
18 speak about how our employees that answered the  
19 call and guarded the health of their colleagues and  
20 customers, upholding the stringent requirements set  
21 forth and going above and beyond wherever possible.

22 We continue to work with the CDC and

1 our medical directors to ascertain risk, PPE needs,  
2 and implementation tactics to track and mitigate  
3 the spread of the virus and its variants when  
4 working in our communities.

5 Safety is an extricable part of the  
6 Southern Gas family. It's part of our culture and  
7 that's why we remain steadfast in our efforts to  
8 continue adapting and evolving standards in this  
9 practice.

10 And although the virus continues to  
11 impact our lives, our relationships, and the way we  
12 do business, we are grateful for the progress made  
13 and are hopeful that now wide availability and use  
14 of the vaccines will continue to move us quickly in  
15 the right direction.

16 Now let's move quickly to climate.  
17 Climate change is real, and Southern Company is  
18 committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions  
19 to net zero in providing new customers and  
20 communities we serve with a clean energy future.

21 This is about far more than  
22 decarbonization. It goes to putting customers at

1 the center of everything we do, building a  
2 sustainable workforce, and making sure that  
3 communities are better off because we're there.  
4 This approach is embedded in our values and our  
5 DNA, and we know that it is the right way to drive  
6 long-term performance.

7           We set a GHG emissions reduction goal  
8 of net-zero emissions by 2050. At the same time, we  
9 reaffirmed our intermediate goal of 50 percent  
10 reduction in greenhouse gas emission from 2007  
11 levels by 2030. These are enterprise-wide goals  
12 across electric and gas operations.

13           In 2020, the Southern Company system  
14 reduced greenhouse gas emissions 52 percent from  
15 2007 levels, exceeding our 2030 goal. While  
16 emissions reductions may fluctuate around 50  
17 percent in the next few years, depending on demand,  
18 weather, and other factors, the system expects to  
19 sustainably achieve 50 percent reduction or greater  
20 by 2025, if not sooner.

21           The Nicor Gas' Renewable Gas  
22 Interconnection Pilot recently approved by the ICC

1 provides an excellent opportunity for us to learn  
2 more about the benefits that sourced renewable fuels  
3 can bring to our customers, our communities, and the  
4 environment, as well as sparking economic  
5 development in our service territory.

6 In closing, the safety and wellbeing  
7 of our customers, our communities, and our employees  
8 always remains my top concern. Coupled with a  
9 strong focus on customer service and a constructive  
10 regulatory environment, we look forward to  
11 providing efficient and effective natural gas  
12 service to our Illinois customers in the years  
13 ahead.

14 Again, thank you for your time today,  
15 and I'll pass things over to John.

16 MR. HUDSON: Thank you, Kim. And good  
17 morning, Commissioners. It's good to be here with  
18 you in person after ongoing circumstances that have  
19 so greatly impacted us and the way we connect and do  
20 business with each other.

21 I'd like to begin with an especially  
22 important conversation about energy supply and gas

1 prices as the months steer us towards the 2021-2022  
2 winter heating season.

3 As we emerged from the pandemic,  
4 economic growth is reignited. Factories are  
5 reopening, manufacturing is picking up, which is a  
6 very, very good thing. But with this growth, we also  
7 are seeing high demand for natural gas at a time  
8 when production and supply have not yet caught up.

9 Volatile commodity prices, coupled with  
10 disruptions to gas infrastructure due to severe  
11 weather events, like Hurricane Ida, are driving  
12 prices to highs that haven't been seen since the  
13 2007-2008 winter heating season.

14 The U.S. is working hard to address  
15 this issue by increasing storage inventories and  
16 tidying up shortage deficits. But this is not just  
17 a U.S. problem. Unfortunately, the world's natural  
18 gas markets are all interconnected, meaning  
19 critically low supply across Europe and Asia will  
20 spur even greater volatility.

21 While high demand often signals a  
22 recovering or growing economy, low supply

1 disproportionately impacts those experiencing  
2 economic hardship.

3 This, coupled with the United States'  
4 current brush with inflation, means that efforts,  
5 aid, and commitments made during the pandemic  
6 cannot stop now. And we at Nicor don't plan to  
7 stop offering the support our customers need.

8 Our storage facilities, buying  
9 strategies, diversified portfolio suppliers, and  
10 optimize pipeline assets all help to mitigate price  
11 swings, as Kim mentioned earlier, and serve as a  
12 critical safety net to insulate and protect  
13 customers from the fluctuations that impact their  
14 monthly bill.

15 But let's be clear. These assets and  
16 strategies, although extremely helpful, are not  
17 enough to completely offset the market forces  
18 causing natural gas to spike at this time.

19 Our current gas supply charge  
20 includes an unforeseen increase in gas cost due to  
21 the February winter storms that impacted natural gas  
22 prices during and immediately following the extreme

1 and unpredictable weather.

2 To ease the impact of those  
3 unexpected costs, which are a pass-through on our  
4 bills, we've extended the duration of the recovery  
5 of those costs, resulting in a lower cost per month  
6 on customers' bills.

7 These types of efforts definitely  
8 will help, but unfortunately our customers, many of  
9 whom are still challenged by financial and life  
10 hardships caused by the pandemic, will face some  
11 significantly high bills during this winter heating  
12 season.

13 And although these costs are out of  
14 our control, we absolutely acknowledge them and  
15 believe it is our responsibility to support those  
16 who disproportionately struggle with this  
17 significant economic burden.

18 With that in mind, Nicor Gas remains  
19 steadfast in support of our communities and our  
20 customers, not just with sympathy, but with genuine  
21 empathy.

22 Since January of 2020, Nicor Gas

1 customers received approximately \$70 million in  
2 energy assistance through programs like LIHEAP, PIPP  
3 and our own energy aid program which provides  
4 qualified households with monetary relief for  
5 energy bills. As a result of COVID-19, customer  
6 need for energy assistance has scaled considerably,  
7 and so has the depth of our support.

8           Beyond the expansion of our existing  
9 payment assistance programs, we are announcing  
10 today a new assistance program with the Salvation  
11 Army. Nicor Gas and its parent company have  
12 donated \$5 million to the Salvation Army of Metro  
13 Chicago for a new bill payment assistance and  
14 essential services program called Shield of Caring.  
15 This program is estimated to support 25,000  
16 families in Illinois and will expand income  
17 thresholds from 300 percent of the federal poverty  
18 line to 400 percent.

19           The program will provide wraparound  
20 services such as case management, emergency housing  
21 assistance, housing and rental assistance, food  
22 boxes, mobile feeding, and homeless outreach and



1 winter warmth and coat drives.

2 We know the need is even greater at  
3 this time. So our philanthropic efforts also will  
4 provide other basic needs to address additional  
5 challenges our customers are facing, like food,  
6 clothing, and shelter. Our goal since the beginning  
7 of the pandemic continues to be ensuring those  
8 customers most in need have options and support.  
9 We're committed to helping 250,000 families meet  
10 their basic needs with the support of strategic  
11 partners like the Greater Chicago Food Depository,  
12 Operation Warm, PADS and more to address food  
13 insecurity, homelessness and housing advocacy.

14 Additionally, Nicor Gas is in  
15 partnership with Goodher, a minority female-owned  
16 tech start-up, to conduct three pop-up grocery  
17 stand events in income-eligible communities. We  
18 are pairing the events with the distribution of  
19 energy-saving kits and information about energy  
20 efficiency offerings.

21 In the spring of 2020 and again in  
22 the winter, Nicor Gas teamed up with Shipt and

1 other local food distributors to create care  
2 packages for customers which included food items,  
3 paper goods and toiletries, hand sanitizer, and  
4 produce.

5 Customers with a demonstrated need  
6 were offered a care package and were presented with  
7 free energy-efficiency products. We're currently  
8 negotiating a third round of support for this  
9 effort for the upcoming winter heating season.

10 In addition to providing direct  
11 financial support and other resources for customers  
12 needing bill payment assistance, we believe we can  
13 attack the root causes of some of the poverty we  
14 see in our customer base. With this in mind, we  
15 launched a new foundation just this week, Northern  
16 Illinois Community Initiatives, an organization  
17 focused on economic development in our most  
18 distressed communities.

19 NICI was founded to help fund  
20 critical neighborhood revitalization projects that  
21 will spur equitable economic development in  
22 underserved areas within Nicor's footprint.

1                   NICI is working with local  
2 stakeholders, business leaders, and investors on  
3 strategies that have the potential for transformative  
4 regional impact.

5                   In support of its focus on long-term  
6 impact, NICI is also committed to investing in the  
7 basic needs of its communities in areas such as  
8 housing and health.

9                   In terms of innovation and  
10 sustainability, Nicor Gas took a bold step of  
11 setting a goal of becoming methane emissions  
12 neutral from our operations by 2030. We are a leader  
13 in emissions reductions through infrastructure  
14 modernizations projects and decarbonization  
15 initiatives, including the introduction of low  
16 carbon fuels to our distribution system.

17                   Renewable natural gas will be a  
18 critical component to support greenhouse gas  
19 emission reductions in Illinois. One step towards  
20 this goal is the current renewable natural gas  
21 interconnection pilot program that you approved  
22 earlier this year. Thank you again for your

1 support of this very important initiative.

2 RNG offers an economical pathway for  
3 reducing operational emissions and supporting the  
4 local development, revenue streams, and job creation  
5 being experienced in other areas of the country  
6 right here in Illinois.

7 Strategic deployment of programs such  
8 as this one will transform the high cost of  
9 disposing waste into a local asset that would spur  
10 employment, business, and investment opportunities.  
11 The use of renewable gas allows us to reduce  
12 emissions across our operations and elevate our  
13 communities through improved air quality, energy  
14 savings and access to a sustainable, abundant, and  
15 renewable fuel source.

16 Nicor Gas remains resolved to lead  
17 the transition to a clean energy economy through  
18 industry-leading innovations and strategies that  
19 influence larger change across the natural gas  
20 supply chain by doing business with companies that  
21 share our commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable  
22 future.

1                   This leads me to the importance of  
2 the companies we choose to work with. At Nicor Gas  
3 supplier diversity is not only a program or  
4 initiative, but a strategic business imperative.

5                   Nicor Gas' supplier diversity program  
6 has an impressive track record of success. In  
7 April of this year, we submitted our supplier  
8 diversity report to the ICC, which detailed a total  
9 spend of \$449 million, or 47 percent of the  
10 company's overall spend, focused on development of  
11 minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses. More  
12 than 41 percent of that total was directed to  
13 Illinois-based business partners.

14                   Despite the rapidly transforming  
15 environment due to the pandemic, the company  
16 progressed with building and developing  
17 relationships with diverse partners and  
18 subcontractors using new strategies to advocate  
19 for diverse businesses, including education,  
20 transparency, access, and mentoring through virtual  
21 development at matchmaking events.

22                   Again, thank you for your

1 encouragement and, frankly, your admonition  
2 regarding our supplier diversity efforts.

3           Lastly, I'll talk a minute or two  
4 about Pembroke Township. Our care and empathy  
5 extends beyond our customers and the communities we  
6 already serve. We also care about a great deal our  
7 communities that do not have access to affordable  
8 and reliable energy. And we believe everyone  
9 deserves a choice in fuels, including access to  
10 clean, safe, reliable, affordable natural gas.

11           This year we worked with local and  
12 national groups on legislation to bring natural gas  
13 as a fuel source to a community faced with economic  
14 hardship that historically lacked affordable energy  
15 options.

16           Natural gas is an energy source that  
17 eight out of ten Illinois homes choose to cook and  
18 stay warm with. However, the families and  
19 businesses in Hopkins Park currently do not have  
20 that choice and instead must rely on propane at a  
21 cost of \$500 to \$800 a month, wood-burning stoves,  
22 or electrical space heaters for their energy needs.

1 These choices are not only costly, but also impose  
2 a safety risk. By fueling equity from both the  
3 social and economic participation in the energy  
4 system, we can also remediate social, financial,  
5 and health burdens on those disproportionately  
6 harmed by cultural and economic exclusion.

7 And energy brings other essential  
8 needs that are often taken for granted in more  
9 affluent communities, such as schools, healthcare,  
10 human, and emergency services.

11 Nicor Gas and its parent, Southern  
12 Company Gas, have great respect for the  
13 significance of Pembroke's black farming community  
14 and for preserving open lands that are working hard  
15 to meet the general assembly's goal of bringing  
16 natural gas as a fuel option to this community.

17 I'll end here by reiterating that  
18 Nicor Gas has and will continue to face new and  
19 ongoing challenges together with our customers and  
20 our communities. We are supporting their basic  
21 needs, providing energy assistance, and working with  
22 charitable organizations and creative partnerships

1 that provide relief to those we serve while forging  
2 ahead to fuel equity, innovation, sustainability,  
3 and environmental progress.

4 I want to thank the Commission for  
5 allowing us to do this, for having great vision and  
6 for always making sure we focus on what's best for  
7 our communities. Most importantly, I want to thank  
8 you for your leadership.

9 Kim and I are happy to address any  
10 questions you may have following our time together  
11 today. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Ms. Greene and Mr.  
13 Hudson, thank you for being here today and thank  
14 you for providing the information.

15 So I'm going to open it up to  
16 questions from Commissioners.

17 Do Commissioners have any questions?

18 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Thank you, Chairman.  
19 I have a brief question, and perhaps it's part of a  
20 larger conversation, so I want to be cognizant of  
21 time.

22 Mr. Hudson, my question for you is



1 regarding Nicor's efforts moving toward, you know,  
2 reducing methane emissions. Do you know what types  
3 of investments, as you get to that, are to remain  
4 local or in state or within your service territory?

5 MR. HUDSON: If you could just ask that  
6 question one more time.

7 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Sure.

8 MR. HUDSON: As we move toward reducing...

9 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Your methane  
10 emissions --

11 MR. HUDSON: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: -- is -- are any of  
13 those efforts or investments local?

14 MR. HUDSON: Yes. So -- first of all, thank  
15 you again for the renewable natural gas pilot that  
16 we have.

17 And, again, as we said earlier, the  
18 RNG pilot is a really significant part of how we  
19 get to our methane emissions goals. And the  
20 objective around that is really to create all those  
21 opportunities for local businesses. So not only do  
22 those renewable natural gas projects create

1 opportunities for us to lower our emissions, but  
2 they create job opportunities for people who live  
3 in and around those projects.

4 So does that get to your -- to your  
5 question at all?

6 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Yes. That was  
7 helpful. Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Thank you for  
9 your time. We appreciate it.

10 MS. GREENE: Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: So we're moving on to  
12 our Public Utilities agenda.

13 Under our Electric Items, Item E-1  
14 concerns an investigation into National Gas and  
15 Electric's sale, solicitation, marketing, and  
16 reporting practices. The order approves the  
17 settlement agreement under which, among other  
18 requirements, National Gas and Electric will refund  
19 its eligible customers \$1.25 million and will pay  
20 an additional \$250,000 into the Illinois DCEO's  
21 LIHEAP program.

22 I'm going to call a roll on this

1 vote. So if you're in favor of approving this  
2 settlement, please say "Aye." And if you are  
3 opposed, please say "Nay."

4 Commissioner Bocanegra?

5 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Nay.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Carrigan?

7 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Aye.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Kimbrel?

9 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Aye.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I vote aye. So the  
11 three ayes have it and the order is approved.

12 Item E-2 concerns a complaint  
13 regarding improperly installed distributed  
14 generation projects. The complainants filed a  
15 motion for voluntarily -- excuse me -- voluntary  
16 dismissal of the complaint without prejudice. The  
17 order grants the motion.

18 Are there any objections to approving  
19 the order?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order  
22 is approved.

1                   Items E-4 and -- excuse me -- E-3 and  
2 E-4 concern Alpha Gas and Electric's request for  
3 confidential treatment of its annual compliance  
4 reports. The requested relief was already granted  
5 in other dockets and the petitioner now requested  
6 to withdraw the petitions.

7                   Are there any objections to  
8 considering these items together and granting the  
9 motions to withdraw?

10                   (No response.)

11                   CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
12 motions to withdraw are approved.

13                   Items E-5 and E-6 concern applications  
14 for a certification to operate as an installer of  
15 distributed generation facilities in Illinois. The  
16 orders grant the certificates finding that the  
17 applicants meet the requirements.

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

21                   (No response.)

22                   CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders

1 are approved.

2 Item E-7 concerns a complaint  
3 requesting documentation from ComEd to support a  
4 past debt that ComEd was allegedly attempting to  
5 collect. The parties filed a stipulation and joint  
6 motion to dismiss with prejudice, stipulating that  
7 all matters in dispute have been resolved.

8 Are there any objections to granting  
9 the motion to dismiss?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion  
12 to dismiss is granted.

13 Items E-8 and E-9 concern applications  
14 for certification to install, maintain, or repair  
15 electric vehicle charging station facilities in  
16 Illinois. The orders grant the certificates  
17 finding that the applicants meet the requirements.

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

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders

1 are approved.

2 Item E-10 concerns Docket 21-0654,  
3 which is Ameren's application for authority to  
4 incur up to \$170 million in debt pursuant to  
5 Section 6-102 of the Public Utilities Act. The  
6 order grants the authority and directs Ameren to  
7 comply with Section 6-108 of the Act.

8 Are there any objections to approving  
9 the order?

10 (No response.)

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

13 Items E-11 through E-14 concern  
14 applications for certifications to install energy  
15 efficiency measures in Illinois. The orders grant  
16 the certificates finding that the applicants meet  
17 the requirements.

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

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders

1 are approved.

2 Moving on to our Gas Items. Item G-1  
3 concerns Mid-American's request to reconcile  
4 revenues under its purchased gas adjustment clause  
5 for the 2020 calendar year. The order approves the  
6 reconciliation as set in the appendix to the order  
7 findings that the costs during the reconciliation  
8 period were prudently incurred.

9 Are there any objections to approving  
10 the order?

11 (No response.)

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

14 Under our Telecommunications Items,  
15 Item T-1 concerns a petition for confidential  
16 treatment of the petitioner's report. The relief  
17 sought in this petition has already been granted in  
18 another docket and the petitioner now wishes to  
19 withdraw this duplicate petition.

20 Are there any objections to granting  
21 the motion to withdraw?

22 (No response.)

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

3 Under Other Business, Item O-1  
4 concerns an item necessary to comply with the  
5 requirements of Public Act 102-0662 regarding  
6 establishing cumulative persisting annual savings  
7 or CPAS goals for energy efficiency measures for  
8 comment in Ameren for the years 2031 through 2035.

9 Commission Staff recommends that the  
10 Commission decline to initiate proceedings to  
11 establish CPAS goals for 2031 through 2035 for  
12 ComEd and Ameren at this point, and instead allow  
13 the default statutory CPAS goals set forth in  
14 Sections 8-103B(b-5) and 8-103B(b-15) of the Act to  
15 take effect by operation of law.

16 ComEd and Ameren have expressed  
17 concern that it may be impossible to meet even the  
18 lower threshold percentage point increases to the  
19 CPAS goals set forth in these sections. However,  
20 Staff has recommended declining to initiate  
21 proceedings because Staff believes it is impossible  
22 due to the time constraint to develop the required



1 evidentiary record upon which to base its decision  
2 on CPAS goals due to the fact that the independent  
3 analysis and energy efficiency potential study are  
4 not available.

5           Per Staff's recommendation, the  
6 Commission directs Staff to continue discussions  
7 with interested stakeholders and the utilities on a  
8 process by which the default statutory CPAS goals  
9 could be altered at a future date and include such  
10 a process in the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy  
11 Manual version 3.0 or such other forum, venue,  
12 proceeding, or process that the Staff deems  
13 appropriate.

14           Are there any objections to approving  
15 these Staff directions?

16           (No response.)

17           CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
18 directions are approved.

19           Item 0-2 concerns the Southern Company  
20 and Nicor Gas' report under Docket Number 15-0558  
21 that we heard earlier. No action is being taken on  
22 this report today.

1                   So this concludes our Public  
2 Utilities agenda. Judge Teague-Kingsley, do we  
3 have other matters to come before the Commission  
4 today?

5                   THE JUDGE: No, Madam Chairman.

6                   CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Do any other Commissioners  
7 have business to discuss?

8                   I just want to remind customers that  
9 if they do receive a disconnection notice, that  
10 they can avoid being shut off if they quickly act,  
11 call their utility and work out a deferred payment  
12 arrangement. The utility can explain what  
13 resources exist to help customers such as some of the  
14 resources that Mr. Hudson noted today in his remarks.

15                   And as always, the Illinois Commerce  
16 Commission stands ready to assist customers help  
17 navigate their options. ICC has both English and  
18 Spanish-speaking consumer counselors who can help  
19 file a complaint Monday through Friday, 8:30 to  
20 5:00. The number to call is 800-524-0795. There's  
21 additional information on our website at  
22 [icc.illinois.gov](http://icc.illinois.gov) under the consumers tab.

1 I also want to remind customers, as  
2 we approach the winter months, that there is still  
3 funding available through the State's Low Income  
4 Home Energy Assistance or LIHEAP program. LIHEAP  
5 provides funding for low income residents for home  
6 energy services.

7 Last year Illinois expanded LIHEAP  
8 eligibility to make funds more available for those  
9 who need them. To enroll in LIHEAP, apply at  
10 [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) or call 1-877-411-WARM,  
11 or 9276.

12 So without objection, the meeting is  
13 adjourned. Thank you.

14 (Which were all the proceedings  
15 had at this time, date, and  
16 place.)