

1 BEFORE THE
2 ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
3 PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING
4 Thursday, December 15, 2022
5 Chicago, Illinois

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

10 PRESENT:

11 CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chair

12 ANN McCABE, Commissioner

13 D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner

14 MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner
15
16
17
18
19
20

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

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Good morning. I have 11:30.
2 Are we ready to proceed in Springfield?

3 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Madam Chair, we are
4 ready.

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: That's great.

6 We are streaming in from the eighth
7 floor. I want to give a special shout out and special
8 thanks to the IT team, Brad, Tim, Jamar, Paul, and
9 everyone else who helped us get back into our room
10 after the renovations. It looks great, and we
11 appreciate the work to get it done.

12 Under the Open Meetings Act, I call the
13 December 15, 2022, Regular Open Meeting to order.

14 Commissioner Carrigan is in
15 Springfield. Commissioners Kimbrel and McCabe are with
16 me in Chicago. We have a quorum.

17 We have no requests to speak.

18 (WHEREUPON, the Transportation Agenda
19 was held at 11:31 AM.)

20 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: We're moving on to our Public
21 Utilities Agenda.

22 There are edits to the November 17,

1 2022, Regular Open Meeting Minutes. Are there any
2 objections to approving the Minutes as edited?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the minutes are
5 approved.

6 Moving on to our Electric Utilities
7 Items. Items E-1 through E-17 concern initiating
8 orders to terminate abandoned licenses. Respondents
9 are licensed to operate as agents, brokers, and
10 consultants of retail electricity. Staff filed reports
11 finding that the Respondents failed to file their
12 Compliance Recertification Reports, failed to maintain
13 their surety bonds, and are not in good standing to
14 conduct business in Illinois. Staff recommends
15 terminating Respondents certificates. The orders
16 initiate proceedings and direct the Respondents to
17 appear before the Commission to provide evidence why
18 their certificates should not be terminated.

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

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders are

1 approved.

2 Item E-18 concerns a citation for
3 failure to comply with reporting requirements. AP
4 Gas & Electric failed to file reports with the
5 Commission as required by law and argues that because
6 it has never offered electric power to any customers in
7 Illinois, it does not qualify as an alternative retail
8 electric supplier under the law. The order finds that
9 AP Gas & Electric does qualify as an ARES because it
10 possesses the relevant certificate and assesses
11 penalties for the reporting violations.

12 Are there any objections to approving
13 the order?

14 (No verbal response.)

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

17 Item E-19 concerns approval of Ameren's
18 Reconciliation of revenues under its Rider Customer
19 Generation Rebate -- or Rider CGR -- and Rider Customer
20 Generation Charge -- or Rider CGC. The order approves
21 the reconciliation as set out in the appendices. The
22 order adopts the 50 percent common equity ratio

1 approved in Docket No. 22-0297 as proposed in the
2 stipulation between Ameren and Staff, finding it
3 reasonable.

4 Are there any objections to approving
5 the order?

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Item E-20 concerns approval of
10 MidAmerican's reconciliation of revenues under its
11 Rider Electric Utility Assessment or Rider EUA. The
12 order approves the reconciliation as set out in the
13 appendix, finding that it appropriately reconciles the
14 revenues collected with the actual costs prudently
15 incurred.

16 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 E-21 concerns approval of
22 MidAmerican's reconciliation of revenues under its

1 natural gas and electricity Energy Efficiency Programs,
2 or Riders EECR. The order approves the reconciliation
3 as set set out in the appendices, finding that it
4 appropriately reconciles the revenues collected with
5 the actual costs prudent incurred.

6 Are there any objections to approving
7 the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Item E-22 concerns approval of the
12 Illinois Power Agency 2023 power procurement plan. The
13 order approves the plan and load forecasts filed by the
14 IPA.

15 There are substantive edits to the
16 order. The edits adopt ComEd's contingency proposal to
17 adopt a 50 percent hedging level conditional on
18 approval of the revisions to ComEd's CMC tariff.

19 I move the edits. Is there a second?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Second.

21 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections to
22 approving the edits?

1 (No verbal response.)

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

4 Are there any objections to approving
5 the order as edited?

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Items E-23 through 26 concern
10 applications for authority to install distributed
11 generation facilities in Illinois. The orders grant
12 the certificates, finding that the applicants meet the
13 requirements.

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

16 (No verbal response.)

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

19 Item E-27 concerns an application for
20 service authority to operate as an agent, broker, or
21 consultant for the sale of retail electric supply. The
22 order grants the certificate, finding that the

1 applicant meets the requirements.

2 Are there any objections to approving
3 the order?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Item E-28 concerns an application for
8 service authority to operate as an alternative retail
9 electric supplier. The order grants the certificate,
10 finding that the applicant meets the requirements.

11 Are there any objections to approving
12 the order?

13 (No verbal response.)

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

16 Item E-29 concerns ComEd request for a
17 waiver of Part 285 of the Commission rules to allow it
18 to use the current version of the Prospective Financial
19 Information Guide. The order grants the waiver,
20 finding that ComEd has shown good cause.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
3 approved.

4 Item E-30 concerns Ameren's petition
5 for a special permission to file revised tariff pages
6 on less than 45 days' notice. Ameren has announced its
7 intention to file a Multi-Year Rate Plan in January of
8 2023 and now requests a special permission to file its
9 Rate Modernization Action Plan -- or Rate MAP-P -- to
10 eliminate the need to complete a separate
11 revenue-neutral rate design in 2023. Commission Staff
12 has reviewed the filing and recommend not suspending
13 it. As a condition to Commission approval of its
14 special permission request, Ameren commits to making a
15 separate revenue-neutral rate design, filing no later
16 than one year after the Multi-Year Rate Plan tariffs
17 are placed into effect. The order grants this special
18 permission.

19 Are there any objections to approving
20 the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Items E-31 through E-33 concern
3 applications for service authority to operate as
4 installers of energy efficiency measures in Illinois.
5 The orders grant the certificates, finding that the
6 applicants meet the requirements.

7 Are there any objections to considering
8 the items together and approving the orders?

9 (No verbal response.)

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

12 Item E-34 concerns initiation of a
13 proceeding to develop and adopt a Renewable Energy
14 Access Plan -- or REAP -- as amended by P.A. 102-0662,
15 or CEJA, Section 8-512 of the Public Utilities Act
16 directs the Commission to open an investigation by
17 December 31 of 2022 to develop and adopt the final
18 REAP. Before opening this investigation, the
19 Commission first published the draft report and
20 received public comments on the draft for 120 days.

21 As directed by CEJA, the REAP, among
22 other things, designates zones throughout Illinois in

1 areas in which renewable energy resources and suitable
2 land areas are sufficient for developing generating
3 capacity for renewable energy technologies. The REAP
4 also develops a plan to achieve transmission capacity
5 necessary to deliver the electric output from renewable
6 energy technologies in the Renewable Energy Access Plan
7 zones to customers in Illinois. The REAP make findings
8 and policy recommendations based on technical and
9 policy analysis regarding locations of the renewable
10 energy access plan zones and the transmission system
11 developments needed to cost-effectively achieve the
12 public policy goals of Illinois.

13 The order initiates the investigation
14 required by CEJA to develop and adopt the final REAP.

15 Are there any objections to approving
16 the order?

17 (No verbal response.)

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

20 Moving on to our Gas Items. Items G-2
21 and G-2 concern filing by North Shore and Peoples Gas
22 to modify the definition of "low income consumer" in

1 their tariffs. The modification aligns the definitions
2 with the requirements and definitions in P.A. 102-0662,
3 known as CEJA. Staff has reviewed the filing and
4 recommends not suspending it.

5 Are there any objections to not
6 suspending the filings?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filings are
9 not suspended.

10 Item G-3 concerns a petition for
11 reconciliation of qualifying infrastructure investment
12 that Ameren recovered through its Rider Qualifying
13 Infrastructure Plant -- Rider QIP -- in 2019. The
14 order approves the reconciliation as specified in the
15 appendix.

16 Are there any objections to approving
17 the order?

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Items G-4 and G-5 concern petitions for
22 reconciliation by Ameren and Nicor Gas under their

1 purchase gas adjustment -- or PGA -- tariffs. The
2 orders approve the reconciliations, finding that the
3 costs were prudent and reasonably incurred.

4 Are there any objections to considering
5 these items together and approving the orders?

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Item G-6 concerns MidAmerican's
10 petition for reconciliation under its Rider Gas Utility
11 Assessment or Rider GUA. The order approves
12 reconciliation as reflected in the appendix, finding it
13 appropriately reconciles the revenues collected with
14 the actual costs prudently incurred during the
15 reconciliation period.

16 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 MidAmerican's
22 petition for creation of Rate Producers of Renewable

1 Gas transportation service. The order approves the
2 petition, finding MidAmerican's proposed Rate PRG just
3 and reasonable.

4 There are substantive edits to the
5 order. The edits add Staff's proposed clarification
6 that the proposed Rate PRG, including producers taking
7 service under Rate PRG and any interconnection projects
8 facilitating such service, is subject to Part 530.

9 I moved the edits. Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Second.

11 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections to
12 approving the edits?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the edits are
15 approved.

16 Are there any objections to approving
17 the order as edited?

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Moving on to our Telecommunications
22 Items. Item T-1 concerns an order setting maximum

1 rates and charges for telephone operator service
2 providers.

3 Are there any objections to approving
4 the order?

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Items T-2 through T-17 concern citation
9 orders against telecommunication carriers for failure
10 to maintain managerial resources and abilities. The
11 orders initiate proceedings to determine whether the
12 Respondents' certificates of service authority should
13 be revoked.

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

16 (No verbal response.)

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

19 Item T-18 concerns an application for a
20 certificate to operate as a reseller of
21 telecommunications service. The order grants the
22 certificate, finding that the applicant meets the

1 requirements.

2 Are there any objections to approving
3 the order?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Now, moving on to our Water and Sewer
8 Items. Items W-1 concerns Illinois American Water
9 Company's application for a certificate of public
10 convenience and necessity to provide water and
11 wastewater service to areas in Hardin County and for
12 approval of the purchase of assets of the City of
13 Rosiclare. The order grants certificate and approves
14 the purchase, finding it compliant with the Public
15 Utilities Act and finding the purchase necessary to
16 provide adequate, reliable, and efficient service to
17 Rosiclare's customers.

18 Are there any objections to approving
19 the orders?

20 (No verbal response.)

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

1 Item W-2 concerns Aqua Illinois's
2 application for a certificate to provide water and
3 wastewater service areas in Will County. The order
4 grants the certificate, finding that Aqua Illinois has
5 the technical, financial, and managerial ability to
6 construct, operate, and maintain the proposed water
7 distribution system and a wastewater collection system.

8 Are there any objections to approving
9 the order?

10 (No verbal response.)

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

13 Item W-3 concerns an interim order
14 related to Illinois-American Water's application for a
15 certificate to provide water and wastewater service to
16 areas in Champaign County and for approval of the
17 purchase of assets of the Village of Broadlands. The
18 interim order approves the engagement agreements with
19 the three appraisers who will evaluate the fair market
20 value of the assets, finding the terms reasonable.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the interim order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the interim order
3 is approved.

4 Item W-4 concerns Aqua Illinois's
5 petition for a reconciliation hearing under its
6 Qualifying Infrastructure Plant Riders. The order
7 approves reconciliation as set out in the appendices,
8 finding the reconciliation calculations accurate.

9 Are there any objections to approving
10 the order?

11 (No verbal response.)

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

14 Item W-5 concerns a petition by Prairie
15 Path Water Company for initiation of a reconciliation
16 proceeding under its Volume Balancing Adjustment
17 tariffs. The order approves reconciliation as
18 summarized in the appendix.

19 Are there any objections to approving
20 the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Item W-6 concerns IAWC's proposed rate
3 increases for water and sewer service. The order
4 approves the water and sewer rates for the Company.

5 There are substantive edits to the
6 order. The edits adopt a middle ground approach to
7 reallocating revenue requirements of the Central Zone
8 wastewater customers to all Illinois wastewater
9 customers with a gradual phaseout of the cost's
10 socialization.

11 I move the edits. Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Second.

13 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections to
14 approving the edits?

15 (No verbal response.)

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

18 Are there any objections to approving
19 the order as edited?

20 (No verbal response.)

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

1 Moving on to our Miscellaneous Items.
2 Item M-1 concerns a determination of the interest rate
3 to be paid by utility companies on customer deposits
4 during 2023. The order adopts the proposed interest
5 rate of 5 percent.

6 Are there any objections to approving
7 the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Item M-2 concerns updates to the
12 Illinois Statewide Technical Manual for Energy
13 Efficiency. The order approves and adopts the 2023
14 Technical Manual, finding that it provides a
15 transparent and consistent basis for calculating the
16 energy and capacity savings generated by Illinois's
17 energy efficiency programs.

18 Are there any objections to approving
19 the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: The order is approved.

22 Item PR-1 concerns a petition for

1 hearing by the Attorney General's Office in the
2 consolidated Docket 22-0432 and 22-0442, which is
3 ComEd's petition for approval of its Beneficial
4 Electrification Plan.

5 The AG seeks rehearing of the
6 Commission's interim order in this docket on two
7 issues: First, whether the Electric Vehicle Act
8 prohibits electrification programs unrelated to EVs and
9 second, whether the entire BE Plan is subject to the
10 rate cap, which is equal to 1 percent of ComEd's
11 delivery service revenue.

12 The administrative law judge recommends
13 denying the rehearing, noting that the Commission has
14 already considered Staff's, ComEd's, and intervenors'
15 positions regarding these issues. The ALJ notes that
16 the primary objective of statutory interpretation is to
17 ascertain and give effect to the intent of the
18 legislature, the most reliable indicator of which is
19 the plain and ordinary meaning of the statutory
20 language. The plain language of the statute is
21 especially important here where reasonable parties
22 greatly differ on the intent of the general assembly.

1 The ALJ notes that what the interim order does on the
2 issues raised by the AG is look at the plain and
3 ordinary meaning of the statutory language.

4 The Commission agrees with ALJ.

5 Are there any objections to denying the
6 request for rehearing?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the rehearing is
9 denied.

10 Moving on to Other Business Items.

11 Item O-1 concerns approval of batches, contracts, and
12 confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block
13 Program.

14 Are there any objections to approving
15 the Program Administrator's submissions?

16 (No verbal response.)

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

19 Item O-2 concerns approval of the
20 December 2022 Solicitation of Bids to Sell Indexed
21 Renewable Energy Credits from the New Utility-Scale
22 Solar, New Utility-Scale Wind, and New Brownfield

1 Photovoltaic Projects.

2 Are there any objection to approving
3 the Procurement Administrator's recommendations on
4 selection of winning bids?

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Item 0-3 concerns approval of batches,
9 contracts, and confirmations under the Illinois Solar
10 For All program.

11 Are they any objections to approving
12 the Program Administrator's submissions?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the submissions
15 are approved. Item 0-4 concerns approval of the report
16 to the General Assembly regarding low-income discount
17 rates. As amended by the P.A. 102-0662 or CEJA,
18 Section 9-241 of the Public Utilities Act directs the
19 Commission to conduct a comprehensive study to assess
20 whether low-income discount rates for electric and
21 natural gas residential customers are appropriate and
22 the potential design and implementation of any such

1 rates on or before January 1 of 2023. Section 9-241
2 further requires the Commission include its findings,
3 together with the appropriate recommendations, in a
4 report to be provided to the General Assembly.

5 Commission Staff conducted the study as
6 directed by CEJA and collected stakeholder input, and
7 now present the report to the Commission, requesting
8 the Commission approval of the report and its
9 submission to the General Assembly.

10 The report explains the study process
11 that began in June of 2022 and presents the research
12 and suggestions from Staff and various interested
13 parties along with tentative conclusions regarding the
14 implementation of low-income discount rates. The
15 report further includes recommendations for future
16 proceedings and other activities necessary to act upon
17 those tentative conclusions.

18 Are there any objections approving the
19 report and authorizing its submission to the General
20 Assembly?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the report and its

1 submissions are approved.

2 Further, under Section 9-241 of the
3 Public Utilities Act, the Commission is now exercising
4 its authority to quote, "permit or require electric and
5 natural gas utilities to file a tariff establishing
6 low-income discount rates," unquote. Accordingly, the
7 Commission requests large electric and gas utilities
8 specified in the report to file low-income discount
9 rate tariffs with their next rate design filing
10 consistent with the entire report and, among other
11 things, address each of the recommendations and issues
12 specified on pages 62 through 64 of the report.

13 In addition, the Commission also
14 encourages smaller electric and gas utilities to
15 consider filing low-income discount rates consistent
16 with the report's recommendations and the issues to be
17 addressed.

18 Are there any objections to directing
19 the low -- excuse me -- directing the large electric
20 and gas utilities to file the low-income discount rates
21 as noted?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the direction for
2 the large electric and gas utilities is approved.

3 This concludes our Public Utilities
4 Agenda.

5 Judge Teague-Kingsley, do we have other
6 matters to come before the Commission today?

7 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman.

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Do the Commissioners have other
9 business to discuss?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Since this is the last meeting
12 of the year and with 2022 quickly closing, I want to
13 recognize the hard work, dedication, and
14 professionalism of the ICC Commissioners, our legal and
15 policy advisors, and Staff to reflect upon our
16 achievements.

17 In 2022, and as of 11/30, the
18 Commission decided 693 Public Utility and approximately
19 238 Transportation cases including rate and tariff
20 filings, complaints, investigations, license and
21 certification grants and revocations.

22 Among the decided rate cases were the

1 last annual distribution formula rate case for Ameren
2 and ComEd, as well as traditional rate cases from
3 Mt. Carmel and Illinois American water.

4 The ICC held four policy sessions this
5 year, and one Notice of Inquiry regarding the
6 infrastructure investment and Jobs Act was initiated.
7 In September the NOI report was released, summarizing
8 federal grants, loans, assistance, and programs under
9 the IIJA for which Illinois's regulated utilities may
10 be eligible and intend to apply. This information is
11 invaluable as we transitioned to a greener, more
12 modernized grid. Tapping into available federal
13 resources will help offset costs to ratepayers. And
14 this report is available under the Public Notices and
15 Projects section of the ICC website home page.

16 ICC Commissioners continue to be very
17 active and influential here at home and at the national
18 level.

19 Collectively, we participated in the
20 National Association of Regulatory Utility
21 Commissioners or NARUC conferences. We also attended
22 the very successful Mid-American Regulatory Conference,

1 which was held in Chicago this past summer and planned
2 by former Commissioner Maria Bocanegra. This was the
3 first MARC conference held since the pandemic started
4 and was appropriately titled, "Building the New
5 Normal." We participated in discussions and shared
6 best practices with our regulatory peers on a variety
7 of topics including equity, supplier diversity,
8 transportation electrification, and climate goals.

9 In February, Commissioner Carrigan,
10 myself, and our advisors toured the Dresden Nuclear
11 Generating Station in Morris. In March, this same
12 group toured the Rivian Plant in Bloomington. And in
13 April, Commissioner Carrigan and his advisors visited
14 the CSX Intermodal Terminals in Bedford Park and heard
15 presentations on the freight railroad industry in
16 Illinois. In May, Commissioner Anne McCabe had
17 meetings and tours at GTI Energy's headquarters and
18 research campus to discuss the challenges and
19 opportunities of reducing GHG emissions in the
20 residential gas system and the latest research on
21 hydrogen. In June, Commissioner McCabe and her
22 advisors toured several Ameren Facilities, including

1 the gas control center in Decatur and the Microgrid
2 pilot in Nevada. In July, she toured a weigh station
3 with ICC Police Commander Ryan Nance.

4 On August 25th, I participated in the
5 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce's EV panel discussion
6 and later that same day, a panel at the Energy
7 Professionals Association conference in Chicago for a
8 robust discussion about Illinois's energy policy.

9 In September, Commissioner Carrigan,
10 along with a few of our legal advisors, toured the
11 Nicor Gas Ancona underground storage field in Streator.

12 In October, I moderated an event hosted
13 by the Cleantech Leaders Roundtable in Chicago to
14 discuss the impact of federal and state legislation on
15 clean energy in Illinois and moderated a NARUC webinar
16 on innovative long duration storage projects.

17 Commissioner McCabe served as a panelist on a virtual
18 session hosted by the Harvard Electricity Policy Group
19 as discussed -- to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act.

20 Also in October, Commissions Carrigan,
21 Kimbrel, McCabe, and I all participated in the IRPS
22 conference in Springfield, along with several ICC Staff

1 members. Commissioner McCabe gave the keynote address
2 and each of us moderated panels on a variety of topics
3 related to various energy environmental policies and
4 also CEJA.

5 Speaking of CEJA -- already a busy
6 agency, the ICC was made busier with the enactment of
7 the Climate and Equitable Job Act late last year. CEJA
8 puts Illinois on the path to 100 percent clean energy
9 by 2050 and encourages equitable job creation. I'm
10 proud to say the ICC Staff wasted no time jumping right
11 into the implementation process. A special thanks to
12 ICC Executive Director Michael Merchant, Public
13 Utilities Bureau Chief Jim Zolnierek, General Counsel
14 Natalia Delgado, their entire staffs, and so many
15 others for going above and beyond.

16 Since January 1, 2022, under the
17 guidance of Karen Rieken and the assistance of Colette
18 Smith, the HR department has posted and filled 48
19 positions as of November 16, that is. Of those, 23 are
20 new CEJA positions. We also posted 13 vacancies, which
21 of seven are CEJA positions, in October and November,
22 and anticipate additional new hires this month and in

1 January of 2023.

2 This year, the ICC Staff held 30 -- and
3 repeating for emphasis -- 30 workshops on a variety of
4 topics related to CEJA including Beneficial
5 Electrification; Equitable Energy Upgrade Program; the
6 Renewable Energy Access Plan, Multiyear Integrated Grid
7 Plan, and the Consumer Intervenor Compensation Fund.

8 In May, Staff issued its Beneficial
9 Electrification Report summarizing the workshop series,
10 which delved into the benefits and barriers to
11 widespread EV adoption, and solicited input into the
12 design of beneficial electrification programs offered
13 by Ameren and ComEd. In August, the Commission
14 initiated dockets into the utilities BE Plans that are
15 still ongoing.

16 In July, Staff, the Brattle Group, and
17 consultants from Great Lakes Engineering issued a first
18 draft of the Renewable Energy Access Plan. A special
19 thanks to Kate McCormick for lending her expertise on
20 the REAP. She did a wonderful job. The final plan
21 will outline a path to meet Illinois's policy
22 requirements for a clean electricity system that is

1 affordable, reliable, and equitable. Using input
2 gathered over a 120-day public comment period, a second
3 draft of the report has been prepared and served as the
4 basis for a docket initiated by the Commission just
5 moments ago. The Federal Policy Team has also been
6 instrumental in advocating for market reforms at PJM
7 and MISO to ensure that Illinois's residents interests
8 are preserved during this time of transition on the
9 grid.

10 Staff also conducted a study and
11 prepared a report to be shared with the governor and
12 General Assembly assessing low-income discount rates
13 for electric and natural gas residential customers.
14 The report issued today deems low-income discount rates
15 appropriate for large utilities in Illinois and offers
16 recommendations on the potential design and
17 implementation of such rates. A big thanks to Rochelle
18 Phipps, Assistant Director of the Financial Analysis
19 Division, for her hard work on this report.

20 In March, the Commission approved
21 modifications to the Illinois Power Agency's Revised
22 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan to

1 increase the annual budget of the Illinois Solar For
2 All program. The Commission approved the most recent
3 revision to the plan, with CEJA program expansions in
4 July. I'd like to acknowledge the IPA, which has also
5 been working tirelessly to implement CEJA.

6 Aside from CEJA, Illinois's Public
7 Utilities Act requires all gas, electric, water, and
8 sewer public utilities under ICC authority to file
9 monthly and annual reports containing specific credit
10 and collections information. As part of our ongoing
11 efforts to increase transparency at the agency, PUB,
12 CSD, and our IT department have developed a dashboard
13 containing this on the ICC website for public review.

14 Like the rest of the ICC, the Office of
15 General Counsel -- or OGC -- has enjoyed a busy and
16 productive year. Balancing CEJA implementation with
17 existing responsibilities, OGC has added seven new
18 attorneys in the last 12 months.

19 A new section was created within OGC to
20 provide legal and trial support to the Integrated
21 Distribution Planning Division in the Public Utilities
22 Bureau or PUB. This group has represented IDP Staff on

1 several matters, including CEJA mandated workshops,
2 performance metrics, beneficial electrification
3 proceedings, and several rulemakings.

4 The Trial Section has represented PUB
5 Staff in several general rate proceedings, numerous
6 reconciliations and formula rate proceedings,
7 applications for certificates of public convenience and
8 necessity as well as other certificates and licenses,
9 applications for approval of reorganization,
10 rulemakings, and many other diverse proceedings. This
11 year, the Trial Section has presented a historic number
12 of oral arguments and filed a historic number of
13 motions and briefs.

14 The Alternative Retail Electric
15 Supplier, ARES, and Alternative Gas Supplier, AGS,
16 Enforcement Section finalized new rules governing sales
17 and marketing by AGS, Part 512, and updated rules
18 governing sales and marketing by ARES under Part 412.
19 This section also finalized significant updates --
20 excuse me -- updates to the rules governing
21 interconnection of distributed energy resources to the
22 electric grid under Part 466.

1 The Solicitor General Section continued
2 to effectively represent and defend the Commission in
3 several cases pending before the Illinois Appellate
4 Court, including Illinois Competitive Energy
5 Association, and Retail Energy Supply Association vs.
6 The ICC, et al., Number 2-21-0415. The Federal
7 External Section assisted Staff and represented the
8 Commission in connection with several matters pending
9 before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission -- or
10 FERC -- and provided legal advice to the Commission's
11 designated liaisons to the Organization of MISO States
12 and the Organization of PJM States on a diverse range
13 of matters impacting research adequacy, the wholesale
14 sale of electricity, and Illinois mandated transition
15 to renewable energy. The Federal External Section also
16 assisted Staff in the preparation of comments related
17 to various proposals by federal agencies.

18 The Ethics and Accountability Division,
19 led by Phil Kosanovich, has now grown to a team of
20 three and has spent the year engaging with electric and
21 gas utilities to ensure the public utilities are
22 adhering to the highest standards of ethical conduct as

1 set forth in CEJA. The division has also continued to
2 ensure the members and staff of the ICC continue to
3 abide by state ethics laws.

4 Thanks to Matt Smith and the ICC
5 Pipeline Safety Division. Approximately 900 man-days
6 were spent out in the field conducting audits this
7 year. In addition, the ICC Pipeline Safety website has
8 been recognized by the Pipeline Safety Trust for
9 achieving a perfect score related to website
10 transparency.

11 The ICC's One-Call Enforcement group,
12 which is responsible for enforcing Illinois's
13 Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act,
14 has received 1170 reports of potential violations to
15 date in 2020 and is on page to shatter all previous
16 records. To put that into perspective, the number of
17 reports received in 2018 was 252; 407 in 2019; and 246
18 in 2020.

19 A team of investigators led by
20 supervisor Michael Shoenherr gathers information to
21 determine if a violation has occurred. If an excavator
22 or a facility owner is found in violation, a monetary

1 penalty of up to \$5,000 may be level levied. All
2 penalties are donated to the not-for-profit
3 organization JULIE for educational purposes. And as of
4 11/29 the ICC has collected nearly \$100,000 in
5 penalties with approximately \$243,000 being assessed,
6 with that number expected to nearly double by the end
7 of the year.

8 In January, the ICC's office of
9 Diversity and Community Affairs, led by Jeanine
10 Robinson, issued its second annual report. Diverse
11 spending by the state's largest investor-owned
12 utilities has steadily grown for an average from an
13 average of 15 percent to over one-third of all
14 procurement spending over the last six years, a
15 collective increase in annual diverse spending of over
16 \$2.3 billion. You can find this report on the ICC
17 website. In addition, we now receive supplier
18 diversity reports from the National Railroad Passenger
19 Corporation d/b/a Amtrak. Amtrak and the Class 1
20 Railroads doing business in Illinois reported
21 collective diverse spending of \$1.9 billion for
22 reporting year 2021.

1 Our offices of Cybersecurity and Risk
2 Management -- C&RM -- has also been very busy this
3 year, prioritizing ongoing efforts to protect critical
4 infrastructure through engaging in regular
5 conversations with regulated entities in Illinois and
6 ensuring compliance with security affidavit filing
7 requirements.

8 C&RM planned and participated in many
9 exercises this year, among them the PJM Grid Security
10 Drill, the ICC's own 6th annual Cyber Resiliency Joint
11 Exercise, and the ICC's own Continuity of Operations
12 Exercise. C&RM has encouraged evolving cybersecurity
13 defense programs that implement industry standards and
14 best practices while participating in the USAID/NARUC
15 mission to provide training for energy regulators of
16 Europe and Asia on Cybersecurity Maturity Models in
17 Colorado in October of 2022. C&RM has also
18 collaborated with other state PUCs through discussions
19 about cybersecurity strategy and contributed to various
20 NARUC projects and publications.

21 The Office of Retail Market
22 Development, led by Tanya Capellan, released its annual

1 report to the Commission, General Assembly, and
2 governor, providing an overview of the current state of
3 the natural gas market in Illinois, including active
4 gas supplier activity and consumer switching trends.
5 Its annual report also outlined the state of the
6 competitive retail electric market in Illinois. Both
7 reports can be found under ICC reports on the website.

8 In January, a new 464 area code took
9 effect in the south suburban counties also served by
10 708 to meet the high demand for new phone numbers. And
11 just this week, we announced the addition of a new 730
12 area code to overlay the existing 618 area code
13 downstate. The new 730 area code goes into effect on
14 July 7, 2023.

15 Under the management of Shauna Kelley,
16 the Transportation Bureau has been busier than ever
17 trying to modernize and adapt their services and
18 enforcement. In the biggest ICC motor carrier news
19 since deregulation, the Transportation Bureau has moved
20 to online licensing for motor carriers.

21 With the support of our own IT
22 department, a webpage has been built that allows for

1 online purchase of the Public Carrier Certificates and
2 Cab cards. This is a welcome news to the carriers that
3 previously had to mail in their applications with a
4 check and wait for their authority to operate.

5 The webpage has been a huge success
6 since this launch over the summer. In just four months
7 over two 2,000 online applications have been processed,
8 and this number is expected to grow over time.

9 The webpage also saved countless
10 processing staff hours, enabling Staff to focus on
11 answering over 8,000 phone calls, 16,000 emails and
12 almost 500 walk-in customers in 2022.

13 This year, the ICC Police Section wrote
14 over 2,800 administrative citations and conducted
15 safety towing details with the City of Chicago on
16 several occasions to ensure compliance with local,
17 state, and federal rules and regulations. In 2022,
18 finds were raised for safety towers, relocation towers,
19 household good movers and others certified for
20 non-compliance. In addition, the police conducted
21 enforcement details all over the state, including the
22 Quad Cities and Marion, and participated in household

1 good detail and stings throughout the state.

2 In 2022, the ICC Rail Safety Division
3 celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Operation Lifesaver
4 with a press conference in Chicago; and in July, ICC
5 Staff joined representatives from the Federal Rail
6 Administration to conduct site visits and reviews at
7 81 railroad crossings in the Chicagoland area. In
8 addition, the rail safety section responded to
9 164 complaints and inspected 5,793 miles of tracks, and
10 9,976 haz mat cars.

11 Many transportation projects advanced
12 this year to make Illinois highway-rail crossing safer
13 for motorists and pedestrians. A few projects I would
14 like to highlight include: completion of the 5th and
15 6th streets in Springfield, which are part of a larger
16 ongoing project to alleviate rail congestion downtown.
17 Thirty-six million dollars has been identified in
18 assistance from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund in
19 the Springfield Rail Improvement projects.

20 Much needed rehabilitation to the
21 bridge on Highway 10 that carries traffic over the BNSF
22 rail yard and tracks in Galesburg. The State is

1 contributing about \$4.5 million split between Rebuild
2 Illinois Capital Funds and the Grade Process Protection
3 Fund toward the project.

4 In 2022, ICC authorized preliminary
5 engineering funds to help lift off projects and assist
6 their efforts to secure other sources of funding. Two
7 projects that received engineering funds include: Two
8 new bridges for North Grand Avenue in Springfield and a
9 bridge for Gouger Road in Will County.

10 More than 30 locations from Kankakee
11 to LaSalle Counties received aid from the GCPF monies
12 and it had \$15 million to install gates where there
13 were only flashers, and to replace antiquated equipment
14 with the latest constant time and crossing controllers.

15 The ICC regulates 16,000 intrastate
16 motor carriers; licenses over 300 interstate household
17 good moving companies; and provides oversight to almost
18 34,000 carriers, brokers, and freight forwarders
19 registered in Illinois under unified carrier
20 registration. Over the year, the agency licensed over
21 85 repossession agencies and branch locations and
22 issued over 300 credentials to repossession agency

1 managers and employees. In addition, the ICC currently
2 regulates approximately 60 relocation towing companies
3 in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, and Winnebago counties.
4 And annually registers approximately 600 safety towing
5 companies. The Transportation attorneys worked hard to
6 on over 180 FOIA request in 2022 and achieved \$86,000
7 in settlements. Thank you to all of the Transportation
8 ALJs, attorneys, and Staff for their work this year.

9 A special thanks to our IT department
10 for their continued support of agency staff, both with
11 remote and in-person working and making sure the live
12 broadcast of our open Sessions and policy sessions are
13 available. Building renovations at our Chicago office
14 forced us out of our hearing room, making the task of
15 live broadcasting even more challenging.

16 This year's Comms team has led a robust
17 constituent outreach program, issuing over 50 -- as of
18 12/7 -- press releases, and increased social media
19 presence to inform the public and share information on
20 a variety of topics -- including utility assistance,
21 rail safety, Commission activities as well as
22 employment opportunities here at the ICC.

1 And before the close of the year, be on
2 the lookout for the fourth edition of our annual
3 magazine "The Wire" to be published on our website and
4 social media platforms. The magazine is filled with
5 information about Commission activities and
6 achievements over the past year.

7 I have a few additional staff notes I
8 want to mention. This year, Jeff Crabtree joined the
9 ICC as Executive Deputy Director for Administration.
10 He has done a wonderful job managing the administrative
11 Staff that keeps our agency operating efficiently and
12 deals with budgetary and space issues. Thanks to him
13 for his efforts and overseeing the renovation of our
14 offices in the Bilandic building to accommodate our
15 growing space needs. Also, under his watchful eye, the
16 ICC has been successful successful in operating under a
17 Remote Work Pilot Program, whereby much of the Staff is
18 working a hybrid remote/office schedule. The pilot
19 program is effective until June 30 of 2023.

20 New in 2022 also, the ICC participated
21 in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program. Over
22 the summer all ICC Staff was invited to participate in

1 the on-line DEI training program, which will be offered
2 on an annual basis moving forward. We'll be
3 identifying a DEI coordinator who will be responsible
4 for drafting and implementing future agency goals.

5 Sarah Ryan did a great job as our
6 government liaison working with state lawmakers on
7 bills that impact our agencies, monitoring and tracking
8 bills as they moved through the legislative process.

9 To our Consumer Services Division
10 counselors, thank you for all the work you do on behalf
11 of consumers statewide in helping them to solve
12 problems with their utilities.

13 To our Chief Administrative Law Judge
14 Sonya Teague-Kingsley and her staff, the administrative
15 law judges -- as of 12/6 -- have closed 693 public
16 utility cases, including various rate and tariff
17 filings, complaints and investigations, and license and
18 grants and revocations. Thank you for your thoughtful
19 determinations.

20 And I would be remiss for not
21 mentioning the efforts of our Chief Clerk Elizabeth
22 Rolando -- excuse me -- and the record management

1 staff. A tremendous amount of paperwork passes through
2 their office. As of 12/7, 711 new
3 petitions/applications were filed; 734 tariffs filed;
4 1,672 notices filed; 4,531 case filings filed; and
5 6,621 code parts filed.

6 And while there are many new faces at
7 the ICC, it's time to say goodbye to others. Retiring
8 this year include Chip Pew who spent 21 years at the
9 ICC. As Coordinator of the Illinois Operation
10 lifesaver, Chip conducted over 1,200 safety talks
11 reaching over 74000 people. As lead recruiter of
12 volunteers in Illinois, the overall audience reached
13 topped 3 million people. In addition to teaching
14 students in drivers' education programs and pedestrians
15 throughout safety blitzes, Chip often appeared on
16 television, radio, and newspaper articles, spreading
17 the word about rail safety. He also had the difficult
18 task of reviewing terrible accidents, meeting with
19 police, and coordinating with other rail safety section
20 team members to determine how to address and deter
21 incidents, fatalities, and injuries. Best wishes to
22 Chip and his wife, Sherri, who now reside in Evergreen,

1 Colorado.

2 We will also miss Kathy Woaniak, who
3 spent 27 years working at the Des Plaines Police Office
4 in two different locations. Kathy was the first person
5 you saw when you walked in the door. She was an
6 integral part of the police team.

7 Leslie Dilday -- excuse me -- began his
8 employment with the ICC in June of 2021, and while his
9 time at the Commission has been short, as one of the
10 original inspectors in the Commission's new Electric
11 Facility Safety Program, his contributions to the
12 fledgling program were impactful and appreciated. In
13 his retirement, Les purchased a camper trailer with
14 plans to travel and vacation at several national parks.

15 Best wishes to Elizabeth Rolando, who
16 will be retiring from the Commission at the end of the
17 year on December 29 of 2022. She has skillfully
18 managed the Clerk's Office as the chief clerk for 20
19 years. We will miss her incredible work ethic,
20 dedication, and exceptional knowledge every day, but we
21 are thrilled she'll be returning on a 75-day contract.

22 George Light began his employment with

1 the Commission in December of 2001 with the primary
2 focus on area code exhaustion and the creation of new
3 ones. Since then, George's telephony expertise has
4 expanded virtually every aspect of the agency. George
5 plans to travel and take care of his three dachshunds.
6 Aside from his telephony expertise, around the office
7 George was especially known for his birthday cakes and
8 his Christmas cookies.

9 Victoria Crawford has shared her
10 talents with the ICC as the Senior Public Information
11 Officer since August of 2017. Her extensive knowledge
12 of the media world and exceptional writing abilities
13 has ensured that the Commission's work is always
14 represented to the public in a professional, precise,
15 and polished manner.

16 Thank you all for your tremendous
17 service and hard work on behalf of the citizens of
18 Illinois.

19 I know I speak for all Commissioners
20 when I say how proud we are of the Staff of the ICC.
21 Your work on behalf of the people of Illinois is
22 admirable, and what you are doing impacts every

1 Illinoisan and will have lasting impact for generations
2 to come. So, thank you.

3 Please enjoy the holiday season. Stay
4 safe and healthy.

5 Are there any other comments?

6 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: May I -- just -- if I
7 may, Chairman, I just wanted to personally thank Liz
8 for all of her hard work and the fabulous job that
9 she's done managing the Clerk's Office over the years.

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Agreed. Thank you.

11 All right. Without any further
12 comment and without objection, the meeting is now
13 adjourned. Thank you.

14 (WHEREUPON, the above-entitled matter
15 was adjourned at 12:23 PM.)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22