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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice via videoconference at

10:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman
(via Chicago office)

D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
(via videoconference)

SADZI M. OLIVA, Commissioner
(via videoconference)

MARIA S. BOCANEGRA, Commissioner
(via videoconference)

MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner
(via Springfield office)

BRIDGES COURT REPORTING
BY: Valerie Calabria, CSR, RPR
License No. 084-003928

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I'll do a quick sound
2 check with commissioners by way of roll.

3 Commissioner Bocanegra?

4 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Yes, I'm here.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Carrigan, I
6 can see you in screen fill. I want to make sure I
7 can hear you.

8 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: I can hear you very
9 well.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great.

11 Commissioner Kimbrel?

12 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Yes, I'm here.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Oliva?

14 COMMISSIONER OLIVA: Good morning.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Good morning.

16 And then Judge Teague-Kingsley?

17 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: Yes.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Great.

19 Then under the Open Meetings Act and
20 in accordance with the governor's executive orders,
21 I call the December 16th, 2020, Regular Open
22 Meeting to order.

1 Before we proceed, for clarity of the
2 record, I would ask everyone to state their name
3 before speaking and to speak slowly and clearly so
4 that the court reporter can capture everything that
5 is said. I've already checked that all
6 commissioners are with us and we have a quorum.
7 There are no requests to speak.

8 Moving on to our Public Utilities
9 Agenda. There are edits to the November 18th and
10 December 2nd, 2020, Regular Open Meeting minutes.
11 There are also edits to the November 18, 2020,
12 Winter Policy Session minutes.

13 Are there any objections to approving
14 the minutes as edited?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
17 minutes are approved.

18 Under our electric items, item E-1
19 concerns ERM 20-139 which is a filing by
20 MidAmerican to update its Rider Nuclear
21 Decommissioning Factor, or Rider NDF. The filing
22 updates the Rider at its requisite three-year

1 interval and reflects the changing expenses,
2 allocations, sales estimates, and recoveries under
3 this Rider. The Commission Staff has reviewed this
4 filing and recommends not suspending it.

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

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing
9 is not suspended.

10 Item E-2 concerns ERM 20-141 which is
11 a filing by MidAmerican to revise the repeal date
12 for Rider Renewable Energy Resources and Coal
13 Technology Development Assistant Charge, or Rider
14 RCA. The filing will change the repeal date from
15 December 31st of 2020 to December 31st of 2021 in
16 accordance with the Illinois Public Act 99-0489.
17 The Commission Staff has reviewed this filing and
18 recommends not suspending it.

19 Are there any objections to not
20 suspending the filing?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing

1 is not suspended.

2 Item E-3 concerns ERM 20-142 which is
3 a filing by ComEd to revise the replacement cost
4 treatment of an automatic throw-over switch, or
5 ATO, in Rider Nonstandard Services and Facilities,
6 or Rider NS. Rider NS enables ComEd to provide
7 nonstandard services to retail customers requiring
8 larger or different facilities. The Commission
9 Staff has reviewed this filing and recommends not
10 suspending it. At the same time, Staff notes that
11 notwithstanding Staff's primary recommendations,
12 Staff appreciates that there may be aspects of
13 ComEd's proposal the Commission may want to
14 consider in more detail. The Staff prepared a
15 suspension order for the Commission to consider in
16 the event the Commission decides to suspend the
17 filing.

18 I am going to do a roll call on this
19 item. So if you are in favor of suspending the
20 filing and approving the suspension order, please
21 say "aye," and if you are opposed, say "nay."

22 Commissioner Bocanegra?

1 COMMISSIONER BOCANEGRA: Aye.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Carrigan?

3 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Aye.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Kimbrel?

5 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Aye.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Commissioner Oliva?

7 COMMISSIONER OLIVA: My vote is nay, to not
8 suspend the filing. I just wanted to make that
9 clear.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you.

11 I vote aye. So the four ayes have it
12 and the filing is suspended and the suspension
13 order is approved.

14 Item E-4 concerns ERM 20-147 which is
15 a filing by ComEd to revise Rider Voluntary Load
16 Response and System Reliability Program, or Rider
17 VLR. Rider VLR allows ComEd to achieve temporary
18 reductions in electric power and energy demands
19 through voluntary responses by nonresidential
20 retail customers to ComEd curtailment requests.
21 ComEd proposes to expand the availability of Rider
22 VLR to customers with smaller loads than 1,000 kW.

1 The Commission Staff reviewed this filing and
2 recommends not suspending it.

3 Are there any objections to not
4 suspending the filing?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing
7 is not suspended.

8 Item E-5 concerns the initiation of
9 MidAmerican's and Mt. Carmel's reconciliation
10 proceedings for its fuel adjustment charges. The
11 order initiates the next round of annual
12 reconciliation proceedings for the calendar year of
13 2020.

14 Are there any objections to approving
15 the order?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
18 is approved.

19 Item E-6 concerns Docket 19-0963
20 which is a complaint seeking that Ameren replace
21 the complainant's meter with an analog rather than
22 digital meter. The order finds that complainant

1 has pled no facts that implicate the provision
2 cited in the complaint. The provisions cited in
3 the complaint only deal with procedures for
4 voluntary mediation. The complainant has not
5 identified any provisions in Ameren's tariff or the
6 Commission's rules or state law that require Ameren
7 to offer an analog meter. Therefore, the order
8 dismisses the complaint with prejudice.

9 Are there any objections to approving
10 the order?

11 (No verbal response.)

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

14 Item E-7 concerns Docket 19-1111
15 which is a complaint against ComEd regarding damage
16 to the complainant due to drilling to bring in a
17 cable. The parties have filed a stipulation and
18 joint motion to dismiss indicating that all issues
19 have been resolved and asking the Commission to
20 dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the joint motion to dismiss?

1 (No verbal response.)

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

4 Item E-8 concerns a citation for
5 failure to comply with Section 454 of the
6 Commission's rules. The respondent has shown they
7 are in compliance with Section 454 and the
8 Commission Staff has requested that the matter be
9 dismissed with prejudice.

10 Are there any objections to granting
11 the motion to dismiss?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion
14 is granted.

15 Item E-9 concerns ComEd's petition to
16 review its compliance with energy efficiency
17 requirements under Section 8-103 of the Public
18 Utilities Act for the Plan 3 period which covers
19 June 1st of 2014 to December 31st of 2017. ComEd
20 requested that the Commission approve the energy
21 savings values calculated by the independent
22 evaluator, that ComEd exceeded its energy

1 efficiency and demand response savings goals, and
2 that the Plan 3 portfolio was cost-effective. The
3 order finds that ComEd has achieved its energy
4 savings goals for the Plan 3 period in a
5 cost-effective manner.

6 Are there any objections to approving
7 the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Item E-10 concerns Ameren's petition
12 to reconcile revenue under Rider CGR, or customer
13 generation rebate, for 2019 calendar year. The
14 order approves the reconciliation as set in the
15 appendix to the order, finding that the costs
16 during the reconciliation period were prudently
17 incurred.

18 Are there any objections to approving
19 the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

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

1 Item E-11 concerns an application for
2 certification to install distributed generation
3 facilities. The order approves the application,
4 finding that the application meets the requirement.

5 Are there any objections to approving
6 the order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
9 is approved.

10 Item E-12 and E-13 concern
11 applications for licenses to operate as retail
12 electric agents, brokers, and consultants in
13 Illinois. The orders grant the licenses, finding
14 that the applicants meet the requirements.

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

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
20 are approved.

21 Item E-14 concerns an amendatory
22 order to correct a prior Commission order that

1 incorrectly identified the name of the company
2 seeking to cancel its certificate of service
3 authority. The order therefore corrects the
4 errors.

5 Are there any objections to approving
6 the amendatory order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
9 amendatory order is approved.

10 Items E-15 through E-20 concern
11 applications for certifications to install energy
12 efficiency measures in Illinois. The orders grant
13 the certificates, finding that the applicants meet
14 the requirements.

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

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
20 are approved.

21 Under our gas items, item G-1
22 concerns GRM 20-322 which is a filing by

1 MidAmerican to revise the repeal date for Rider
2 Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology
3 Development Assistance Charge, or Rider PA-RE. The
4 filing will change the repeal date from
5 December 31st of 2020 to December 31st of 2021 in
6 accordance with Illinois Public Act 99-0489. The
7 Commission Staff has reviewed this filing and
8 recommends not suspending it.

9 Are there any objections to not
10 suspending the filing?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing
13 is not suspended.

14 Item G-2 concerns the initiation of
15 reconciliation proceedings for gas adjustment
16 charges for the gas utilities regulated by the
17 Commission. The order initiates the next round of
18 annual reconciliation proceedings for the calendar
19 year of 2020.

20 Are there any objections to approving
21 the order?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
2 is approved.

3 Item G-3 concerns North Shore and
4 Peoples Gas's requests for review of uncollectible
5 costs during the 2016 calendar year and
6 reconciliation of revenues under its Rider UEA for
7 the period of June 1st, 2017, to May 31st of 2018.
8 The Attorney General's Office recommended modifying
9 collection proceedings, including improve the
10 disconnection notice, offer more affordable
11 deferred payment arrangements, collect and analyze
12 data about collections, and conduct a pilot study
13 on extending Part 280 low-income protections to
14 additional customers. The order rejects the
15 recommendation's findings that these issues are
16 better addressed in a broader forum because they
17 are industry-wide. The order approves the
18 reconciliation as set in the appendices to the
19 order, finding that the costs were prudently
20 incurred.

21 Are there any objections to approving
22 the order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
3 in approved.

4 Item G-4 concerns Ameren's petition
5 to reconcile revenues under Rider GER, or Gas
6 Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery, for 2019 calendar
7 year. The order approves the reconciliation as set
8 in the appendix to the order, finding that the
9 costs during the reconciliation period were
10 prudently incurred.

11 Are there any objections to approving
12 the order?

13 (No verbal response.)

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

16 Item G-5 concerns Docket 19-1069
17 which is a complaint against Ameren regarding a
18 removal of meter. During the proceeding, Ameren
19 filed a motion to dismiss which was partially
20 granted. The ALJ allowed the complainant to amend
21 his complaint which complainant has not done. The
22 complainant also did not file any exceptions to the

1 proposed order. Therefore, the order dismisses the
2 complaint for want of prosecution without
3 prejudice.

4 Are there any objections to approving
5 the order?

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Item G-6 concerns Docket 19-1071
10 which is a complaint against Peoples Gas regarding
11 a refusal to extend a gas main to a residential
12 property in a timely manner. The party filed a
13 stipulation and joint motion to dismiss,
14 stipulating that all matters have been resolved and
15 requesting to dismiss the matter with prejudice.

16 Are there any objections to granting
17 the joint motion to dismiss?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion
20 is granted.

21 Item G-7 concerns Docket 20-0633
22 which a complaint against Peoples Gas regarding

1 meter tampering. The parties have filed a
2 stipulation and joint motion to dismiss stipulating
3 that all matters in dispute have been resolved and
4 requesting that the Commission dismiss the
5 complaint with prejudice.

6 Are there any objections to granting
7 the joint motion to dismiss?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion
10 is granted.

11 Item G-8 concerns Elwood Energy's
12 application for waiver of 39 CFR Section 192.619
13 which concerns the maximum allowable operating
14 pressure, or MOAP, in steel or plastic pipelines.
15 The Commission entered an interim order in this
16 proceeding that granted the application for waiver
17 and directed the Chief Clerk to serve the notice of
18 the interim order on the Secretary of the U.S.
19 Department of Transportation and PHMSA as required
20 by 49 USC 60118(d). That was accomplished and
21 since has sent a letter to the Commission to
22 express no objections to the waiver. The order

1 finds that Elwood's request for a waiver of
2 49 CFR 192.619 is reasonable, is not inconsistent
3 with pipeline safety, and should be granted.

4 Pursuant to Section 49 USC 60118(d) the order
5 directs the Chief Clerk to forward this order to
6 the Secretary of the DOT with a copy to the
7 associate administrator for PHMSA and to the
8 regional director of the PHMSA central region
9 office.

10 Are there any objections to approving
11 this order?

12 (No verbal response.)

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

15 Item G-9 concerns Ameren's, Nicor's,
16 North Shore, and Peoples Gas's requests for
17 exemption from meter testing restrictions in
18 Section 501.250 of the Commission's rules. The
19 waiver is requested due to complications from
20 in-person meter testing during the COVID-19
21 pandemic. The Commission Staff has reviewed this
22 petition, finding that the requested waiver is

1 economically and technically sound based on the
2 schedules proposed and will not compromise safety,
3 reliability, or the service obligations of any
4 utility. The order approves the waiver.

5 Are there any objections to approving
6 the order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
9 is approved.

10 Under our telecommunications items,
11 item T-1 concerns a Commission order pursuant to
12 83 Ill. Adm. Code 770.40(e) setting maximum rates
13 and charges for the intrastate operator services,
14 effective January 1st of 2021. The new maximum
15 rates are based on updated GDP and other
16 macroeconomic factors that have changed in 2020.

17 Are there any objections to approving
18 the order?

19 (No verbal response.)

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

22 Item T-2 concerns application for a

1 certificate of authority to operate as a reseller
2 or -- and/or facilities-based carrier of
3 telecommunications services in Illinois. The order
4 grants the certificate, finding that the applicant
5 meets the requirements.

6 Are there any objections to approving
7 the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Under our water and sewer items,
12 items W-1 and W-2 concern filings by Illinois
13 American Water and Aqua Illinois to implement a
14 time limited Rider BDE, or Bad Debt Expense Rider,
15 to recover water and sewer incremental bad debt
16 expense that was worsened by the ongoing COVID-19
17 pandemic. The riders would recover from or credit
18 to water and sewer customers as appropriate the
19 amount by which each company's actual annual bad
20 debt expense in a fiscal year ending in February
21 exceeds or is less than the bad debt expense amount
22 included in each company's base rates in effect for

1 the reporting year. The Rider BDEs have an
2 effective period of 24 months with the applicable
3 measurement period ending February 2021 and
4 February of 2022. The Commission Staff has
5 reviewed the filing and recommends not suspending
6 the filing.

7 Are there any objections to
8 considering these items together and not suspending
9 the filings?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
12 filings are not suspended.

13 Item W-3 concerns 19-0681 which is a
14 complaint against Illinois American Water regarding
15 a bill adjustment for accidental water overage.
16 The dispute concerns an issue of whether the bill
17 adjustment should apply for the total bill or just
18 the portion of the overage amount. The order finds
19 that the records show that IAWC correctly made the
20 billing adjustment in accordance with their tariff
21 and lowered the complainant's bill with a one-time
22 courtesy adjustment in excess of what is typically

1 offered. Therefore, the order denies the
2 complaint.

3 Are there any objections to approving
4 the order?

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Item W-4 concerns Utility Services's
9 petition to reconcile revenues under Rider VBA, or
10 Volume Balancing Adjustment Rider, for 2019
11 calendar year. The order approves the
12 reconciliation as set in the appendix to the order,
13 finding that the costs during the reconciliation
14 period were prudently incurred.

15 Are there any objections to approving
16 the order?

17 (No verbal response.)

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

20 Item W-5 concerns Docket 20-0680
21 which is Illinois American Water Company's, or
22 IAWC, application for approval of the purchase of

1 certain assets of the Village of Livingston. IAWC
2 is requesting Commission approval of engagement
3 agreements for appraisers who will determine the
4 market value of the water distribution assets. The
5 Commission Staff has reviewed the agreement and
6 recommends approving the IAWC's request. The
7 interim order approves the agreements between IAWC
8 and the appraisers.

9 Are there any objections to approving
10 the interim order?

11 (No verbal response.)

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

14 Item W-6 concerns Illinois American,
15 Aqua, and Utility Services's joint petition for
16 exemption from the meter testing frequency schedule
17 listed in Section 600.340 of the Commission's
18 rules. The water utilities note that because of
19 the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to enter
20 customers' homes, the water utilities have been
21 unable to test and recondition or replace meters as
22 originally planned by December 31st of 2020. The

1 Commission Staff has recommended that the
2 Commission grant the requested exemption. The
3 order grants the joint petition for modification
4 and exemption.

5 Are there any objections to approving
6 the order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
9 is approved.

10 Under our miscellaneous items,
11 item M-1 concerns the Commission's actions to
12 update the applicable interest rate paid by
13 electric, natural gas, and water and sewer
14 utilities and telecommunications carriers on
15 customer deposits to align with the one-year
16 United States treasury securities during the last
17 full week of November of 2020.

18 Are there any objections to approving
19 the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

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

1 We have no petitions for rehearing.

2 Under our business items, item 0-1
3 concerns approval of batches, contracts, and
4 confirmations under the Illinois Adjustable Block
5 Program.

6 Are there any objections to approving
7 the program administrator's submissions?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
10 submissions are approved.

11 Item 0-2 concerns approval of
12 batches, contracts, and confirmations under the
13 Illinois Solar for All Program.

14 Are there any objections to approving
15 the program administrator's submissions?

16 (No verbal response.)

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

19 This concludes our Public Utilities
20 Agenda.

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

1 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Do any of the
3 commissioners have any other business to discuss?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Since this is our last
6 meeting, I wanted to make some comments just
7 looking back through the last year.

8 2020 has been a year like no other.
9 In the first three months of the year the novel
10 coronavirus pandemic spread across our nation,
11 infecting thousands of people and prompted a
12 statewide shutdown where Illinois residents were
13 required to stay home to reduce the spread of the
14 virus.

15 Recognizing a need to act quickly,
16 our Commission issued an emergency order to protect
17 essential utility services for all customers from
18 disconnection and the imposition of late payment
19 fees.

20 In the wake of rising unemployment
21 across the state, the Commission approved two
22 historic stipulations that provided much needed

1 financial relief through extended deferred payment
2 arrangements, bill payment assistance programs,
3 revised credit and collection practices, and a
4 moratorium on residential disconnections and the
5 imposition of late payment fees. The stipulations
6 were also unique in that they provided a cost
7 recovery mechanism for the utility companies.

8 As the pandemic continued throughout
9 the summer and fall months and as the moratorium on
10 residential disconnections came to near expiration,
11 the utility companies voluntarily agreed to extend
12 the moratorium several times. Most recently, and
13 to their credit, many of the large utility
14 companies voluntarily extended the moratorium on
15 residential disconnection through March 31st of
16 2021.

17 For the first time in recent history,
18 Illinois's three largest investor-owned water
19 companies agreed to a moratorium on residential
20 disconnections through the winter for individuals
21 who are low-income or self-certify financial
22 hardship.

1 This past year our Commission faced a
2 defining moment, one where our staff and my
3 colleagues were required to make decisions that
4 could either make or break the public's confidence
5 and while we are not out of the darkness the
6 arrival of a vaccine, the rising employment rates,
7 and the spirit of perseverance give us hope of a
8 new tomorrow.

9 I'm proud of our work, and I commend
10 my colleagues, Staff, and all the parties involved.
11 In the midst of this whirlwind of a year, the
12 Commission decided over 880 public utility and
13 transportation cases this year, including various
14 rate and tariff filings, complaints and
15 investigations, and license and certificate grants
16 and revocations.

17 In addition to these cases, the
18 Commission opened three notices of inquiries:
19 utility service affordability, electric and gas
20 service, safety, and reliability, and
21 transportation electrification. We look forward to
22 the responses by the parties and the resulting

1 reports which will be posted on our website for
2 public review.

3 Our year also reflected a robust
4 public engagement strategy to captivate
5 stakeholders and consumers on issues involving the
6 energy and transportation sectors. For the first
7 time in Commission history, we began livestreaming
8 regular open meetings, special open meetings, and
9 oral arguments on our website. To encourage public
10 participation at meetings, we created an online
11 submission portal for public speaking requests. We
12 hosted seven policy sessions which illuminated
13 topics such as transportation electrification,
14 supplier diversity, electric reliability in the
15 wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, retail market
16 competition, global decarbonization BP Energy's
17 outlook, and energy demand through our annual
18 summer and winter preparedness sessions.

19 We created over 10 consumer education
20 campaigns on social media outlets and our website,
21 highlighting electric supplier choice, energy
22 efficiency, the COVID-19 disconnection moratorium,

1 bill payment assistance and utility relief,
2 predatory safety towing, cyber security, water
3 conservation, flushing pipes, household goods
4 movers, National Safe Digging Day, and warning
5 against scammers.

6 To celebrate our annual rail and
7 safety week, our public affairs and rail safety
8 divisions developed a week-long social media
9 campaign featuring safety tips and facts and posted
10 educational materials for professional motor
11 carriers, farmers, and teachers on our website.

12 This week we will also release our
13 first annual external newsletter called The Wire
14 which highlights our 2020 activities. Please look
15 out for it in your mailbox if you're on our
16 distribution list or visit our website and social
17 media page to check it out.

18 2020 also marks a year of expansion
19 of critical services for the Commission. To
20 amplify the agency's focus on safe and reliable
21 utility service, the Illinois Commerce Commission
22 created a new section within the Public Utilities

1 Safety and Reliability division which includes
2 three new electrical field inspector positions to
3 conduct inspections and investigate accidents in
4 communities across the state. The group, along
5 with other engineers on staff, will be led by a new
6 assistant director of engineering.

7 Additionally, the Commission created
8 a new enforcement division in the Office of General
9 Counsel to focus on alternative retail electric and
10 gas suppliers. The establishment of this new group
11 compliments the work of our Office of Retail Market
12 Development and Consumer Services division who have
13 been working diligently on the Part 412 and
14 Part 512 rulemakings which were initiated earlier
15 this year.

16 Both the ARES enforcement unit and
17 electrical field inspector unit are in the process
18 of staffing up and we look forward to their
19 contribution in 2021.

20 Another area of growth has been in
21 our cyber security and risk management office.
22 This year the office began providing expertise on

1 rate cases and has played a critical role in
2 developing our internal COOP plan, holding COOP
3 exercises for agency leadership, presenting CLEs on
4 cyber security, and providing data analytics
5 support to other divisions. And just last week,
6 with the help of industry partners, the office
7 designed and facilitated the fourth annual
8 cross-sector cyber resiliency joint exercise with
9 180 participants from over 50 critical
10 infrastructure entities throughout Illinois and
11 across the country. Thank you for your work, and
12 we are excited for what's in store next year.

13 On a national level, our
14 commissioners have made headway in pushing the
15 policy needle. Notably, my colleague Commissioner
16 Bocanegra led a series of webinars involving 26
17 other public utility commissions on transportation
18 electrification, pushing the conversation of
19 decarbonization of the transportation sector to the
20 forefront.

21 And while he is new to the
22 Commission, we are more than fortunate to have

1 Commissioner Carrigan who joined us this year and
2 has not hesitated to dive deep in matters on
3 NARUC's Critical Infrastructure Committee and the
4 subcommittee on nuclear waste.

5 Commissioner Kimbrel leads in
6 national gas regulation, serving as co-vice chair
7 on the gas committee at NARUC, having coauthored a
8 primer on the use of AI in natural gas utilities.
9 And further, he was a featured speaker during a
10 virtual workshop with the Department of Energy and
11 the government of Brazil.

12 And lastly, Commissioner Oliva has
13 made great stride in the establishment of the first
14 permanent Supplier and Workforce Diversity
15 Committee at NARUC, reflecting a national
16 commitment to improving the landscape for diverse
17 businesses.

18 I have spent a lot of time today
19 discussing accomplishments. And while our laurels
20 are impressive, there is certainly more work left
21 to be done. Renewal energy remains a prime
22 importance to the Commission. This year the

1 Commission approved contracts for procuring
2 renewable energy credits through the Adjustable
3 Program for nearly 178 megawatts which includes
4 over 14,000 distributed generation projects, more
5 than double the number of projects in 2019.

6 Additionally, through the Solar for
7 All Program, the Commission approved contracts for
8 procuring RECs for approximately 8.5 megawatts.

9 The Commission approved the IPA's revised long-term
10 renewable resources procurement plan in February of
11 this year. In 2021 we hope to strengthen the
12 energy landscape to decarbonize our state and
13 ensure the path to clean energy.

14 Supplier diversity also plays an
15 important role in our state's future. Illinois is
16 proud to be a leader in the percentage of diverse
17 spend by the utilities in the state. In 2020 we
18 celebrated our five-year anniversary of reporting
19 on supplier diversity in Illinois. The statistical
20 data demonstrates that during the last five years
21 spending with minority, women, and veteran-owned
22 businesses has grown from an average of 15 percent

1 to almost one-third of all utility spending with
2 some utilities reporting nearly 40 percent of
3 diverse spending.

4 This year our Office of Diversity and
5 Community Affairs, led by director Jeanine
6 Robinson, developed a thorough uniform data
7 analysis of all utility companies reports providing
8 a streamlined comparative analysis for the public's
9 consumption. This analysis will allow the ICC to
10 have a better vision of the growth and opportunity
11 regarding supplier diversity spend for utility
12 companies. The analysis and report will be
13 available on our website early next year.

14 Last but certainly not least, I would
15 like to thank the Commission Staff who have
16 weathered the fiercest of storms, working
17 tirelessly to achieve the goals and mission of the
18 ICC. In particular, I would like to highlight a
19 few folks for their incredible work this year.

20 First, the IT staff has been the
21 unsung heros of our agency in 2020. The IT staff,
22 led by director Brad Smith, transitioned our agency

1 to remote work overnight. They have all
2 transitioned to frontline user support, providing
3 employees and commissioners help at any given time
4 day or night. They are always available. Words
5 cannot express the gratitude that we have for all
6 of you. Thank you.

7 Second, Public Utilities Bureau chief
8 Jim Zolnierek. It was just his luck that landed
9 him as interim ED while our ED was on maternity
10 leave and a pandemic struck the nation. Jim gave
11 countless hours navigating the complex issues the
12 pandemic presented to us this year. Even when he
13 resumed his regular duties, we couldn't leave him
14 alone and now is managing three NOIs for the
15 Commission. It goes without saying, Jim, your
16 service and leadership are very much appreciated.

17 Additionally, I must acknowledge the
18 dedication and leadership of executive director
19 Christy George who worked tirelessly to fulfill the
20 mission of the ICC while supporting the incredible
21 ICC staff and working to build morale during this
22 incredibly trying year. Thank you, Christy, for

1 your vision and dedication to moving the ICC on a
2 positive trajectory.

3 I'd also like to recognize the
4 processing division in our Transportation Bureau.
5 The processing section handles over 15,000 motor
6 carrier transactions per year, mostly paper-based
7 or in person at the Transportation walk in center
8 in Springfield. They changed their practices
9 during COVID to continue to serve customers and is
10 currently undergoing a comprehensive cross-training
11 initiative for all of their staff. Thank you for
12 your hard work during 2020.

13 I'd also like to congratulate and
14 welcome our new chief of police Ruben Ramirez, our
15 new Transportation Bureau chief Shauna Kelley, and
16 our new communications director Britney Bouie. We
17 are all very lucky to have you.

18 Finally, I'd like to recognize the
19 members of the Commission who retired earlier this
20 year and those who plan to retire on the 31st.

21 Maggie Baptiste, an Account
22 Technician II in the administrative services

1 division, retired on March 16th.

2 Scott Kassal, a Transportation
3 Investigator II in the police section, retired on
4 March 31st.

5 James Weging, a Tech Adviser IV in
6 the Office of General Counsel, retired on
7 July 31st.

8 Bill Severinson, a Railroad Safety
9 Specialist III, retired on October 6th.

10 Randy Rismiller, the assistant
11 director of the policy division and the leader of
12 Federal Policy Program, retired on September 30th.

13 Theresa Ebrey, an Economic Analyst IV
14 in the financial analysis division, will retire on
15 December 31st.

16 And Greg Rockrohr, an Electrical
17 Engineer IV in the Safety and Reliability division,
18 will retire on December 31st.

19 With respect to the last three
20 retirements, Staff have submitted comments to
21 commemorate the retirements of Randy, Theresa, and
22 Greg which I will read aloud on Staff's behalf.

1 Theresa Ebrey joined the Commission
2 in April of 1999 as an accountant in the financial
3 analysis division. During her over 21-year career
4 at the ICC, Theresa has provided expert analysis
5 and testimony concerning hundreds of cases and
6 issues that have come before the Commission. She
7 has proven herself to be an integral part of the
8 accounting department and the financial analysis
9 division often tackling some of the most difficult
10 regulatory accounting issues. On numerous
11 occasions Theresa has provided accounting technical
12 assistance and insight to colleagues throughout the
13 Commission, including but not limited to her
14 frequent work as technical assistant on accounting
15 issues for ALJs and commissioners.

16 Theresa's leadership and expertise
17 will be missed. However, we are thankful that she
18 will return to the Commission in a limited capacity
19 through 2021 to help address future accounting
20 issues and impart her knowledge and expertise onto
21 the lesser experienced colleagues.

22 Greg Rockrohr joined the Commission

1 in July of 2001 as an electrical engineer in the
2 energy engineering department of the Bureau of
3 Public Utilities Safety and Reliability Division.
4 Greg arrived at the Commission after working
5 18 years at Pacific Gas and Electric Company and
6 three years at Northern Indiana Public Service
7 Company.

8 During his almost 20-year career at
9 the agency, Greg has provided expert analysis and
10 testimony involving a wide range of technical
11 electric issues and provided his recommendations in
12 a manner that makes extremely complex issues
13 understandable. Greg has also used his over
14 21 years of industry knowledge to conduct
15 inspections and provide recommendations regarding
16 the safety and reliability of the state's electric
17 system as well as train the next generation of
18 Staff's electrical engineers regarding these issues
19 and the aspects of their duties. Greg's leadership
20 and knowledge will truly be missed.

21 And finally, Randy Rismiller joined
22 the Commission in 1990 as an economic analyst in

1 the energy division. Randy has worked at the Ohio
2 PUC before joining the ICC. During his 30-year
3 service at the Commission, he saw the creation of
4 the independent regional transmission operators
5 such as PJM and MISO and the associated
6 Organization of MISO States, OPSI, and the
7 Organization of MISO States, or OMS.

8 Randy is an integral part of both
9 OPSI and OMS, and the loss we are feeling here at
10 the Commission will be felt at those two
11 organizations just as much. Randy has directly
12 advised and educated many ICC commissioners,
13 including myself, on all federal and regional
14 energy matters affecting energy customers in
15 Illinois. His insight, expertise, knowledge on the
16 substantial issues as well as institutions are
17 unmatched and will sorely be missed.

18 In closing, we have experienced a lot
19 as a Commission in 2020 and we are excited to
20 embark upon a new journey during 2021, our
21 centennial year in operation as the Illinois
22 Commerce Commission. We are fortunate to have such

1 a dedicated staff and commissioners who continue to
2 work every day to fulfill the mission at the ICC.

3 That concludes my remarks. I'll just
4 ask if commissioners have any other business they'd
5 like to discuss.

6 Hearing none --

7 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: Yes, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER KIMBREL: I'm sorry. I'm sure
10 Michelle Kemp thought she was going to get off the
11 hook, but she's unfortunately leaving us for
12 greener pastures. That's a great loss. She's been
13 very valuable to the Commission. And, Michelle,
14 all the best to you.

15 I'd also like to recognize the ALJ
16 division for all the hard work that they do.
17 They're definitely appreciated. They make our
18 lives easier for sure as well.

19 And just as a general apology to
20 everyone at the Commission who's left the
21 Commission during this time, this year. With all
22 the difficulties we have with COVID, it's hard to

1 know everything that's going on at the Commission
2 now. It's very difficult to stay in touch. So our
3 apologies if we missed anybody.

4 That's all I have to say. Happy new
5 year. Happy holidays.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: And Michelle didn't make
7 the esteemed list of retirees because she is not
8 technically retiring, but I do agree, she will be a
9 huge loss.

10 Are there any other comments?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Then hearing
13 nothing and without objections, the meeting stands
14 adjourned. Happy new year, everybody.

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