

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Good morning. Under the
2 Open Meetings Act, I call the December 16th, 2021,
3 Regular Open Meeting to order.

4 Commissioners Bocanegra, Carrigan,
5 and Kimbrel are with me in Chicago. With all
6 Commissioners present, we have a quorum. We have no
7 requests to speak; so we're going to proceed with
8 today's agenda.

9 Item O-1 under our Public Utilities
10 Agenda concerns a report by the President and Chief
11 Executive Officer of Peoples Gas and North Shore,
12 Charles Mathews, on the status of compliance with the
13 Order in Docket No. 14-0496. Docket 14-0496 concerns
14 Peoples Gas and North Shore's corporate reorganization
15 into WEC Energy Group. If there are no objections, for
16 logistical reasons, we will hear this item now.

17 Hearing no objections,
18 Mr. Matthews, if you want to step up, you may begin
19 with your comments.

20 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me
21 say up front thanks to all of the commissioners to let
22 me come here today and give this update. As I looked

1 at the opening comments, I have to continue to read
2 through it and think it can't be right because it says
3 I'm here in person, but I guess I really am here in
4 person today. So it is good to be back in person. I
5 think last year this was done virtually, so much rather
6 be in person.

7 This is our 7th annual update
8 since WEC Energy Group acquired Peoples Gas and North
9 Shore Gas in 2015. I'm pleased to tell you once again
10 that we remain in compliance with all of the conditions
11 in the Commission's order authorizing the merger. I'll
12 be happy to respond to questions after my remarks.

13 Last year when I spoke to you about
14 our response to COVID-19, I hoped things would be back
15 to normal by now. But like everyone, we continue to
16 face the challenges of operating during a pandemic.
17 Despite these challenges, we've continued to operate
18 without a hitch while keeping our customers and
19 employees safe. We've also been able to celebrate
20 significant achievements and milestones, which are all
21 the more significant given the challenges of COVID-19.

22 Among those milestones, I'm happy

1 to report that Peoples Gas System Modernization Program
2 is now one-third complete. SMP improvements already
3 are paying benefits in terms of increased safety,
4 enhanced reliability, and lower methane emissions
5 throughout Chicago.

6 Also this year, we completed the largest
7 part of our Facilities of the Future program to replace
8 our outdated shops, some of which were a century old.
9 Our new facilities are helping us better serve
10 customers while providing employees with safe, modern
11 workplaces. Both of these initiatives are part of a
12 larger commitment to provide top tier service in
13 everything we do.

14 Now, let me turn to a subject I know is
15 of great concern to the Commission and to us as well.
16 And that's the high price of natural gas and how those
17 prices will impact heating bills this winter.

18 I'll tell you about what we're doing to
19 mitigate the impact for customers, but let me start
20 with what's happening in the commodity market.

21 Earlier this year, natural gas prices
22 spiked and they remain up by as much as 50 percent over

1 this time last year. We're seeing prices of five
2 dollars per dekatherm, which we haven't had since 2014.
3 There are several factors putting pressure on prices.

4 Production of natural gas slowed
5 dramatically during the economic downturn and also was
6 affected by Hurricane Ida and the February freeze-offs
7 in Texas. Production today still remains below
8 pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

9 As the economy recovered this year, and
10 demand for natural gas increased across all sectors, we
11 were faced with a shortage at the national level. That
12 shortage occurred right as utilities were replenishing
13 natural gas storage facilitates for winter.

14 Fortunately, our storage for Peoples Gas
15 and North Shore Gas is on target. But nationally we're
16 looking at gas storage levels that are 15 percent below
17 last year and 6 percent below the 5-year average.

18 In addition to the immediate supply
19 issues, there are some long-term trends affecting
20 pricing. Those include a greater reliance on natural
21 gas for power generation and the increased export of
22 liquefied natural gas to foreign markets.

1 So what does this mean for winter bills?
2 Our best estimate is that residential customers of
3 Peoples Gas will see average increases of about
4 50 percent or \$60 on their monthly bills and that North
5 Shore Gas customers will see average monthly increases
6 of about 40 percent or \$50 on their monthly bills.

7 We understand those increases will be
8 very difficult for many of our customers, particularly
9 those already struggling to pay their bills.

10 That's why we'll be encouraging all
11 eligible customers to apply for energy assistance and
12 working closely with our community partners throughout
13 the winter to get the word out.

14 Information about financial assistance
15 is being provided through e-newsletters, bill inserts,
16 social media, our websites, special events, and the
17 news media. We're also reaching out to customers via
18 online and radio advertising, and through ads in local
19 newspapers and on bus shelters.

20 We continue to offer our residential
21 customers 18-month payment plans, which we began
22 implementing in the early months of the pandemic in

1 June 2020. And as you know, our moratorium on service
2 disconnections began December 1st and runs through
3 March 31st.

4 Nearly \$295 million has been allocated
5 to the LIHEAP program this year to help Illinois
6 residents pay their energy bills.

7 Additionally, Peoples Gas and North
8 Shore Gas are making \$2 million in assistance available
9 through our Share the Warmth program.

10 We believe the combination of these
11 initiatives will ease the burden of our most vulnerable
12 customers this winter.

13 Customers can apply for both programs at
14 the same time through the Community and Economic
15 Development Association for Peoples Gas or the
16 Community Action Partnership of Lake County for North
17 Shore Gas.

18 Turning to our work in the field, as I
19 mentioned, our System Modernization Program is on
20 schedule and hit the one-third mark this year. SMP
21 continues to break safety, reliability, and
22 environmental benefits to neighborhoods throughout

1 Chicago.

2 Since 2011, we have installed more than
3 1,200 miles of modern natural gas main, more than
4 100,000 new service lines, 200,000 natural gas meters,
5 and more than 260,000 explosion prevention devices.

6 SMP is already is paying benefits in
7 increased reliability. The importance of SMP was
8 underscored last winter when subfreezing temperatures
9 caused a natural gas outage for more than 1,000
10 customers in Logan Square. The gas main that serves
11 those customers was installed in the late 1800s.
12 Improvements made through SMP will prevent outages like
13 that in the future.

14 SMP is also showing results in terms of
15 safety and sustainability by reducing gas leaks. In
16 fact, since 2010, SMP improvements have contributed to
17 a 66 percent decrease in the number of leaks in our
18 delivery system.

19 Earlier this year, our parent company,
20 WEC Energy Group, set an industry-leading goal of
21 net-zero methane emissions for it's six natural gas
22 utilities by 2030. SMP is the largest single driver in

1 reaching that goal.

2 Between 2017 and 2020, SMP improvements
3 prevented 890 metric tons of methane from leaking into
4 the atmosphere. That's the equivalent of removing more
5 than 4,800 passenger cars from the road for a year.

6 Now, let me touch on our Facilitates of
7 the Future program. Since I last spoke to you, we
8 completed construction at our Little Village campus and
9 employees moved into the new facilitates there. That
10 campus includes our new Support Services and Logistics
11 facilities, along with our new Central Shop, and, of
12 course, our Peoples Energy Training Center.

13 Farther north, we were excited to open
14 our new Central Business District building on our
15 Division Street Property. And, as you will recall, we
16 dedicated our new North Shop early last year, just
17 before the pandemic took off.

18 Together, these new facilitates are
19 helping us more efficiently as we focus on top tier
20 customer service. They're also safer, healthier
21 workplaces for our employees and a vast improvement in
22 appearance for our neighbors. We are continuing to

1 work on plans for a new South Shop for Peoples Gas, as
2 well as upgrades for our North Shore Gas facilities.

3 Last year, I mentioned the growing use
4 of our mobile app, which is helping customers manage
5 their accounts anytime, from anywhere.

6 More than 310,000 customers are now
7 using the app, and customers tell us it's easy to
8 navigate and convenient to use. This year, we improved
9 functionality by making it possible to set up payment
10 arrangements without calling customer service.

11 As in years past, we continue to make
12 follow-up calls to customers after service
13 appointments. So far this year, we've contacted more
14 than 58,000 customers. Of those with whom we spoke,
15 99 percent reported being satisfied with the service
16 they received. And for the third year in a row,
17 Peoples Gas was named a Most Trusted Brand in a
18 national survey of utility customers by Escalent, a
19 leading behavior and analytics firm.

20 Let me turn briefly to workplace and
21 supplier diversity. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
22 continue to be a major source of employment and

1 economic opportunity in the Chicago area. I'm happy to
2 report that our Illinois workforce is more diverse than
3 ever.

4 More than 75 percent of our hires in
5 recent years have been diverse employees. And our
6 overall workforce is about 65 percent diverse, up from
7 60 percent just last year.

8 Many of those new hires have come
9 through our Utility Workers Military Assistance
10 Program. The program is a partnership with Gas Workers
11 Local 18007 and trains veterans for careers in the
12 natural gas industry. Since 2012, it has resulted in
13 jobs for 478 veterans.

14 Earlier this fall, I spoke to you about
15 our Supplier Diversity Initiative. As I mentioned at
16 the time, in 2020 we spent more than \$165 million on
17 diverse suppliers.

18 Overall spending with diverse suppliers
19 represented 25 percent of procurement last year -- a
20 record high percentage.

21 Our System Modernization Program remains
22 the bedrock of our Supplier Diversity Initiative and

1 represents more than a third of our diverse spending.

2 Throughout the pandemic, SMP has kept us
3 on track to reach our supplier diversity goals. That's
4 helped support hundreds of good paying jobs during a
5 very difficult time for many workers in the area.

6 Finally, we continue to support the work
7 of our many community partners in the areas of
8 education, health and human services, arts and culture,
9 the environment, and community and neighborhood
10 development.

11 This year, we were especially proud to
12 be a founded sponsor of United Way's United
13 Neighborhoods Equity Fund. The fund supports small
14 Black- and brown-led nonprofits on Chicago's South and
15 West sides and connects them to new funding
16 opportunities.

17 In addition to our significant corporate
18 support, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas employees
19 pledged more than \$100,000 to support United Way during
20 our annual internal campaign this year.

21 And last year, I was honored to chair
22 United Way of Metro Chicago's region-wide campaign,

1 which raised more than \$67 million to support the work
2 of United Way and its affiliate agencies.

3 Finally, despite most in-person
4 fundraisers being canceled again this year, our
5 employees once again turned out virtually to support
6 Special Olympics in the Polar Plunge and the Making
7 Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to provide
9 this update today. Despite many challenges over the
10 past two years, we're excited about the future and all
11 it holds for us and for all of Chicagoland. We look
12 forward to continuing to work with you and all of our
13 stakeholders in 2022. Thank you.

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Thank you. We appreciate
15 you coming in person today. I know you're very busy.
16 Thank you for taking the time to be here.

17 Do we have questions?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: No? Okay. We appreciate
20 it. Thank you.

21 There are edits to the
22 November 18th, 2021, Regular Open Meeting Minutes and

1 Policy Session Minutes.

2 Are there any objections to
3 approving the minutes as edited?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Item E-1 concerns MidAmerican's
8 filing to extend Rider Renewable Energy Resources and
9 Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge for
10 electric services from December 31 of 2021, to
11 December 31 of 2025, in compliance with Illinois Public
12 Act 102-0444. The Commission Staff recommends not
13 suspending the filing.

14 Are there any objections to not
15 suspending the filing?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
18 not suspended.

19 Item E-2 concerns Ameren's
20 revisions to its Customer Terms & Conditions and Rider
21 EE to reflect changes to the PUA per Public Act
22 102-0662. The Commission Staff recommends not

1 suspending the filing.

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

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
6 not suspended.

7 Item E-3 concerns ComEd's filing to
8 extending Rider Renewable Energy Resources and Coal
9 Technology Development Assistance Charge for electric
10 service from December 31 of 2021 to December 31 of 2025
11 in compliance with Illinois Public Act 102-0444. The
12 Commission Staff recommends not suspending the filing.

13 Are there any objections to not
14 suspending the filing?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
17 not suspended.

18 Item E-4 concerns ComEd's filing to
19 revise its General Terms & Conditions, Rider Zero
20 Emission Adjustment and Rider Energy Efficiency Pricing
21 and Performance to comply with Illinois Public Act
22 102-0662. The Commission Staff recommends not

1 suspending the filing.

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

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
6 not suspended.

7 Item B-5 concerns ComEd's filing to
8 create a new Rider Energy Transition Assistance Charge
9 in accordance with Public Act 102-0662 to allow ComEd
10 to collect funds from all retail customers through the
11 Energy Transition Assistance Charge to be remitted to
12 the Illinois Department of Revenue. The Commission
13 Staff recommends not suspending the filing.

14 Are there any objections to not
15 suspending the filing?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
18 not suspended.

19 Item E-6 concerns Ameren's filing
20 to updates its Rider Peak Times Rewards to comply with
21 the Final Order in Docket 20-0674, which incorporates
22 changes that MISO has implemented to begin with the

1 June 2022 to May 2023 MISO program year. The
2 Commission Staff recommends not suspending the filing.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

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

8 Item E-7 concerns Ameren's filing
9 to create a new Rider Energy Transition Assistance
10 Charge in accordance with Public Act 102-0662. The
11 Rider provides for recovery of costs Ameren incurs in
12 connection with the Energy Transition Assistance Fund.
13 Ameren also proposes housekeeping changes to its
14 electric services tariff. The Commission Staff
15 recommends not suspending the filing.

16 Are there any objections to not
17 suspending the filing?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
20 not suspended.

21 Item D-8 concerns Ameren's filing
22 to revise its Rider Renewable Electricity Adjustment in

1 accordance with Public Act 102-0662. The revisions
2 update the base amount of the Renewable Energy
3 Adjustment, change the reconsiliation timeline, and
4 update provisions on future payment obligations to
5 conform to the modifications of the Act. The
6 Commission Staff recommends not suspending the filing.

7 Are there any objections to not
8 suspending the filing?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
11 not suspended.

12 Items E-9 and E-10 concern
13 applications for Certification to install Distributed
14 Generation facilities in Illinois. The Orders grant
15 the certificates finding that the applicants meet the
16 licensing requirements.

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

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Orders are
22 approved.

1 Item E-11 concerns ComEd's petition
2 proposing tariff amendments to Rider Non-AMI Metering.
3 The filing proposes terms and conditions under which
4 service is to be rendered after June 30th of 2022, to
5 retail customers that refuse to voluntarily accept the
6 installation of advanced metering infrastructure
7 metering or to voluntarily permit the operation of AMI
8 metering at their premises. The Order grants the
9 Petition and approves the revisions to the rider.

10 Are there any objections to
11 approving the Order?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
14 approved.

15 Item E-12 through E-16 concern
16 proceedings to terminate Certificates of Service
17 Authority to operate as a retail electric supplier
18 agents, brokers, and consultants in Illinois.
19 Respondents failed to appear at the hearing and had not
20 provided evidence that they filed their Compliance
21 Recertification Reports, or that they are in good
22 standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, or that

1 they possess valid licenses or permit bond. The Orders
2 terminate the abandoned licenses and note the good
3 standing valid license or permit bond. The Orders
4 terminate the abandoned licenses and note that the
5 respondents are not relieved from the requirements to
6 file their reports or to pay any penalty for failure to
7 do so.

8 Are there any objections to
9 considering these items together and approving the
10 Orders?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Orders are
13 approved.

14 Item E-17 concerns a proceeding to
15 terminate Ucontrol Energy's Certificate of Service
16 Authority to operate as a retail electric supplier
17 agent, broker, and consultant in Illinois. Staff filed
18 Motion to Dismiss, noting that the Commission has
19 already granted Respondent's petition to cancel its
20 Certificate in Docket 21-0406.

21 Are there any objections to
22 granting the Staff's Motion and dismissing this

1 proceeding?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the proceeding
4 is dismissed.

5 Items E-18 and E-19 concern
6 Applications for Certificates of Service Authority to
7 Install, Maintain, and Repair Electric Vehicle Charging
8 Stations. The Orders grant the licenses, finding that
9 the applicants meet the requirements.

10 Are there any objections to
11 considering these items together and approving the
12 Orders?

13 (No verbal response.)

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

16 Item E-20 concerns New Holland
17 Rochester, Inc.'s Petition to cancel its Certificate of
18 Service Authority to install distributed generation
19 facilitates, as it is no longer doing business in
20 Illinois. The Order grants the Petition and cancels
21 the Certificate.

22 Are there any objections to

1 approving the Order?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
4 approved.

5 Item E-21 concerns a Complaint
6 against ComEd alleging improper removal from the Net
7 Metering Program and requesting a class action lawsuit.
8 The parties filed a Stipulation and Joint Motion to
9 Dismiss, stipulating that all matters in dispute have
10 been resolved and requesting that the Commission
11 dismiss the Complaint with prejudice.

12 Are there any objections to
13 granting the Motion to Dismiss?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Motion to
16 Dismiss is granted.

17 Item E-22 concerns ComEd's petition
18 for special for permission to file revised tariff, on
19 less than 45 days' notice, to address provisions of
20 Public Act 102-0662 that prohibit deposits and late
21 payment fees for the low-income residential customers
22 or applicants. The Order grants the special permission

1 and initiates the investigation.

2 Are there any objections to
3 approving the Order?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Item E-23 concerns ComEd's petition
8 to reopen Docket No. 17-0332 for the purpose of
9 considering and approving modifications to its
10 Workforce Development Implementation Plan to conform it
11 to the applicable provisions of PA102-0662.

12 Are there any objections to
13 granting the Petition and reopening the docket?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Petition
16 is granted.

17 Moving on to our Gas Items. Item
18 G-1 concerns MidAmerican filing to extend Rider
19 Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology
20 Development Assistance Charge for gas service from
21 December 31st of 2021 to December 31st of 2025 in
22 accordance with the Illinois Public Act 102-444. The

1 Commission Staff recommends not suspending the filing.

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

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
6 not suspended.

7 Item G-2 and G-3 concern North
8 Shore's and Peoples Gas's respective filings to revise
9 their Public Utility Assessment Charges that recover
10 ICC assessments under the costs of the ICC exercising
11 its regulatory and supervisory functions, because of
12 recent additions to Public Utilities Act. The Act now
13 requires additional utility reporting and imposes
14 additional filing costs and new ICC costs as well as
15 contributions to the Consumer Intervenor Compensation
16 Fund. The Commission Staff recommends not suspending
17 the filings.

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

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filings
22 are not suspended.

1 Item G-4 concerns Peoples Gas's
2 filing to create Rider Third-Party Transaction Fee
3 Adjustment, which proposes to recover the direct billed
4 costs of consumer credit card use from all customers
5 generally as of the effective date of the tariff.
6 Staff recommends not suspending the filings.

7 Are there any objections to not
8 suspending the filing?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is
11 not suspended.

12 Item G-5 concerns Ameren's filing
13 to create Rider Third-Party Transaction Fee
14 Adjustments, which proposes to recover the direct
15 third-party billed costs of customer credit card use
16 from all customers generally as of the effective date
17 of the tariff. Staff recommends not suspending the
18 filings.

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

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing is

1 not suspended.

2 Items G-6 through G-9 concern
3 Ameren's, Consumers Gas Company's, North Shore's, and
4 Peoples Gas' requests to reconcile revenues under their
5 Gas Adjustment Charges for the 2020 calendar year. The
6 Orders approve the reconciliations as set in the
7 Appendices to the Orders, finding that the costs during
8 the reconciliation period were prudently incurred.

9 Are there any objections to
10 considering the items together and approving the
11 Orders?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Orders are
14 approved.

15 Item G-10 concerns a Complaint
16 against Nicor Gas erred in denying reinstallation of
17 Complainant's gas meter due to an outstanding balance.
18 The Order denies the Complaint, finding that the
19 Complainant did not meet her burden of proof.

20 Are there any objections to
21 approving the Order?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
2 approved.

3 Item G-11 concerns Ameren's
4 petition to reconcile the Utility Assessment Recovery
5 Charge amounts recovered by the Company for the period
6 of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 against the
7 fiscal year 2020 utility assessment fees charged to the
8 Company. The Order approves the reconciliation as set
9 in the Appendix to the Order.

10 Are there any objections to
11 approving the Order?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
14 approved.

15 Item G-12 concerns IDOT's position
16 for approval to take damage certain properties owned by
17 West Shore Pipe Line Company, in order to undertake
18 anticipated road improvements. IDOT and the Pipeline
19 agree that the property sought by IDOT can be acquired
20 through eminent domain proceedings in the circuit court
21 in Cook County.

22 The Order finds that the work to be

1 done at this location in Cook County is within the
2 public interest and clearly constitutes a public
3 purpose and that the Commission has statutory authority
4 to grant approval to IDOT to acquire title to the
5 property by exercise of the right of eminent domain.
6 The Order grants the petition.

7 Are there any objections to
8 approving the Order?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
11 approved.

12 Item G-13 concerns Illinois Gas
13 Company's filing of an Informational Statement
14 pertaining to its proposed financing of \$2.5 million
15 aggregate long-term debt scheduled to occur on or after
16 January 1, 2022. The Order authorizes the debt
17 issuance, finding the transaction reasonable and
18 consistent with the public interest.

19 Are there any objections to
20 approving the Order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is

1 approved.

2 Moving on to our Telecommunications
3 Items. Item T-1 concerns an Order initiating a
4 rulemaking proceeding stemming from the required
5 biennial review of telecom-related rules. Staff has
6 recommended the Commission initiate a rulemaking to
7 amend Part 710 to adopt the most current version of the
8 uniform system of accounts contained in the FCC's rule.
9 The Order initiates a rulemaking for this purpose and
10 authorizes commencement of a First Notice period for
11 the proposed amendment.

12 Are there any objections to
13 approving the Order?

14 (No verbal response.)

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

17 Item T-2 concerns an Order
18 initiating a rulemaking proceeding stemming from the
19 required biennial review of telecom-related rules.
20 Staff has recommended the Commission initiate a
21 rulemaking to amend Part 736, Service Quality
22 Requirements Applicable to Wireless Eligible

1 Telecommunications Carriers.

2 The rules currently require the
3 carriers to define their service territories according
4 to local exchanges. Staff notes that FCC, in
5 administering universal service fund programs, now also
6 uses a different criterion -- consensus blocks -- in
7 allocating funds. Staff thus recommends amending
8 Part 736 to allow carriers to use this alternative
9 basis for defining their territories. The Order
10 initiates a rulemaking for this purpose and authorizes
11 commencement of the First Notice period for the
12 proposed amendment.

13 Are there any objections to
14 approving the Order?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
17 approved.

18 Items T-3 and T-4 concern Petitions
19 for voluntary cancellation of Certificates of Service
20 Authority to provide telecommunications services. The
21 Orders cancel the certificates, finding that the
22 cancellations will not deprive any Illinois customers

1 of necessary telecommunications services and are not
2 otherwise contrary to the public interest.

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

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Under the Water and Sewer Items,
10 Item W-1 concerns Aqua Illinois's petition to reconcile
11 Qualifying infrastructure Plant Surcharge Riders or QIP
12 Riders in effect during calendar year 2020 for Aqua
13 Illinois' Consolidated Water and Consolidated rate
14 areas. The Order approves the reconciliation as set in
15 the Appendices to the Order.

16 Are there any objections to
17 approving the Order?

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Item W-2 concerns Utility Services
22 of Illinois' petition to reconcile Qualifying

1 Infrastructure Plant Surcharge Riders or QIP Riders in
2 effect during calendar year 2020 for USI's water and
3 wastewater service divisions. The Order approves the
4 reconciliation.

5 Are there any objections to
6 approving the Order?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the Order is
9 approved.

10 Item W-3 concerns Aqua Illinois'
11 Petition for Reconciliation under the Volume Balancing
12 Adjustment Rider Tariffs for the 2020 calendar year.
13 The Order approves the reconciliation as summarized in
14 Appendices to the Order, finding that the costs were
15 prudently incurred.

16 Are there any objections to
17 approving the Order?

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Item W-4 concerns Utility Services
22 of Illinois' Petition for Reconciliation under the

1 Public Utility Fund Deficit Supplemental Customer
2 Charges for the period of July 1st, 2020 through
3 June 30th of 2021. The Order approves the
4 reconciliation as summarized in the Appendix to the
5 Order.

6 Are there any objections to
7 approving the Order?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Items W-5 and W-6 concern Illinois
12 American's Applications for Certificates of Public
13 Convenience and Necessity to provide water and
14 wastewater service to areas in Logan County and Peoria
15 County and for approval of the purchase of certain
16 assets of the City of Mt. Pulaski.

17 The Orders grant the certificates,
18 approve the asset purchase agreement, set rate base
19 value for the acquired facilities, and apply Illinois
20 American's current rates and conditions of service
21 tariffs to the customers in these service areas,
22 finding that Illinois American will provide service in

1 compliance with the necessary sections of the Public
2 Utilities Act.

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

6 (No verbal response.)

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

9 Under our miscellaneous items,
10 Item M-1 concerns the annual Commission's action to
11 update the applicable interest rate paid on customer
12 deposits by electric, natural gas, and water and sewer
13 utilities and telecommunications carriers. The Order
14 sets an interest rate for the 2022 calendar year.

15 Are there any objections to
16 approving the Order?

17 (No verbal response.)

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

20 We have no petitions for rehearing.

21 Under Other Business Items, on the
22 O-1, we already heard the report at the beginning of

1 this meeting; so there is no action on this item.

2 Item 0-2 concerns approval of
3 Batches, Contracts, and Confirmations under the
4 Illinois Solar for All Program.

5 Are there any objections to
6 approving the Program Administrator's Submissions?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
9 Submissions are approved.

10 This concludes our Public Utilities
11 agenda. Judge Teague Kingsley, do we have any other
12 matters to discuss before the Commission today?

13 JUDGE TEAGUE KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chair.

14 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Do the Commissioners have
15 any other business to discuss?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIR ZALEWSKI: Okay. I do have some
18 comments.

19 As we close out the last open
20 session of 2021, I want to thank my fellow
21 commissioners, our wonderful advisers, and our
22 dedicated Staff, for all your professionalism,

1 dedication, and your hard work this year.

2 Reflecting on the past 12 months, I
3 am extremely proud of all that the ICC has been able to
4 accomplish. Early in this whirlwind of a year, we
5 established additional historic consumer protection
6 agreements with the utilities and consumer advocates to
7 prevent disconnections for low-income individuals and
8 families hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. These
9 protections built upon those placed into effect in
10 2020.

11 Through the end of November, the
12 Commission decided 812 Public Utility cases and
13 approximately 218 Transportation Cases, including Rate
14 and Tariff filings, complaints, investigations, license
15 and certification grants, and renovations. We held
16 four Policy Sessions and released four NOI reports,
17 Electric and Natural Gas Service Safety and
18 Reliability; Utility Service Affordability;
19 Transportation, Electrification Rate Design &
20 Affordability, and Extreme Weather Preparedness. These
21 reports, which can all be found on our website, are a
22 valuable resource to us as regulators, to the

1 commission staff, and to policymakers as we consider
2 topics and make decisions moving forward. A special
3 thanks to all those who participated in the NOI
4 process.

5 The year is ending with swift focus
6 on the implementation of the Climate and Equitable Jobs
7 Act, which puts Illinois on the path to 100 percent
8 clean energy by 2050, transitions to clean and
9 renewable forms of generation, and encourages equitable
10 job creation.

11 CEJA just signed into law on
12 September 15th, requires the ICC to work under tight
13 statutory deadlines over the next two years to resolve
14 complex questions about how the distribution grid
15 should be planned and operated in order to achieve the
16 law's aims: accommodating and incentivizing more
17 renewable generation, increasing deployment of
18 customer-owned distributed energy resources, DER, and
19 hastening uptake of electric vehicles, all while
20 ensuring grid reliability and a just and reasonable
21 distribution of the costs and benefits of these
22 transformational efforts.

1 I'm pleased to say that the ICC is
2 off to a very good start. In particular, the Public
3 Utilities Staff, Office of General Counsel, and Human
4 Resources all have done an exceptionable job taking on
5 the additional, time sensitive workload to ensure that
6 we meet the timelines set under the CEJA.

7 In a matter of months, the ICC has
8 held 15 workshops on topics such as beneficial
9 electrification; electric utility performance; tracking
10 metrics; energy efficiency; energy storage and
11 interconnection -- all related to CEJA.

12 In addition, the ICC has
13 established two new divisions. First, the Integrated
14 Distribution Planning Division, led by our own Scott
15 Struck, which will review and evaluate Integrated Grid
16 Plans and audits, to ensure ComEd's and Ameren's
17 regulated utility operations, expenditures, and
18 investments align with the CEJA's public benefit goals.
19 And second, the Ethics and Accountability Division, led
20 by Phil Kosanovich, the ICC's Public Utility Ethics and
21 Compliance Officer. This division is tasked with
22 ensuring that the members and staff of the ICC as well

1 as the public utilities adhere to the highest standards
2 of ethical conduct.

3 Karen Weathers and Collette Smith
4 from Human Resources have been working very hard to
5 recruit and hire several professional legal,
6 engineering, and financial positions within the
7 agency's Public Utilities Bureau and Office of General
8 Counsel needed to implement CEJA.

9 Now, to be transparent and keep
10 stakeholders and the public apprised of the activities
11 and progress being made by the agency, Brad Smith and
12 the entire IT Department quickly created the CEJA
13 implementation webpage with links to formal
14 implementation proceedings, workshops, staff reports,
15 and more.

16 The commission initiated a workshop
17 process to facilitate the development of performance
18 and tracking metrics for ComEd and Ameren for a new
19 performance-based ratemaking structure. We directed
20 the Staff to engage a facilitator -- the Rocky Mountain
21 Institute -- to conduct the workshops and have issued a
22 report regarding information gathered from the Electric

1 Utility and Performance Tracking Metrics workshop
2 process. And a quick reminder: Reply comments in
3 response to initial comments are due tomorrow.

4 We also initiated Baseline
5 Assessment Audits of Ameren and ComEd distribution
6 systems; and initiated a docket requiring the utilities
7 to accelerate repayment of excess deferred income taxes
8 arising from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act by
9 December 31 of 2025.

10 Additionally, the commission
11 initiated a process to select an independent,
12 third-party facilitator for Multi-Year Integrated Grid
13 Plan workshops, approved by the Staff's recommendation,
14 and gave the Executive Director authority to enter
15 contracts with the selected entity. We also approved
16 this Staff's recommendation for a multi-year integrated
17 grid plan auditor to assist with distribution planning
18 process and docketed proceedings as well as hiring a
19 technical and policy expert to support the Commission
20 in the development of a renewable energy access plan.
21 Staff was also directed to develop selection criteria
22 and requirements to engage in a third-party program

1 administrator to oversee the Intervenor Compensation
2 Fund, and the Commission has approved the Staff's
3 recommendation for a third-party administrator. We
4 also established an Interconnection Working Group to
5 consider technical and other matters relating to
6 interconnection of solar and other distributed
7 generation resources.

8 The Commission approved the
9 Illinois Power Agency's most recent Long-Term Renewable
10 Resources Procurement Plan that addressed the provision
11 of electricity for the "eligible retail customers" of
12 Ameren Illinois, ComEd, and MidAmerican Energy Company.
13 And all of this was done in just the last few months of
14 to 2021. Now, separate from CEJA, the commission also
15 issued decisions on several rate cases, including
16 annual distribution formula rate cases for both Ameren
17 Illinois and ComEd, as well as traditional rate cases
18 for Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, Consumers Gas, and
19 Prairie Path Water Company.

20 ICC Commissioners continue to be
21 very active and influential at both the state and
22 national levels in 2021. Commissioner Maria Bocanegra

1 was chosen as chair of the NARUC Committee on Water, as
2 well as the president of the MARC 2022 Annual Meeting
3 and Conference, which will take place in Chicago,
4 Illinois from June 19th to the 22nd at the Radisson Blu
5 Aqua Hotel. The MARC 2022 Conference's theme is
6 "Building the New Normal" and will address how
7 regulators, utilities, and stakeholders can address our
8 energy needs in the face of climate change while
9 illustrating Illinois' trailblazing efforts as
10 evidenced by the passing of CEJA.

11 Commissioner Bocanegra has been a
12 regular participant on webinars, addressing a need for
13 regional cooperation, improved infrastructure, and
14 planning for the transition to Beneficial
15 Electrification; the importance of increased diversity
16 in the energy industry in the C-Suite, industry
17 workforce and amongst suppliers; and also protecting
18 the safety of our nation's local and national water
19 supply.

20 Commissioner Michael Carrigan was
21 selected to participate in NARUC's newly launched
22 five-year Nuclear Energy Partnership with the U.S. DOE

1 Office of Nuclear Energy. In February, he provided
2 opening remarks during the Northwestern University
3 Electricity Dialogue on "Transmission Planning:
4 Preparing the grid to do Everything," and in June,
5 hosted the ICC's 2021 Summer Preparedness Policy
6 Session with his advisers Ashley Renkor and Sarah
7 Cronin. And on September 13th he was officially
8 confirmed Commissioner by the Illinois Senate.

9 Commissioner Ethan Kimbrel
10 continues to lead as Chairman of NARUC Committee on Gas
11 and serves on the Board of Directors on the
12 Organization of PJM States. In November, Commissioner
13 Kimbrel hosted the ICC's 2021 Winter Preparedness
14 Policy Session with his advisers Maya Nevels and Joe
15 Fallah, moderating the panels.

16 In February, I was fortunate enough
17 to participate in a NARUC Virtual Exchange Program as
18 part of a regional partnership with the Regional Energy
19 Regulators Association of Southern Africa. Renewable
20 energy technologies and energy storage were the focus
21 of the webinar series. In May, I was appointed to
22 serve as a member of the NARUC Select Committee on

1 Regulatory and Industry Diversity and was also chosen
2 to lead the newly established Commission Chairs'
3 Council, which was formed to serve the needs of public
4 utility commission leaders. I also continue to serve
5 on the Board of Directors at the organization of MISO
6 states where I am DER Liaison.

7 Moving on to our office of
8 diversity and community affairs, which is led by
9 Jeaneane Robinson and issues its first annual report.
10 Illinois has an impressive story to tell with diverse
11 spending by the state's largest investor-owned
12 utilities and steadily grown from an average
13 of 15 percent to nearly 33 percent of all procurement
14 spending over the past five years, a collective
15 increase in annual diverse spending of over \$2 billion.
16 You can find this report on the ICC's website. In
17 addition, the Class 1 Railroads doing business in
18 Illinois reported collective diverse spending at
19 \$1.5 billion.

20 Our office of Cybersecurity and
21 Risk Management has also been very busy this year,
22 prioritizing ongoing efforts to protect critical

1 infrastructure through engaging in regular
2 conversations with regulated entities in Illinois and
3 also ensuring compliance with security affidavit filing
4 requirements.

5 The Office of Cybersecurity and
6 Risk Management planned and participated in many
7 exercises this year, including: the Electricity
8 Information Sharing and Analysis Center's GridEx,
9 Naruc's Water Security Mini Exercise, the ICC's own 5th
10 annual Cyber Resiliency Joint Exercise, and the ICC's
11 own Continuity of Operations Exercise. The Office also
12 encouraged evolving cybersecurity defense programs that
13 implement industry standards and best practices while
14 speaking at the Illinois Municipal League's Annual
15 Meeting and the ICC's Pipeline Safety Conference. The
16 Office has collaborated with other state PUCs through
17 discussions about cybersecurity strategy as well as
18 contributions to various NARUC projects and
19 publications.

20 Moving on to ORMD: In 2020, the
21 ICC invested more resources into enforcement efforts to
22 ensure alternative retail electric suppliers and

1 Alternative Gas Suppliers comply with state rules and
2 regulations. And this year, the Commission approved
3 three settlement and release agreements with three
4 alternative suppliers that resulted in a combined total
5 of \$1.725 million in refunds to their customers and
6 \$175,000 in energy assistance for low-income customers.
7 All three companies also entered individual Compliance
8 plans which imposed bans on marketing and enrollment in
9 Illinois and restrictions to ensure compliance with
10 state rules upon reentering the market in the future.

11 The commission adopted Interim
12 Orders allowing alternative electric and gas suppliers
13 to resume in-store marketing and appointment-based
14 solicitation of nonresidential customers. The orders
15 require extensive oversight and training of the
16 employees and agents and compliance with all state and
17 local requirements regarding social distancing and
18 other matters related to disease control.

19 The Commission authorized the First
20 Notice Period in rule making proceedings amending Parts
21 412 and 512 that dictate how Alternative Retail
22 Electric Suppliers and Alternative Gas Suppliers can

1 operate and interact with customers in Illinois.

2 The Office of Retail Market
3 Development, led by Tanya Capellan, released its
4 seventh annual report to the Commission, General
5 Assembly, and Governor providing an overview of the
6 current state of the natural gas market in Illinois
7 including active gas supplier activity and consumer
8 switching trends and its 14th annual report describing
9 the competitive retail electric market in Illinois.
10 And, again, both reports can be found under ICC reports
11 on the website.

12 Regarding Telecom: Mandatory
13 10-digit dialing went into effect on February 27th for
14 all local calls made in the 217-area code. The switch
15 was necessary to add a new area code, 447, to the
16 region ensuring a continuing supply of telephone
17 members for the area. Mandatory 10-digit dialing for
18 all local calls went into effect in October for phone
19 customers in the 309, 618, and 708 area codes, to
20 ensure 988 is accessible nationwide for the Suicide
21 Prevention Hotline starting in July of 2022.

22 2021 has also been a successful

1 year for the Rail Section of the ICC. This is the
2 150th anniversary of the ICC's earliest beginnings
3 overseeing rail safety efforts in Illinois -- as the
4 Railroad and Warehouse Commission. In observation, the
5 ICC rail section held a policy section in September
6 reflecting on the past, present, and future of rail
7 safety in Illinois. The presentations focused on our
8 history, the establishment of the grade protection
9 fund, and the advancement of important safety
10 improvement projects as well as advances in rail
11 technology and methodology being used to improve train
12 and track safety.

13 In March, the Commission approved
14 its annual five-year Crossing Safety Improvement
15 Program for Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026 -- allocating
16 \$341 million from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund to
17 help local communities and railroads pay for the safety
18 improvements at nearly 500 crossing locations. The
19 plan also allocated \$78 million from the Rebuild
20 Illinois capital program for the installation of grade
21 crossing protection or grade separations not limited to
22 local routes or other restrictions. Throughout the

1 year, the Commission approved stipulated agreements to
2 rail-highway crossing improvement projects in
3 communities across the state.

4 On August 6th, Governor JB Pritzker
5 signed into law a bill (HB0399) to form a 21-person
6 commission tasked with creating a plan for a high-speed
7 rail line between Chicago and St. Louis, and we are
8 pleased that the ICC Rail Safety Program Administrator
9 Brian Vercruysse has been appointed to the High-Speed
10 Railway Commission.

11 In 2021, with the guidance of
12 Police Chief Ruben Ramirez, the ICC invested more
13 resources into the Police Division, hiring three new
14 officers, an investigator, a compliance specialist, a
15 receptionist, and transportation industry analyst.

16 Thanks to Shauna Kelly and the
17 entire Transportation Division, the ICC regulates
18 16,000 intrastate motor carriers; licenses over 300
19 intrastate household good moving companies; and
20 provides oversight to 33,987 carriers, brokers, and
21 freight forwarders registered in Illinois under UCR.
22 Over the year, the agency licensed over 85 new

1 repossession agencies and branch locations and issued
2 over 300 credentials to repossession agency managers
3 and employees. In addition, the ICC currently
4 regulates approximately 60 relocation towing companies
5 in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, and Winnebago counties and
6 annually registers approximately 700 safety towing
7 companies. The Transportation Staff also handled 120
8 FOIA requests in 2021.

9 And special thanks to Matt Smith
10 and the entire Pipeline and Safety Division, 15 home
11 explosions were investigated; and 544 days collectively
12 were spent out in the field conducting audits in 2021.
13 They also hosted a Pipeline Safety Seminar in October
14 in Effingham with 250 participants and vendors. The
15 purpose of the seminar was to educate natural gas
16 pipeline operators on new rules, areas of concern
17 identify during inspections by staff, and discuss
18 lessons learned during COVID-19. To encourage the
19 discussion, the large operators were brought in to
20 share knowledge with their peers.

21 In addition, pipeline safety
22 brought together pipeline operators to form their own

1 group -- to teach emergency first responders about the
2 dangers of natural gas and how to assist natural gas
3 companies in a crisis.

4 The pipeline safety website has
5 also been updated with links and useful tips to help
6 identify and respond to pipeline emergencies.

7 In celebration and recognition of
8 the ICC's 100th anniversary as the state's public
9 utility regulator and 150th anniversary of our agency's
10 earliest beginnings as the Railroad and Warehouse
11 Commission, the IT and Communications departments
12 developed a webpage with information highlighting the
13 history of our agency. On the site you will find a
14 commemorative video with interviews from past and
15 present Commissioners and Staff put together by our
16 Communications Director Britney Bouie, her staff, and
17 our resident post-hoc videographer, James Harmening.

18 IT and Comms have also created a
19 new Utility Assistance Page designed to be a
20 one-stop-shop for consumers struggling to pay their
21 utility bills.

22 Over the past year, our IT

1 department continued to support agency staff both with
2 remote and in-person working and making sure that the
3 live broadcast of our open sessions and policy sessions
4 are available. IT has also made improvements to online
5 e-filing services and search features for motor
6 carriers, tow operators, and household goods movers.

7 Comms has led a robust constituent
8 outreach program issuing over 60 press releases and
9 increased social media presence to inform the public
10 and share information on a variety of topics, including
11 utility assistance, rail safety, Commission activities,
12 as well as employment opportunities here at the ICC.

13 New campaign fliers have been put
14 together to help consumers looking to hire household
15 goods movers and how to save energy and money during
16 the cold winter months -- that can be found on the
17 ICC's consumer page.

18 And before the close of the year,
19 the 2nd edition of our annual magazine "The Wire" will
20 be published on our website and social media
21 platforms -- filled with articles highlighting
22 Commission achievements over the past year.

1 I have a few additional staff notes
2 I would like to mention. This year we brought on
3 Michael Merchant as the agency's new executive director
4 and Natalia Delgado to lead the Office of General
5 Counsel -- both have done an outstanding job this year,
6 and I want to thank them both for their hard work.

7 I also need to recognize Jim
8 Zolnierek, the head of our Public Utilities Bureau, for
9 his expertise and hard work. In addition to his
10 regular responsibilities, he spent hours this past
11 spring and summer preparing and testifying before
12 lawmakers on various clean energy proposals, and with
13 the help of his staff, including but not limited to,
14 Joy Nicdao-Cyyugan, Eric Loundsberry, Torsten Clausen,
15 Rick Bridal, and Scott Struck, and from all the staff
16 throughout the Commission, which Jim credits for going
17 above and beyond expectations to handle the significant
18 increases in workload and have done an amazing job with
19 the implementation of CEJA.

20 Sarah Ryan did a great job as our
21 new government liaison with lawmakers, and various
22 organizations. She successfully monitored and tracked

1 relevant bills as they moved through the legislative
2 process.

3 I also want to thank Chief
4 Administrative Law Judge Sonya Teague Kinsley and the
5 administrative law judges. As of today, they have
6 closed approximately 867 public utility cases including
7 various rate and tariff filings, complaints and
8 investigations, and license and grants and revocations.
9 They continue to do an amazing job handling their
10 hearings virtually and holding more hearings than they
11 did before the pandemic. Thank you for your thoughtful
12 determinations.

13 The agency would not be able to
14 function without the hard work of Chief Clerk Elizabeth
15 Rolando and the record management staff. A tremendous
16 amount of paperwork passes through their office. So
17 far in 2021, there have been 846 new
18 Petitions/Applications, 782 Tariffs filed, 1634 Notices
19 served, 3933 Case Filings filed, and 5,891 Code Parts
20 filed.

21 I must also thank Jim Agnew and the
22 whole Consumer Services Division team for their efforts

1 to help consumers statewide with any problems they
2 might have with their utilities.

3 Also I have to acknowledge a couple
4 of retirements that are occurring very soon. First,
5 John Saladino is retiring from his role as Railway
6 Safety Specialist. Over the course of his career with
7 the Commission, John completed over 400 projects,
8 represents Staff in over 550 docketed cases, while
9 providing major improvements to over 800 highway-rail
10 crossings along with many more crossings for corridor,
11 LED, remote monitoring, and other quantity
12 improvements.

13 Steve Knepler joined the Commission
14 in January of 1982 as an Accountant in the Accounting
15 Department of the Bureau of the Public Utilities,
16 Financial Analysis Division. Over his 40-year career
17 at the ICC, Steve has provided expert analysis and
18 testimony concerning hundreds of cases and issues that
19 have come before the Commission, first, as an
20 accounting analyst and most recently as an accounting
21 supervisor. He has proven himself to be an integral
22 part of the Commission, often tackling some of the most

1 difficult regulatory accounting issues. On numerous
2 occasions, Steve has provided accounting technical
3 assistance and insight to colleagues throughout the
4 Commission, including but not limited to, his frequent
5 work as a technical assistant on accounting issues for
6 ALJs and Commissioners. Further, Steve's congenial and
7 easy-going personality was a constant source of
8 entertainment and levity in even the most challenging
9 times. Steve's leadership, expertise, and quit wit
10 will be missed.

11 Bill Atwood joined the Commission
12 in February of 2007 as an engineer in the Water
13 Program. Prior to the time at the commission, Bill
14 worked in the EPA and IDOT as well as in the private
15 water industry. It's impossible to sum up the
16 achievements of his career in a few sentences as Bill
17 has been an essential part of the many changes in the
18 water program over the years. Bill has provided a
19 level of excellence and professionalism that has been
20 appreciated by colleagues and friends. In his
21 retirement, Bill will have more time to enjoy his
22 passions which include bird watching and traveling.

1 Fortunately, Bill has agreed to stay on with the
2 Commission in a reduced role through 2022 to help
3 bridge the gap that the loss of his knowledge will
4 leave.

5 Abbie Netherton has worked at the
6 ICC since 2014. She is our most veteran member of the
7 processing section in the Transportation Division. She
8 works in the walk-in center in the Springfield lobby
9 and is a valued member of the customer service team.
10 We will miss her friendly disposition with her
11 colleagues and the customers.

12 Thank you all for your tremendous
13 service and hard work on behalf of the citizens of
14 Illinois.

15 In closing, I want to thank
16 everyone on Staff and my fellow Commissioners for your
17 dedication, your professionalism and congeniality. The
18 ICC is often handed incredibly complex, technical, and
19 timely problems that have lasting implications on all
20 constituents in Illinois. Time and time again, the
21 Commission Staff steps up and rises to the occasion.
22 With the new legislation, the next few years will

1 perhaps be the most consequential and challenging in
2 the ICC's 100-year history. If history is any
3 indication, I'm confident that the Commission will once
4 again rise to the challenge. I look forward to a
5 successful and productive 2022. Until then, please
6 have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Thank you
7 for supporting the Commission and all of the important
8 work that we do.

9 If there are no objections or
10 further comments, the meeting is now adjourned. Thank
11 you.

12 (WHEREUPON, the above-entitled
13 proceedings concluded at
14 12:39 p.m.)

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