| 1  | BEFORE THE   |
|----|--|
| 2  | ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION                               |
| 3  |  |
| 4  | BENCH SESSION  |
| 5  | (PUBLIC UTILITY)   |
| 6  |  |
| 7  | Springfield, Illinois                                      |
| 8  | Wednesday, March 21, 2012                                  |
| 9  | Met, pursuant to notice, at 10:30 a.m.                     |
| 10 | in Hearing Room A, First Floor, Leland Building, 527       |
| 11 | East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois.                |
| 12 |  |
| 13 | PRESENT:   |
| 14 | MR. DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, Chairman                             |
| 15 | MS. LULA M. FORD, Commissioner                             |
| 16 | MS. ERIN M. O'CONNELL-DIAZ, Commissioner                   |
| 17 | MR. JOHN T. COLGAN, Commissioner                           |
| 18 | MS. ANN McCABE, Acting Commissioner                        |
| 19 |  |
| 20 |  |
| 21 | SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by<br>Carla J. Boehl, Reporter |
| 22 | CSR #084-002710  |

## 1 PROCEEDINGS

- 2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Pursuant to the provisions of
- 3 the Illinois Open Meetings Act, I now convene a
- 4 regularly scheduled Bench Session of the Illinois
- 5 Commerce Commission. With me in Springfield are
- 6 Commissioners Ford, O'Connell-Diaz, Colgan and our
- 7 newest commissioner, Acting Commissioner Ann McCabe.
- 8 Commissioner, welcome to the
- 9 Commission. Congratulations on your appointment. We
- 10 look forward to working with you.
- 11 I am Chairman Scott. We have a
- 12 quorum.
- Before moving into the agenda,
- 14 according to Section 1700.10 of Title II of the
- 15 Administrative Code, this is the time we allow
- 16 members of the public to address the Commission.
- 17 Members of the public wishing to address the
- 18 Commission must notify the Chief Clerk's Office at
- 19 least 24 hours prior to the Commission meeting.
- 20 According to the Chief Clerk's Office, we have no
- 21 requests to speak at today's Bench Session.

22

(The Transportation 1 2 portion of the proceedings 3 was held at this time and is contained in a separate 5 transcript.) CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Moving on to the Public 6 Utility agenda, we will begin today with approval of 7 minutes from our February 23 Bench Session. 8 9 understand amendments have been forwarded. 10 Is there a motion to amend the 11 minutes? 12 COMMISSIONER FORD: So moved. 13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second? 14 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Second. CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. 15 16 All in favor say aye. 17 COMMISSIONERS: Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed? 19 (No response.) 20 The ayes have it. The vote is five to 21 nothing, and the amendments are adopted. 22

Is there a motion to approve the

- 1 February 23 minutes as amended?
- 2 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: So moved.
- 3 COMMISSIONER FORD: Second.
- 4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
- 5 All in favor say aye.
- 6 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?
- 8 (No response.)
- 9 The vote is five to nothing, and the
- 10 February 23 Bench Session minutes as amended are
- 11 approved.
- 12 Turning now to the Electric portion of
- 13 today's agenda, Item E-1 (12-0211) concerns
- 14 commencing a reconciliation proceeding for revenues
- 15 collected by Ameren under its Hazardous Materials
- 16 Adjustment Clause Rider. Staff recommends entry of
- 17 an Order initiating the reconciliation proceeding.
- 18 Is there any discussion?
- 19 (No response.)
- 20 Is there a motion to enter the Order?
- 21 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: So moved.
- 22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?

- 1 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Second.
- 2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
- 3 All in favor say aye.
- 4 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?
- 6 (No response.)
- 7 The vote is five to nothing, and the
- 8 Order is entered.
- 9 We will use this five to nothing vote
- 10 for the remainder of the Public Utility agenda,
- 11 unless otherwise noted.
- 12 Items E-2 (12-0212) and E-3 (12-0213)
- 13 can be taken together. These items concern
- 14 initiating a rulemaking proceeding pursuant to
- 15 16-128(a) of the Public Utilities Act regarding the
- 16 development of certification requirements for vendors
- 17 who install electric vehicle charging stations and
- 18 for entities who install and distribute generation
- 19 facilities. In each case Staff recommends entry of
- 20 an Order initiating the rulemaking proceeding.
- 21 Is there any discussion?
- 22 (No response.)

1 Any objections? 2 (No response.) 3 Hearing none, the Initiating Orders 4 are entered. 5 Items E-4 through E-6 can be taken These items concern tariff changes sought 6 together. by Ameren and ComEd. In each case Staff recommends granting the company's request by not suspending the 8 9 filing. 10 Is there any discussion? 11 (No response.) 12 Any objections? 13 (No response.) 14 Hearing none, the filings will not be 15 suspended. Item E-7 is Docket Numbers 10-0141 16 17 through 10-0143 Consolidated. These items concern requests filed by ComEd in 2010 seeking authority to 18 enter into a credit agreement with affiliated 19 interests under Section 7-101 of the Public Utilities 20 21 Act. ALJs Hilliard and Benn recommend that the 22 Commission enter an Order on Reopening approving the

- 1 company's recently filed petitions to extend its
- 2 previously granted authority.
- 3 Is there any discussion?
- 4 (No response.)
- 5 Any objections?
- 6 (No response.)
- 7 Hearing none, the Order is entered,
- 8 and the extension is granted.
- 9 Item E-8 is Docket Number 11-0113.
- 10 This is Ameren's reconciliation case for revenues
- 11 collected under its Hazardous Materials Adjustment
- 12 Clause Rider 2010. ALJ Jones recommends entry of an
- 13 Order approving the reconciliation.
- 14 Is there any discussion?
- 15 (No response.)
- Any objections?
- 17 (No response.)
- 18 Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- 19 Item E-9 is Docket Number 11-0434.
- 20 This item concerns an investigation of ComEd's Rate
- 21 GAP regarding municipal aggregation protocols. We
- 22 will be holding this item for disposition at a future

- 1 Commission meeting.
- 2 Item E-10 is Docket Number 11-0498.
- 3 This item concerns investigation of ComEd's supply
- 4 rate design and non-coincidental peak demand
- 5 allocation. We will also be holding this item for
- 6 disposition at a future Commission meeting.
- 7 Item E-11 is Docket Number 11-0589.
- 8 This is Shawn O'Farrell and Kazmier Tooling's
- 9 complaint against ComEd. ALJ Riley recommends entry
- 10 of an Order granting in part and denying in part the
- 11 company's complaint.
- 12 Is there any discussion?
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 Any objections?
- 15 (No response.)
- 16 Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- 17 Item E-12 is Docket Number 11-0718.
- 18 This is Linda Benoit's complaint against Ameren.
- 19 Mrs. Benoit seeks withdrawal of her complaint, and
- 20 ALJ Albers recommends entry of an Order dismissing
- 21 the complaint at the complainant's request.
- Is there any discussion?

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1
                            (No response.)
2
                    Any objections?
3
                            (No response.)
4
                    Hearing none, the Order is entered,
5
     and the complaint is dismissed.
                    Items E-13 and E-14 (12-0056, 12-0057)
6
     can be taken together. These items concern petitions
7
8
     by the Illinois Department of Transportation seeking
     eminent domain authority for easements on property
9
10
     owned by ComEd in connection with roadway improvement
     projects in Cook County and McHenry County. In each
11
12
     case ALJ Hilliard recommends entry of an Order
13
     granting eminent domain authority.
14
                    Is there any discussion?
15
                            (No response.)
16
                    Any objections?
17
                            (No response.)
18
                    Hearing none, the Orders are entered,
19
     and the requested eminent domain authority is
20
     granted.
21
                    Items E-15 through E-21 (12-0134,
     12-0139, 12-0147, 12-0148, 12-0156, 12-0165, 12-0172)
22
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- 1 can be taken together. These items are petitions for
- 2 the confidential and/or proprietary treatment of the
- 3 petitioner's reports. In each case the ALJ
- 4 recommends entry of an Order granting the requested
- 5 protective treatment.
- 6 Is there any discussion?
- 7 (No response.)
- 8 Any objections?
- 9 (No response.)
- 10 Hearing none, the Orders are entered.
- 11 Item E-22 is Docket Number 12-0154.
- 12 This is Ameren's petition for authority to construct
- 13 a new transmission line in and around Bloomington,
- 14 Illinois. Staff has made a motion to extend the
- deadline associated with this docket by 75 days, and
- 16 ALJ Von Qualen recommends granting the motion.
- 17 Is there any discussion?
- 18 (No response.)
- 19 Any objections?
- 20 (No response.)
- 21 Hearing none, the motion to extend the
- 22 deadline is granted.

- 1 Item E-23 is Docket Number 12-0105.
- 2 This is Smart Energy's application for licensure as
- 3 an alternative retail electric supplier. The ALJ
- 4 recommends entry of an Order granting the
- 5 certificate.
- Is there any discussion?
- 7 (No response.)
- 8 Any objections?
- 9 (No response.)
- 10 Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- 11 Item E-24 is Docket Number 12-0167.
- 12 This is Public Power, LLC's, application for a
- 13 Certificate of Authority under Section 16-115 of the
- 14 Public Utilities Act. We will be holding this item
- 15 for disposition at a future Commission meeting.
- 16 Items E-25 and E-26 (12-0113, 12-0125)
- 17 can be taken together. These items are applications
- 18 for licensure as an Agent, Broker and Consultant
- 19 under Section 16-115C of the Public Utilities Act.
- 20 In each case ALJ Albers recommends entry of an Order
- 21 granting the certificate.
- 22 Is there any discussion?

| 1  | (No response.)                                       |
|----|--|
| 2  | Any objections?                                      |
| 3  | (No response.)                                       |
| 4  | Hearing none, the Orders are entered.                |
| 5  | Turn now to Natural Gas. Item G-1 is                 |
| 6  | Docket Number 09-0538. This is Ameren's              |
| 7  | reconciliation case for revenues collected under gas |
| 8  | adjustment charges in 2009. ALJ Albers recommends    |
| 9  | entry of an Order approving the reconciliation.      |
| 10 | Is there any discussion?                             |
| 11 | (No response.)                                       |
| 12 | Any objections?                                      |
| 13 | (No response.)                                       |
| 14 | Hearing none, the Order is entered.                  |
| 15 | Item G-2 is Docket Numbers 11-0280 and               |
| 16 | 11-0281 Consolidated. This is North Shore Gas' and   |
| 17 | Peoples Gas' rate case, and before us today is a     |
| 18 | motion for a stay or for alternative relief brought  |
| 19 | by the Attorney General's Office. Pursuant to our    |
| 20 | discussion at the March 7 Bench Session, we have an  |
| 21 | Amendatory Order before us which would grant         |
| 22 | alternative relief to revisions to pages 237 and 238 |

- 1 of our Final Order. So we will first take a vote on
- 2 entering that Amendatory Order.
- 3 Is there discussion on the Amendatory
- 4 Order?
- 5 ACTING COMMISSIONER McCABE: I abstain.
- 6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections to entering the
- 7 Amendatory Order?
- 8 (No response.)
- 9 Hearing none, the Amendatory Order is
- 10 entered by a four to nothing vote.
- 11 As this came up in the context of a
- 12 motion for a partial stay of the Order, we will also
- 13 address that motion directly.
- 14 Is there any discussion on the Motion
- 15 to Stay?
- 16 (No response.)
- 17 Are there any objections to denying
- 18 the Motion to Stay?
- 19 (No response.)
- 20 Hearing none, the Motion for a Partial
- 21 Stay is denied by a four to nothing vote, and the
- 22 Order will not be stayed, although the Commission

- 1 will enter an Amendatory Order consistent with our
- 2 prior vote.
- 3 Item G-3 is Docket Number 11-0476.
- 4 This is a petition by Peoples Gas seeking approval
- 5 for the purchase and resale of securities under
- 6 Section 7-102 of the Public Utilities Act. ALJ
- 7 Hilliard recommends entry of an Order granting the
- 8 petition.
- 9 Is there any discussion?
- 10 (No response.)
- 11 Any objections?
- 12 (No response.)
- Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- 14 Item G-4 is Docket Number 12-0123.
- 15 This is a petition by Integrys Energy Services
- 16 seeking confidential and/or proprietary treatment of
- 17 its Annual Dekatherm Report. ALJ Yoder recommends
- 18 entry of an Order granting the requested relief.
- 19 Is there any discussion?
- 20 (No response.)
- 21 Any objections?
- 22 (No response.)

- 1 Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- 2 Item G-5 is Docket Number 11-0795.
- 3 This is Kenneth Cunningham's complaint against Nicor.
- 4 The parties have apparently settled their differences
- 5 and brought a Joint Motion to Dismiss which ALJ
- 6 Teague recommends we grant.
- 7 Is there any discussion?
- 8 (No response.)
- 9 Any objections?
- 10 (No response.)
- 11 Hearing none, the Joint Motion to
- 12 Dismiss is granted.
- 13 Item G-6 is Docket Number 12-0098.
- 14 This is HIKO Energy's application for a Certificate
- 15 of Service Authority to operate as an alternative gas
- 16 supplier. The company is requesting to withdraw its
- 17 application without prejudice, and ALJ Yoder
- 18 recommends entry of an Order granting withdrawal.
- 19 Is there any discussion?
- 20 (No response.)
- 21 Any objections?
- 22 (No response.)

- 1 Hearing none, the Order is entered,
- 2 and the application is withdrawn.
- Moving on to Telecommunications, Item
- 4 T-1 concerns a filing by Illinois Consolidated
- 5 Telephone Company seeking to add tariff language to
- 6 clarify on how we determine appropriate rates for
- 7 Voice Over Internet Protocol and Public Switch
- 8 Telephone Network traffic. Staff recommends granting
- 9 the company's request by not suspending the filing.
- 10 Is there any discussion?
- 11 (No response.)
- 12 Any objections?
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 Hearing none, the filing will not be
- 15 suspended.
- 16 Item T-2 is Docket Number 12-0150.
- 17 This is T6 Communications' petition for the
- 18 withdrawal of its Certificates of Service Authority
- 19 previously issued in Docket Number 07-0450. ALJ
- 20 Riley recommends entry of an Order granting the
- 21 withdrawal of those certificates.
- Is there any discussion?

1 (No response.) 2 Any objections? 3 (No response.) 4 Hearing none, the Order is entered, and the certificates are withdrawn. 5 Item T-3 is Docket Number 11-0799. 6 This is Angela Foster's complaint against Illinois 7 8 The parties have apparently settled their differences and have brought a Joint Motion to 9 10 Dismiss which ALJ Haynes recommends we grant. 11 Is there any discussion? 12 (No response.) 13 Any objections? (No response.) 14 15 Hearing none, the Joint Motion to 16 Dismiss is granted. 17 Item T-4 is Docket Number 12-0019. This is 1 800 Collect's application for a Certificate 18 19 of Interexchange Authority to operate as a reseller of telecommunication services in Illinois. 20 ALJ 21 Teague recommends entry of an Order granting the 22 requested authority and granting confidential

Is there any discussion? 2 3 (No response.) 4 Any objections? 5 (No response.) Hearing none, the Order is entered. 6 Item T-5 is Docket Number 12-0021. 7 8 This item concerns an investigation into M.T.I.'s compliance with requirements for an eligible 9 10 telecommunications carrier and into its eligibility for Linkup Subsidy Reimbursement. ALJ Riley 11 12 recommends entry of an Interim Order terminating

M.T.I.'s Wireless Service Certificates issued in

Docket Numbers 10-0229 and 10-0230 and terminating

its ETC certificates issued in Docket Numbers 06-0038

treatment for the company's financial statements.

- 17 Is there any discussion?
- 18 (No response.)
- 19 Any objections?

and 10-0524.

- 20 (No response.)
- 21 Hearing none, the Interim Order is
- 22 entered.

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- 1 Items T-6 through T-9 (12-0126,
- 2 12-0135, 12-0137, 12-0143) can be taken together.
- 3 These items are petitions for the confidential and/or
- 4 proprietary treatment of the petitioners' Annual
- 5 Report. In each case the ALJ recommends entry of an
- 6 Order granting the requested protective treatment.
- 7 Is there any discussion?
- 8 (No response.)
- 9 Any objections?
- 10 (No response.)
- Hearing none, the Orders are entered.
- 12 Now on to Water and Sewer. Item W-1
- 13 is Docket Number 11-0519. This concerns Peter
- 14 White's complaint against Aqua Illinois. The
- 15 complainant has filed a Motion to Withdraw its
- 16 complaint, and ALJ Yoder recommends entry of an Order
- 17 granting withdrawal.
- 18 Is there any discussion?
- 19 (No response.)
- 20 Any objections?
- 21 (No response.)
- Hearing none, the Order is entered,

- 1 and the complaint is withdrawn.
- 2 Item W-2 is Docket Number 11-0767.
- 3 This is Illinois-American Water Company's rate case,
- 4 and before us today is a Resuspension Order
- 5 suspending the case for further investigation for an
- 6 additional six months.
- 7 Is there any discussion?
- 8 (No response.)
- 9 Any objections?
- 10 (No response.)
- 11 Hearing none, the Resuspension Order
- 12 is entered.
- 13 Item W-3 is Docket Number 12-0129.
- 14 This item concerns an informational statement filed
- 15 by Sundale Utilities pursuant to Section 6-102(d) of
- 16 the Illinois Public Utilities Act in conjunction with
- 17 proposed financing of indebtedness. ALJ Von Qualen
- 18 recommends entry of an Order approving the proposed
- 19 refinancing.
- Is there any discussion?
- 21 (No response.)
- 22 Any objections?

- 1 (No response.)
- 2 Hearing none, the Order is entered.
- We have one Petition for Rehearing
- 4 today. Item PR-1 is Docket Number 07-0566 and this
- 5 is ComEd's 2007 rate case on remand from the
- 6 Appellate Court. The Commission entered an Order on
- 7 Remand on this matter on February 23, and ComEd seeks
- 8 rehearing of that decision. ALJ Haynes recommends
- 9 denying ComEd's Petition for Rehearing.
- 10 Is there any discussion?
- 11 ACTING COMMISSIONER McCABE: I abstain.
- 12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there any further
- 13 discussion?
- 14 (No response.)
- 15 Are there any objections to denying
- 16 the Petition for Rehearing?
- 17 (No response.)
- 18 Hearing none, the company's Petition
- 19 for Rehearing is denied by a four to nothing vote.
- 20 We have three Other Items of Business
- 21 scheduled for today. Up first is a Resolution
- 22 (12-0214) regarding the retirement of Meri Sanders.

- 1 Meri, do you want to come forward, please? I have a
- 2 resolution that I would like to read in part to you.
- 3 "By the Commission:
- 4 WHEREAS, Meri Sanders began her career at the
- 5 Illinois Commerce Commission in March of 1980 and has
- 6 been part of the Chief Clerk's Office for her entire
- 7 32-year career with the Commission; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Meri has been involved with all aspects
- 9 of the Clerk's Office, including the monumental
- 10 appeal in 87-0427, et al., which included more than
- 11 70 transfer boxes, or approximately 1500 volumes, and
- 12 required renting a truck for transport to the
- 13 appellate court; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Meri Sanders has served as an
- 'unofficial' historian of the Commission, due to her
- 16 vast knowledge of the Commission's action and
- 17 background and everything related to the public
- 18 utility industry, especially the complex subject of
- 19 tariffs; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Meri has seen approximately 40
- 21 Commissioners come and go during her tenure with the
- 22 Commission; and

- 1 WHEREAS, Meri Sanders has been unwavering in her
- 2 dedicated service to the Commission and Staff;
- 3 IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Illinois
- 4 Commerce Commission expresses gratitude and respect
- 5 to Meri L. Sanders for her exemplary work ethic and
- 6 dedication, and offers best wishes as she begins the
- 7 next phase of her life where she intends to travel,
- 8 continue her volunteer service and possibly embark on
- 9 a new career."
- 10 Congratulations. Thank you very much.
- 11 MS. SANDERS: I think I will just stand up
- 12 here.
- 13 I would like to thank the Chairman,
- 14 the Commissioners and also welcome Commissioner
- 15 McCabe back. Welcome back. I would like to
- 16 especially thank the Chief Clerk's Office and the
- 17 members of the Staff that have worked beside me
- 18 through the years, some of which have been here
- 19 longer than others.
- 20 There are two people in my past that
- 21 were great structures to my career, that being Rose
- 22 Claggett, Chief Clerk, and also Donna Caton, Chief

- 1 Clerk, who believed in me and helped me with my
- 2 career through the Chief Clerk's Office.
- And, again, I want to thank everyone,
- 4 including all our Staff and our Chief Clerk's Office
- 5 Staff in Chicago also and Kenneth Hundrieser.
- 6 Thank you so much.
- 7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Colgan?
- 8 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Meri, you are not done
- 9 yet.
- 10 As the resolution said, you spent your
- 11 entire career here in the Chief Clerk's Office. It
- 12 is my understanding that you served an internship
- 13 here while you were in high school and I guess your
- 14 father worked here, right? And then right after high
- 15 school you started your career here.
- 16 Over the years the Staff has told me
- 17 that you have become the go-to person whenever
- 18 questions were to come up, whether they were from
- 19 someone outside here or to Staff. And even if they
- 20 are looking for documents from the '30s and the '40s,
- 21 that you can somehow put your hand on those. And
- 22 that's very impressive.

- 1 But I heard that maybe your greatest
- 2 achievement is that you have personally hand-stamped
- 3 close to a billion tariff filings. I bet you have
- 4 strong hands.
- 5 So Meri and her husband Harlan, who is
- 6 already retired from the Springfield Police
- 7 Department, we are wishing you have a wonderful
- 8 retirement. And I have heard that you continue to
- 9 plan your volunteer service at the Abraham Lincoln
- 10 Museum, and both you and your husband are involved in
- 11 the Order of the Eastern Star and both of you love to
- 12 travel, and I hope you can take full advantage of
- 13 that. And thank you very much and we will truly miss
- 14 you.
- 15 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz?
- 16 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Yeah. Well, I
- 17 shared many a year with Meri. In my days as an ALJ
- 18 I knew that she was a person to call to unravel a
- 19 problem if there was a problem. And, yes, Donna
- 20 Caton, and I do remember Rose Claggett and the silver
- 21 bullets that would come at like four o'clock on a
- 22 Friday afternoon from Steve Claggett. But it is so

- 1 great to see someone that has spent their life in
- 2 public service and has done such great work for us at
- 3 this Commission. And you have just been a great
- 4 resource for us, an able assistant at any time that
- 5 we needed you, plus your regular work of stamping and
- 6 getting those boxes off to the appellate court.
- 7 Thankfully we don't have to do that any more.
- But I wish you the best, and don't
- 9 forget you might be getting calls saying how did we
- 10 do this, you know. Once you are at the Commission
- 11 for that many years, I always remind people it is
- 12 like the mafia; we never let you go. So wishing you
- 13 the best and thanks for your service.
- 14 COMMISSIONER FORD: I never had a chance to
- 15 meet you personally, Meri, but I have certainly heard
- 16 about your good work. And after having spent 34
- 17 years at another job myself, I do wish you well after
- 18 spending 32 years here. But I don't think you should
- 19 go for another career. I am trying to end this one.
- 20 Continue to travel and God speed.
- 21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Meri, thanks so much for all
- 22 your years of service. And whatever you choose to do

- 1 with your husband, good luck and congratulations and
- 2 we wish you nothing but the best.
- 3 Thanks again.
- 4 MS. SANDERS: Thank you.
- 5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Further resolution, are there
- 6 any objections to adopting the resolution?
- 7 (No response.)
- 8 Hearing none, the resolution is
- 9 adopted.
- 10 Thanks again, Meri.
- 11 Our second item of Other Business
- 12 concerns a Notice of Inquiry pursuant to Public Act
- 13 97-0222 regarding retail electric choice customer
- 14 education for residential and small commercial
- 15 customers.
- 16 Is there somebody from Staff who is
- 17 available to discuss the report?
- 18 MR. CLAUSEN: Yes, this is Torsten Clausen in
- 19 the Chicago office.
- 20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hello, Torsten.
- 21 MR. CLAUSEN: Hello. I can briefly go through
- 22 some of this report that we sent to you, not covering

- 1 every single item, but generally the gist of the
- 2 report.
- 3 The report is the result of a Senate
- 4 bill last year that was passed by the General
- 5 Assembly as Public Act 97-0222 that required the
- 6 Office of Retail Market Development to seek
- 7 information from the parties of whether there are any
- 8 updates necessary to the consumer education
- 9 information that is out there for residential and
- 10 small commercial customers. And we have asked
- 11 formally for such input and received one round of
- 12 comments and another round of reply comments. And we
- 13 have put them all together in this report.
- 14 Briefly summarizing the comments that
- 15 we have received and the recommendations based on
- 16 those comments, generally we have received comments
- 17 from the utilities, several of the suppliers, as well
- 18 as the Citizens Utility Board, the Attorney General's
- 19 Office, EMT Energy. And the comments generally were
- 20 very constructive and helpful, and I want to thank
- 21 everybody who actually took the time to write what
- 22 they think are additional items that need to be out

- 1 there for consumer education purposes.
- 2 So this report goes through all these
- 3 comments in a topic by topic basis. And just a
- 4 couple highlights of what the additional information
- 5 is that the parties want to see on the website, one
- 6 of the items is additional information for residents
- 7 that live in communities where municipal electric
- 8 aggregation is happening, and that's obviously very
- 9 timely, given yesterday's election and the election
- of the referendum on the election ballot.
- 11 As the Commission is aware, we have
- 12 organized some of these directly to the
- 13 municipalities that are involved in municipal
- 14 aggregation. And what is being talked about in this
- 15 particular report really is a different target
- 16 audience then the residents in those communities, and
- 17 gives them a high level overview of what municipal
- 18 aggregation is all about and where they can find more
- 19 information.
- 20 And we actually have a draft ready of
- 21 that language for the website at the report stage for
- 22 many of these items in this report. Instead of

- 1 asking you, the Commission, to approve specific
- 2 language, we actually drafted initial language for
- 3 these items, and then we are sending around to the
- 4 parties to get input and hopefully reaching consensus
- 5 on the language for a lot of these items.
- 6 So that is one particular topic that
- 7 needs to be addressed. Some others are more
- 8 information for realtime pricing customers. They
- 9 currently get some information on the website, but
- 10 parties wanted to see a little bit more and also
- 11 maybe a little bit more explanation on how the
- 12 realtime pricing customers compared to the offers out
- 13 there by retail electric suppliers, whereas right now
- 14 the focus is really on comparing the utilities' fixed
- 15 price bundled service rates to the offers by
- 16 alternative retail electric suppliers.
- 17 Another item was to add information
- 18 about LIHEAP and PIPP, the low income assistance
- 19 programs, and making customers aware of what they
- 20 should look out for if they are on such programs when
- 21 they are considering a switch to a supplier.
- 22 Again, I won't be going through all of

- 1 these items in the report that you have read, but a
- 2 lot of these items are some recommendations where we
- 3 ask the Commission to direct the Office of Retail
- 4 Market Development to draft language and seek input
- 5 from interested parties on the specific language, and
- 6 then to update that on our website.
- 7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I appreciate the thoroughness
- 8 of the report, Torsten. I thought it was very good.
- 9 And I also appreciated the way the recommendations
- 10 were structured because I think that makes the most
- 11 sense, to try to get as much consensus as you can on
- 12 the language.
- 13 Further discussion? Commissioner
- 14 O'Connell-Diaz.
- 15 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Well, I would
- 16 like to thank Torsten and all the parties actually
- 17 because this has been a collaborative effort. We
- 18 have been at this business since, what, 1997 and we
- 19 are finally seeing the fruits of all the labor that
- 20 has gone into creating this competitive marketplace
- 21 in Illinois for residential customers.
- 22 And I don't know about any of you, but

- 1 I find myself -- I was at the bank the other day and
- 2 the lady knows what I do and she was asking me all
- 3 about it. So I proudly sent her to our website and
- 4 explained to her, you know, I can't recommend anybody
- 5 but here is what it is.
- 6 Because there is confusion out there
- 7 and especially given the election process yesterday
- 8 and the referenda that were across our state, which I
- 9 really don't know what the outcome is yet. There is
- 10 going to be more questions and, of course, our
- 11 Commission is in the center place to be able to
- 12 provide this to our consumers and ratepayers in our
- 13 state.
- 14 The one point I would just bring out
- is that, you know, as I suggested and I have
- 16 understood this process, it has been a very, very
- 17 collaborative process with the various alternative
- 18 suppliers, with any interested parties, with the
- 19 workshops that have been going on. And I was quite
- 20 concerned that there is on the website -- there is
- 21 not concomitant sharing of the Plug-in Illinois
- 22 information on the C&T and the Converge website. I

- 1 think it is C&T. That needs to, I believe, happen in
- 2 order for, if someone is looking, that they can just
- 3 go to our website. We don't have any ownership here.
- 4 We are neutral, but it is important for consumers,
- 5 when they are looking at this, that they go to our
- 6 Commission website.
- 7 So I really value that recommendation
- 8 in the report and am glad that that has been brought
- 9 out. And certainly that is, from my understanding, I
- 10 thought that that was going to be on everyone's
- 11 website when we started on this journey. So I was
- 12 surprised to hear that that was not in fact a fact.
- 13 So I appreciate that this is in the
- 14 report, and that the Commission would look to see
- 15 that on that website, so that people can have a
- 16 knowledge base upon which to make their home
- 17 decisions.
- 18 So thank you very much, Torsten. We
- 19 have been working hard for this for so many years and
- 20 now we are kind of there. And we still have a lot of
- 21 work to go. It is an evolving process. We will be
- 22 looking at this on a regular basis with all the

- 1 market participants. And this is, you know -- what's
- 2 that clause, "the beginning of a long journey?"
- 3 So thank you very much.
- 4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Colgan.
- 5 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Yeah, I just ditto the
- 6 comments that the Chairman made and Commissioner
- 7 O'Connell-Diaz. I would just like to also, though,
- 8 just point out that I am glad that the group in the
- 9 process has had the foresight to consider low income
- 10 customers and the potential impact that can have for
- 11 LIHEAP participants, especially with the PIPP program
- 12 up and running now. So I think that was a good and
- 13 insightful decision, to take a closer look at that.
- 14 And thank you for your work.
- 15 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Ford.
- 16 COMMISSIONER FORD: I certainly want to again
- 17 echo what my fellow Commissioners have already said
- 18 and done. You certainly took my plug when you said
- 19 about LIHEAP and the percentage of income. I know
- 20 how long you worked on it and I know how long he has
- 21 worked on that.
- 22 And also, Torsten, do you have any

- 1 idea how the referenda went on the municipal
- 2 aggregation yesterday?
- 3 MR. CLAUSEN: That's a very good question, and
- 4 obviously it is very early. And we have actually
- 5 tried this morning to go -- we have actually
- 6 contacted the State Board of Elections to see if they
- 7 have immediate information available on the towns.
- 8 And it sounds like that is going to be taking awhile
- 9 to get the official results from the State Board of
- 10 Election.
- 11 However, so far we have done the good,
- 12 old-fashioned Google search and I looked for some of
- 13 these towns. And, yes, I think it is -- so far it is
- 14 pretty much a mixed bag. There is some larger towns
- 15 where the referendum did not pass. I believe in
- 16 Bloomington and Normal the referendum did not pass.
- 17 I think in the East St. Louis area a couple of the
- 18 larger towns also did not pass.
- But, of course, a lot of towns did
- 20 pass and, of course, there is the sheer number of
- 21 towns with the referendum on the ballot yesterday,
- 22 close to 300 towns. So even if there is a

- 1 significant percentage of towns not passing the
- 2 referendum yesterday, that still leaves a lot of
- 3 towns and, therefore, there are more potential
- 4 customers who could be potentially going out to that
- 5 and switching to alternative retail electric
- 6 suppliers in the near future.
- 7 COMMISSIONER FORD: I too want to commend you
- 8 on the easy read for this, especially the
- 9 recommendation part, and your staff did a fine job.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 MR. CLAUSEN: Thank you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Further discussion?
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 Are there any objections to approving
- 15 the recommendation?
- 16 (No response.)
- 17 Hearing none, the recommendations are
- 18 approved.
- 19 The final item is a FERC item which
- 20 calls for us to go into Closed Session. Is there a
- 21 motion to go into Closed Session?
- 22 COMMISSIONER FORD: So moved.

| 1  | CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?                 |
|----|--|
| 2  | COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Second.                       |
| 3  | CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.      |
| 4  | All in favor say aye.                              |
| 5  | COMMISSIONERS: Aye.                                |
| 6  | CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?                       |
| 7  | (No response.)                                     |
| 8  | The vote is five to nothing. The                   |
| 9  | Commission will now go into Closed Session. Please |
| 10 | let me know when the room is ready in Chicago.     |
| 11 | (Whereupon at this point                           |
| 12 | pages 38 - 46 of the                               |
| 13 | proceedings are                                    |
| 14 | contained in a separate                            |
| 15 | closed transcript.)                                |
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- 1 CONTINUATION OF PROCEEDINGS
- 2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: In Closed Session the
- 3 Commission discussed making a filing in FERC Docket
- 4 Number ER12-1194.
- 5 Is there a motion to make the filling
- 6 with FERC?
- 7 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: So moved.
- 8 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?
- 9 COMMISSIONER FORD: Second.
- 10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
- 11 All in favor say aye.
- 12 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.
- 13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?
- 14 (No response.)
- The vote is five to nothing, and the
- 16 filing will be made with FERC.
- Judge Wallace, any other matters to
- 18 come before the Commission today?
- 19 JUDGE WALLACE: No, that's it.
- 20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, sir.
- 21 Again, welcome, Commissioner McCabe.
- 22 Glad to have you here and look forward to working

- 1 with you.
- 2 And again we want to also thank
- 3 Commissioner Elliott for his years of service and all
- 4 that he gave to the Commission as well.
- 5 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I just want to
- 6 note that I think it is the first time that we have
- 7 had three women Commissioners.
- 8 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I wondered who was going to
- 9 point that out.
- 10 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Not that we are
- 11 saying anything, but I think this is the first time.
- 12 So welcome to our newest Commissioner, and thank you,
- 13 Commissioner Elliott.
- 14 COMMISSIONER FORD: We have a majority.
- 15 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Yeah, better
- 16 watch out.
- 17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing no other business to
- 18 come before the Commission today, the meeting stands
- 19 adjourned.
- 20 BENCH SESSION ADJOURNED

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