

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITY REGULAR OPEN MEETING

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice at 11:30 AM at
160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60601.

PRESENT:

MR. DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, Chairman.

MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner.

CONRAD REDDICK, Commissioner.

STACEY PARADIS, Commissioner.

ANN McCABE, Commissioner.

MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES

BY: Michael Marciniak, CER

Notary Public

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Under the Open Meetings Act,
2 I call the August 3rd, 2023 Regular Open Meeting to
3 order. Commissioners Carrigan, McCabe, Reddick, and
4 Paradis are with me in Chicago, we have a quorum.

5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Welcome back. We'll call the
6 meeting back to order. We have five requests to speak
7 today, and I apologize again to folks who came to speak
8 with us today. Mr. William Sellers, Ms. Elba
9 Aranda-suh, Mr. Dylan Hradek, Mr. David Gupta, and Mr.
10 Clarence Carson. Mr. Sellers is remote and the other
11 four folks are in person. We'll hear from these
12 speakers in the order just listed beginning with Mr.
13 Sellers.

14 Under 2 Illinois Administrative Code section
15 1700.10 any person desiring to address the Commission
16 shall be allowed up to three minutes. Only one person
17 may speak on behalf of any organization. Please note
18 that the Commission will not respond directly to your
19 comments. Mr. Sellers, Mr. Sellers?

20 (No audible response.)

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Mr. Sellers.

22 (No audible response.)

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Are you there?

2 (No audible response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: All right. Let me skip
4 ahead, and I'll come back to Mr. Sellers. But Ms. Alba
5 Aranda-Suh, please go up to one of the microphones.
6 Yes, either one is fine. You'll have three minutes and
7 note that the timer to my right will start once you
8 begin. If you would, please first spell your name for
9 the court reporter and then your three minutes will
10 start after that.

11 MS. ARANDA-SUH: Sure. No problem. Good
12 afternoon.

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: You may need to hit the mic
14 to turn it on. There you go.

15 MS. ARANDA-SUH: My name is Elba, E-L-B-A
16 Aranda-Suh, A-R-A-N-D-A S-U-H

17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Very good. Please proceed.

18 MS. ARANDA-SUH: Thank you. Thank you
19 distinguished Commissioners of the Illinois Commerce
20 Commission. My name is Elba Aranda Suh, and I am the
21 Executive Director of The National Latino Education
22 Institute, NLEI. A non-profit that was founded as the

1 Spanish Coalition for Jobs, and has been serving the
2 Latino community for well over 50 years. We do thank
3 you for the opportunity today to share our experience
4 with people's Gas. Our organization was founded on the
5 principles of inclusion and equitable -- equitable
6 representation. Our mission is to advance our
7 community's economic independence through market and
8 results driven education, training, employment, and
9 advocacy.

10 NLEI the organization, has helped thousands of
11 families to close skills and education gaps, and obtain
12 sustainable jobs that break poverty cycles, and improve
13 the overall socioeconomic life for families. Our
14 non-profit's history begins with both challenging and
15 collaborating with industry to ensure access to good
16 jobs and to build a diverse, inclusive, and equitable
17 workforce. People's Gas has been a partner of the
18 organization since the organization's inception. As an
19 employer and training partner, People's Gas has hired
20 hundreds of NLEI participants through the decades. We
21 have experience with both new hires as well as having
22 NLEI alumni who have experienced great careers

1 throughout People's Gas for many years.

2 When People's Gas established the training
3 center in the Little Village community, we applauded
4 this accomplishment. As it revitalized the area in
5 bringing jobs and increased access to capacity
6 development and training for their incumbent workforce
7 and the workforce to come. As a community investor and
8 collaborator People's Gas have supported direct
9 programing and social support of services. They have
10 provided the community with energy efficiency education
11 and they foster a spirit of employee volunteerism at all
12 levels.

13 They support their employees as they lend
14 their time and expertise to charitable causes. As a
15 customer of People's Gas, we have experience an increase
16 in great customer service support, flexible payment
17 plans, especially during the winter season. And we have
18 also received advisory information and technical support
19 as a customer regarding the safety and energy
20 conservation of our campus. It is our experience that
21 People's Gas continues to provide meaningful jobs at
22 above livable wages, invests and hires from the

1 community, works with its customers for safe and
2 customized experience, and provides ongoing education
3 for its customers and community on energy conservation.

4 We ask for a holistic evaluation of this
5 partner, inclusive of its public private partnerships,
6 their contributions to the economy and their commitment
7 to the community. I thank you again for your time and
8 for the opportunity to share our direct favorable
9 experience with People's Gas. Thank you.

10 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you very much. Next we'll
11 hear from Mr. Hradek; apologize if I'm pronouncing names
12 wrong also, but please feel free to -- okay sure.

13 MR. HRADEK: Thank you Commissioners.

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Of course. Please spell your
15 name for the court reporter and again, you can look at
16 the timer, and it will show you have three minutes, and
17 then once you spell your name for the court reporter,
18 then you can go ahead and your time will start.

19 MR. HRADEK: Thank you. Dylan Hradek; Dylan,
20 D-Y-L-A-N; Hradek, H-R-A-D-E-K.

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please proceed.

22 MR. HRADEK: Thank you Commissioner. NPL has

1 been in business for over 50 years in utility and
2 construction. 40 years of that has been in Illinois
3 alone, and myself 30 years on the job with People's Gas
4 here -- here in the city. I'd like to make three brief
5 statements today, on behalf of the replacement programs
6 and the three statements are: One, conservation and
7 carbon reduction; two, local careers in energy; and
8 three, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

9 First: Conservation and carbon reduction. We
10 view these items as a two-step approach and conservation
11 of natural resources, as well as carbon reduction. Our
12 goals are in common with the future of a greener and
13 cleaner environment. By partnering with utilities such
14 as People's Gas and local leadership, we hope to achieve
15 a future of sustainable economical and reliable options.
16 This will be achieved by providing a modern, leak-free,
17 and reliable gas infrastructure. By doing this, this
18 also enables consumer to have access to more efficient
19 and economical solutions while being a bridge to a clean
20 and dependable future.

21 Second: Local energy careers. NPL is a local
22 union contractor, this gives us the ability to create

1 and sustain careers and opportunities to local workers
2 that live and thrive in the communities we serve. NPL
3 employs over 800 union employees, and another 200 of
4 support staff; and they're all local residents of
5 Illinois. NPL does not use labor from out of state for
6 any of these replacement programs, should the
7 replacement program seek to move forward, it would
8 eliminate thousands of good paying jobs from the city
9 and state residents.

10 Third: Diversity, equity, inclusion. NPL
11 contracts with over 50 local and diverse companies, not
12 only are these life changing opportunities for local and
13 diverse businesses, but they are sustainable in energy
14 industry for the foreseeable future. NPL also takes a
15 lot of pride in being a mentor to the diverse firms and
16 historically has helped women and minority owned firms
17 to grow into lengths that would not otherwise be
18 possible without replacement programs. And I thank you
19 for your time and your consideration, and thank you for
20 your service.

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Hradek. NPL
22 stands for what?

1 MR. HRADEK: Northern pipeline.

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Next, we'll hear
3 from Mr. Gupta. Mr. Gupta, you will have three minutes
4 once you take your seat. If you could spell your name
5 for the court reporter, and then after you do that the
6 timer will start for your three minutes. Thank you.

7 MR. GUPTA: Thank you. MY name is David Gupta
8 Spelling of the last name is G-U-P-T-A.

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go right ahead morning.

10 MR. GUPTA: Morning, I'm David Gupta,
11 co-founder and executive chairman of SDI Presence LLC.
12 I'm pleased to have the opportunity to chat with you
13 today not only about our business, but moreover about
14 the partnership we have with People's Gas. SDI is a
15 full service information technology or IT consultancy,
16 based in Chicago, Illinois, with five additional offices
17 across us. We have been in business for over 25 years,
18 served 30 plus utilities, and over 150 government
19 clients. With over \$85M in revenue for 2023, we are one
20 of the largest minority certified IT firms in Illinois.
21 On our own longstanding partnership with
22 People's Gas, I would like to mention two specific areas

1 of our collaboration. How this has positively impacted
2 our firm and our communities at large. Point number
3 one, People's Gas, along with its parent company WEC
4 Energy Group has a robust minority and women owned
5 supplier diversity program. SDI is fortunate to be a
6 direct tier one supplier to People's Gas, working on the
7 modernization of several important IT initiatives
8 related to systems used to maintain and operate their
9 outside plant infrastructure; otherwise known as their
10 Transmission Distribution System.

11 People's Gas has made a direct commitment to
12 supporting the growth of not only our firm, but
13 assisting us in the development of our tech work force
14 of the future related to SDI's growth. People's Gas
15 served as our corporate sponsor when we sought to
16 achieve a designation known as corporate plus. With the
17 National Minority Supplier Development Council; The
18 NMSDC. We are only one of 120 or so, nationally across
19 the industries that possess this designation. And with
20 this status our other large corporations around the
21 country will see us as a strong, mature corporation with
22 depth and the resume to address their IT needs. This

1 this leads to more jobs for our company more jobs here
2 in Illinois.

3 Which leads me to my second point community
4 outreach and philanthropic giving. At SDI, we have a
5 long history of community impact via internships,
6 apprenticeships, mentorships, and philanthropic giving.
7 Every year People's Gas invites us to join with them in
8 jumping into frigid lake Michigan on a very -- usually
9 very cold day in March in order to benefit Special
10 Olympics. And later in the fall, we join them for the
11 annual Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. Together
12 we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for
13 these charitable causes. And as we've been working with
14 the community workforce development since our inception,
15 we have now curated a new program in collaboration with
16 P33 Chicago, an affiliate of the Civic Committee of the
17 Commercial Club.

18 This program is called Exchange, and it is an
19 innovative model to bring IT jobs from offshore back
20 onshore; staffed with diverse talent trained at the
21 variety of colleges in Chicago, notably Kennedy King
22 College in Englewood. On the next phase of an important

1 IT program for the company, People's Gas executives were
2 quick to learn this program, and adopt this new model
3 for technical delivery. People's Gas is committed to
4 absorb up to 20 SDI apprentices; they could've easily
5 done this offshore with this work and more. But they
6 elected to invest in SDI and our Chicago citizens with
7 this employment opportunity.

8 People's Gas has been true and steadfast
9 partner with SDI presence, as we grow our business and
10 we follow their lead on how to truly be an impactful
11 corporation based in Illinois. I want to thank the
12 Commission for hearing my comments today in support of
13 our partnership with People's Gas. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you Mr. Gupta. And
15 next we will hear from Mr. Carson; Mr. Carson you
16 probably know the procedure by now. So, take your seat
17 and spell your name for the court reporter. And then
18 your three minutes will start. Thanks for being with
19 us.

20 MR. CARSON: C-L-A-R-E-N-C-E Carson,
21 C-A-R-S-O-N. Thank you very much. Thank you all for
22 allowing me the space to speak. As the Chief Operating

1 and Facilities Officer, I'm here on behalf of the North
2 Lawndale Employment Network. Where we support our
3 citizens that return from incarceration and many others
4 that are experiencing significant barriers to
5 employment. These people come to us for several key
6 things: Up-scaling for today's workforce, seeking
7 connection to meaningful employment with a living wage,
8 and financial resources; especially stable housing.

9 Although we specialize in supporting North
10 Lawndale, we support all citizens in need across all 77
11 neighborhoods of Chicago. And among those resources are
12 access to clean drinking water, electricity, and natural
13 gas for cooking. From research, there's nearly 4,500
14 miles of pipeline underneath our feet that support us
15 every day in various stages of need that we all take for
16 granted. And we all -- you can imagine with some being
17 over a 150 years old there is extreme capital
18 maintenance to be done to ensure consistent delivery and
19 no service disruption. I, we support the increase to
20 ensure proper resources are available to be delivered to
21 all Chicagoans, especially those we support. Thank you.

22 CHAIR SCOTT: CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you very

1 much, thanks for being with us today. Let me make one
2 last call for Mr. Sellers; Mr. Sellers are you online
3 with us?

4 (No audible response.)

5 CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. That then would conclude
6 our requests to speak, and thank you to all of our
7 speakers. And again, my apologies for our delay this
8 morning.

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: There are edits to the June
10 29, August 3, and August 16 Public Utilities Regular
11 Open Meeting minutes.

12 Are there any objections to considering these
13 items together and approving the minutes as edited?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the minutes are
16 approved as edited.

17 Moving onto the Electric Items.

18 Item E-1 concerns a filing by Com Ed to make
19 housekeeping revisions to the table of contents of its
20 Schedule of Rates to account for additions resulting
21 from the Climate and Equitable Jobs act. Staff
22 recommends not suspending the filing.

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

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the filing is
5 not suspended.

6 Item E-2 concerns a complaint against Com Ed
7 in Cook County. The order denies the complaint, finding
8 that the complainant failed to sustain his burden of
9 proof.

10 Are there any objections to approving the
11 order?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
14 approved.

15 Item E-3 concerns a request for confidential
16 treatment of information in the Petitioner's report.
17 The order grants the protection, finding that the
18 information is highly proprietary and confidential.

19 Are there any objections to approving the
20 order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Item E-4 concerns a petition by Ameren for a
3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
4 construct, operate, and maintain a new high voltage
5 electric service line and related facilities in LaSalle
6 County, Illinois. The order grants the petition,
7 finding the project is necessary to provide adequate,
8 reliable, and efficient service to Ameren's customers,
9 and is the least-cost means of satisfying the service
10 needs of Ameren's customers.

11 Are there any objections to approving the
12 orders?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
15 approved.

16 Item E-5 through E-7 concern citation
17 proceedings for Termination of Abandoned Licenses to
18 operate as a retail electric agent, broker, and
19 consultant in Illinois. The orders suspend the
20 certificates for two years, 120 days, and one month
21 respectively; finding that each respondent failed to
22 comply with reporting requirements.

1 Are there any objections to considering these
2 items together and approving the orders?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
5 approved.

6 Item E-8 concerns IDOT's motion to withdraw a
7 petition for an order authorizing use of eminent domain
8 power. According to the motion, IDOT no longer wishes
9 to proceed with the petition because the subject
10 property is no longer needed to complete the project.

11 Are there any objections to granting the
12 motion to withdraw?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is
15 granted.

16 Item E-9 concerns an application for a
17 certificate of service authority to act as a retail
18 electric agent broker and consultant in Illinois. The
19 order grants the certificate finding that the applicant
20 meets the requirements.

21 Are there any objections to approving the
22 order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
3 approved.

4 Item E-10 concerns an application for
5 certification to operate as an installer of distributed
6 generation facilities in Illinois. The order grants the
7 certificate, finding that the applicant meets the
8 requirements.

9 Are there any objections to approving the
10 order?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
13 approved.

14 Item E-11 concerns an application for
15 certificate of service authority to install, maintain
16 and repair electric vehicle charging stations. The
17 order grants the certificate, finding that the applicant
18 meets the requirements.

19 Are there any objections to approving the
20 order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Items E-12 through E-19 concern applications
3 for certifications to install energy efficiency measures
4 in Illinois the orders grant the certificates, finding
5 that the applicants meet the requirements.

6 Are there objections to considering these
7 items together and approving the orders?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
10 approved.

11 Moving on to our Gas Items.

12 ITEM G-1 concerns a filing by Nicor to
13 establish a new renewable natural gas rate (Rate 82)
14 the new rate possesses many similarities to the
15 Company's RNG pilot tariff (Rate 81) which concluded on
16 July 14, 2023. The proposed changes relate to
17 interconnection cost allocation and the Renewable
18 Natural Gas Interconnection Service Agreement among
19 other changes. Commission Staff recommends not
20 suspending the filing.

21 Are there any objections to not suspending the
22 filing?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the filing is
3 not suspended.

4 Item G-2 concerns a complaint against People's
5 Gas in Chicago. The order denies the complaint, finding
6 that the complainant was properly billed for his usage.
7 The order also directs People's to offer the complainant
8 a deferred payment agreement pursuant to section 280.120
9 of the Commission's rules.

10 Are there any objections to approving the
11 order?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
14 approved.

15 Item G-3 concerns a petition by Ameren to
16 reconcile revenues under its Supplemental Customer
17 Public Utility Assessment Charge for the Company's 2022
18 fiscal year. The order approves the reconciliation as
19 set in the appendix to the order, finding that the costs
20 incurred during the reconciliation period are accurate.

21 Are there any objections to approving the
22 order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
3 approved.

4 Moving on to our Telecommunications items.

5 Item T-1, concerns a petition by the Illinois
6 Rural Broadband Association to re-open Docket 16-0378 to
7 extend the schedule by which the Commission will
8 re-examine disbursements of the Illinois Universal
9 Service Fund (IUSF). The ALJ recommends granting the
10 petition.

11 Are there any objections to granting the
12 petition?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the petition is
15 granted.

16 Item T-2 concerns the revocation of a
17 Certificate of Service Authority for failure to maintain
18 managerial resources and abilities. The respondent
19 failed to appear at a hearing to show cause why the
20 Commission should not revoke its license. This order
21 revoked the respondent's license.

22 Are there any objections to approving the

1 order?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
4 approved.

5 Item T-3 concerns an application for
6 certificates of service authority to provide resold and
7 facilities-based local and inter exchange
8 telecommunications services. The order grants the
9 certificates, finding that the applicant meets the
10 requirements.

11 Are there any objections to approving the
12 order?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
15 approved.

16 Item T-4 concerns a petition to cancel
17 certificates of service authority to provide resold and
18 facilities-based local and inter exchange
19 telecommunications services. The Petitioner has
20 transferred all customers and the public can seek these
21 services from other providers. The order cancels the
22 certificates.

1 Are there any objections to approving the
2 order?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
5 approved.

6 Moving onto Water and Sewer items.

7 Item W-1 concerns Illinois American Water's
8 petition to approve the issuance and sale of up to
9 \$464.81M of long-term debt and related affiliate
10 interest transactions. The order finds that the
11 requested issuance of new debt is reasonable and
12 appropriate and should be approved.

13 Are there any objections to approving the
14 order?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
17 approved.

18 Moving on to Other Business.

19 Item O-1 concerns approval of batches,
20 contracts, and confirmations under the Adjustable Block
21 Program.

22 Are there any objections to approving the

1 program administrator's submissions?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the submissions
4 are approved.

5 This concludes our agenda. Judge Teague
6 Kingsley, do we have any other matters to come before
7 the Commission today?

8 JUDGE KINGSLEY: No Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Do the
10 commissioners have any other business to discuss?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: If there are no further
13 comments and without objection, this meeting is
14 adjourned. Thank you and again, our apologies for the
15 delay in starting today. Thank you.

16

17 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at

18 12:14 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS:

2 COUNTY OF COOK)

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4 I, Michael Marciniak, CER, Notary Public,
5 reported the proceedings that were held on the date,
6 time and place set out on the title page hereof; and
7 that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of
8 report of proceedings so taken aforesaid.

9 I further certify that I am not related to any
10 of the parties, and I have no financial interest in the
11 outcome of this matter.

12

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Michael Marciniak

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MICHAEL R. MARCINIAK



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Certified Electronic Reporter

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Notary Public

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