BEFORE THE

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

PUBLIC UTILITIES OPEN MEETING

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Chicago, Illinois

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

## 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



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- CHAIR SCOTT: Moving onto our Public utilities
- 3 agenda.
- 4 We will hear from Mr. Steinsultz. Mr.
- 5 Steinsultz if you're here you have three minutes. Oh.
- 6 You're virtual, very good. Please spell your name for
- 7 the court reporter; and we are keeping track of your
- 8 time and we will let you know when your time has
- 9 expired. So, go ahead.
- 10 MR. STEINSULTZ: Okay. Thank you. My name is
- 11 Matt Steinholtz, M-A-T-T, last name,
- 12 S-T-E-I-N-S-U-L-T-Z. Thank you. My name is Matt
- 13 Steinsultz and I'm a resident of Chicago and customer of
- 14 Com Ed. And I'm here today to ask the Commission to
- 15 reject the proposed rate increases for natural gas
- 16 service. The climate crisis is an emergency and we have
- 17 to be taking every action possible to end all fossil.
- 18 Fuel usage. Global temperatures are currently
- 19 the highest values reported in past 100,000 years.
- 20 Science has been very clear. If we have any hope of
- 21 avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, we have to
- 22 end all fossil fuels by 2050.



- 1 The state of Illinois has committed to
- 2 achieving this goal of zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 3 If this Commission wants to support the state in
- 4 achieving such a massive change, we need to start taking
- 5 action now. This is why it does not make sense for
- 6 utilities to spend hundreds of millions of dollars
- 7 investing in infrastructure that when it will be
- 8 obsolete in less than 30 years.
- 9 Not only do these systems continue to prop of
- 10 fossil fuel usage; they put the burden of cost on rate
- 11 payers who are already struggling to pay their bills.
- 12 Furthermore, as more buildings and transportation are
- 13 electrified, those who can afford their gas will switch
- 14 to lower cost and lower emission electric devices
- 15 leaving a shrinking number of households to stop paying
- 16 the bill for these poor investments made by utility
- 17 companies. Fossil fuels like natural gas have no future
- 18 on a renewable climate. We need a comprehensive plan
- 19 for all of our energy utilities to provide clean and
- 20 affordable energy for all.
- 21 Continuing to build new gas infrastructure is
- 22 bad for the people of Illinois and bad for the planet.



- 1 I am asking the Commission to reject these monumental
- 2 gas rate hikes and instead develop a plan for investing
- 3 in electrification and a zero carbon energy system.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. Steinsultz.
- 6 For the sake of the time and convenience, we
- 7 will begin today's Public Utilities Agenda with item
- 8 0-4, which entails a presentation from Liberty
- 9 Consulting Group regarding its management audit of Com
- 10 Ed pursuant to sections 8-102 and 4-604(g) of the Public
- 11 Utilities Act.
- 12 For the presentation, Liberty will present its
- 13 findings to the Commission followed by questions from
- 14 the Commissioners.
- 15 Please note, Mr. Glenn Rippie and Mr. David
- 16 Glockner from Com Ed and Exelon will provide a brief
- 17 response after the presentation. And will be available
- 18 to answer any questions from the Commission.
- 19 Okay. I invite Mr. John Antonuk, I apologize
- 20 if I mispronounced your name, President from Liberty
- 21 Consulting Group, to the podium to present Liberty's
- 22 findings and recommendations. Sir, go ahead.



- 1 MR. ANTONUK: Thank you. That was
- 2 refreshingly accurate.
- 3 CHAIR SCOTT: I got one right today.
- 4 MR. ANTONUK: Our nearly 35 years of work with
- 5 more than 40 U.S. regulatory commissions include service
- 6 to the ICC that stretches back now more than 20 years.
- 7 And it's always a pleasure to meet with a client with
- 8 whom we've have had such a long a productive
- 9 relationship in our visits. Provisions of the Climate
- 10 and Equitable Jobs Act address utility ethical conduct
- 11 and transparency. Section 4604G, requires a management
- 12 audit following a conviction plea agreement or Defer
- 13 Prosecution Agreement; DPA by public utility. The US
- 14 attorney's office for the Northern District of Illinois
- 15 announced that it had reached a DPA addressing an
- 16 investigation involving Com Ed. The Illinois Commerce
- 17 Commission engaged the Liberty Consulting Group to
- 18 perform the audit called for upon court approval of the
- 19 DPA.
- Our audit addressed all six of the elements
- 21 that section 4604 says need to be included in such an
- 22 audit group. Some what for convenience and efficiency



- 1 in the conduct of the audit.
- 2 First, financial and accounting procedures,
- 3 internal controls, and practices. Second, assessment of
- 4 ethics and compliance risks. Third, ensuring effective
- 5 communication of controls, codes, practices, and
- 6 procedures. Fourth, enforcing those controls, codes,
- 7 practices, and procedures. Fifth, providing support for
- 8 and commitment to compliance and ethics. And sixth,
- 9 effectiveness of actions following allegations and
- 10 ultimately when it occurs, confirmation of misconduct.
- 11 We conducted our field work over a period of
- 12 about five months, and we asked for and received in all
- 13 cases, responses to about 300 data requests. We also
- 14 conducted 30 interviews and participated in a number of
- 15 work Sessions, at which we rang through how a variety of
- 16 tools and systems related to compliance and ethics
- 17 operate on a real-time basis.
- 18 Company personnel at both Com Ed and Exelon
- 19 were fully cooperative, and provided us with complete
- 20 responses to our data requests and interviews; and
- 21 engage productively in assessing areas where possible
- 22 improvement opportunities arose as our field work



- 1 continued.
- 2 Turning first to the area of financial and
- 3 accounting procedures, controls, and practices: We
- 4 found them sufficient overall; we did make two
- 5 recommendations that we think would enhance finance and
- 6 accounting measures in the internal controls department.
- 7 The first was intended to ensure conformity
- 8 with the requirements of section 604D2D. At the time of
- 9 the audit, the then Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer,
- 10 since retired, had relied on work under the direction of
- 11 the head of Internal Audit in reviewing internal
- 12 controls. We found it sound to have placed substantial
- 13 weight on internal audits work, given the primacy of
- 14 that organization's role with respect to controls.
- 15 Nevertheless, we viewed the act as requiring a distinct
- 16 review of internal controls by the Chief Compliance and
- 17 Ethics Officer. We did find reliance in ethics
- 18 activities so it was not a matter of a gap, it was
- 19 really a matter of the issue of the separate review that
- 20 we believe is required by the Chief Compliance Officer.
- 21 The second improvement opportunity arose from
- 22 what we observed as a lag in ensuring the policy



- 1 procedure document reviews and revisions to them
- 2 occurred within the time limits provided for doing so.
- 3 Eliminating that lag will reduce marginal improvement in
- 4 the clarity of required and expected actions and
- 5 processes. More significantly, it will reinforce the
- 6 commitment to and the importance of ethics and
- 7 compliance in the demonstration of that by showing
- 8 diligence in conducting required reviews on the
- 9 schedules that are set forth.
- 10 Turning to the second area of ethics and
- 11 compliance risk assessments. We found the sound
- 12 organization, resources, methods, and activities for
- 13 conducting compliance and ethics risk assessments; that
- 14 area was a particular strength in our opinion. The risk
- 15 assessment process which has recently been enhanced
- 16 produces descriptions of gas and improvement -- and
- 17 improvement opportunities identified and means and
- 18 methods for addressing them.
- We also found broad participation in risk
- 20 assessment activities, engaging subject matter experts
- 21 from across Exelon; including substantial representation
- 22 from Commonwealth Edison. We also found strong and



- 1 regular sharing of information about risks, and their
- 2 mitigation with executive leadership and with the boards
- 3 of directors of both Com Ed and Exelon. We did find one
- 4 area where we believe moderate improvement is possible,
- 5 and that is in enhancing the tracking of status and
- 6 implementing recommendations that resulted from risk
- 7 assessment and other compliance and ethics processes.
- 8 That improvement will enhance accountability for taking
- 9 improvement actions and improve Board director
- 10 visibility into implementation status and barriers, and
- 11 duration of the completion of those activities.
- 12 Turning now to the third and fourth areas, our
- 13 audit addressed communication of an enforcement of
- 14 controls, codes, practices, and procedures together;
- 15 because there's substantial overlap between them.
- 16 Again, we found guidance documents, internal controls,
- 17 codes of conduct, and practices and procedures supported
- 18 by effective enforcement mechanisms.
- 19 Specific compliance and ethics components
- 20 factor into individual employee performance evaluations,
- 21 and negative ratings can affect compensation decisions.
- 22 Effective methods communicate and secure widespread



- 1 understanding of controls of the codes of conduct,
- 2 practices and procedures. While finding the
- 3 establishment communication of effective controls
- 4 generally sufficient and applicable to all required
- 5 groups, we did observe four sources of what we construe
- 6 as well marginal improvement.
- 7 Communications about compliance in ethics,
- 8 expressing requirements, expectations, and values are
- 9 sound, and they are extensive. But the compliance and
- 10 ethics group should develop an overall and structured
- 11 annual plan to quide those compliance in ethics
- 12 communications to ensure that they're reaching targeted
- 13 issues, developments, and trends. And also to
- 14 provide -- and offer more insight to the Board of
- 15 Directors about what specific initiatives in training
- 16 and development our plan for the year.
- 17 Second, following compliance and ethics
- 18 training which is substantial and appropriate, the
- 19 compliance group should follow up through participant
- 20 surveys or focus groups. To measure how effective
- 21 training has been in communicating values and
- 22 expectations, and in making desired behaviors and



- 1 expectations clear.
- 2 We've found in the past that even what we as
- 3 people who look at training and development methods
- 4 regularly find clear and compelling almost. Sometimes
- 5 that's just not the reaction to particular elements or
- 6 segments of the employee population, so doing a post
- 7 training survey and pulsing of the employees undergoing
- 8 them is certainly helpful in making sure that the
- 9 message is getting through.
- 10 Third, examining the sources and frequency of
- 11 employee contacts with the various electronically
- 12 reachable information sources can provide important
- 13 insights about compliance in ethics, interests,
- 14 concerns, and importance to employees. It's one way of
- 15 seeing what employees are regularly looking at, what
- 16 they may not be looking at, despite a belief that there
- 17 are important documents.
- 18 It's not so much a matter of finding out what
- 19 individual employees are doing and looking at, you know
- 20 from a privacy protection point, but it's really more an
- 21 issue of looking at the hits that you get to those
- 22 sources to see what it is employees are or accessing.



- 1 Fourth and finally, progress has been made in
- 2 using regular employee engagement surveys to solicit
- 3 compliance and ethics feedback. And we think that's a
- 4 strong development at Com Ed; it's not something we see
- 5 everywhere, but it's something we think is becoming
- 6 increasingly important.
- What we have recommended, however, is that
- 8 unlike what's typically done in employment engagement
- 9 surveys, which is this sort of see how employees respond
- 10 to the same questions and the same issues over time.
- 11 Compliance and ethics because of developments
- 12 and to some extent because of the experience that Com Ed
- 13 had recently, we think a benefit from a more nuanced
- 14 look at how questions are designed and how they may
- 15 change. In other words, while it's important to get a
- 16 consistent view over time about responses to similar
- 17 questions in this area, we think some tweaking is in
- 18 order. To make sure that the survey is engaging in
- 19 current issues and being responsive to things that
- 20 management needs to track to make sure that the program
- 21 is doing everything that it can.
- We did find two other areas where we were not



- 1 clear on when they would be executed; we expected that
- 2 they would be. We basically cited them in the report
- 3 just as a way of putting an explanation point behind the
- 4 importance of getting them done. And the first of those
- 5 was to follow through on a series of outstanding
- 6 training recommendations. And the second was to
- 7 continue on plans to use exit interviews with departing
- 8 employees to address with them compliance and ethics
- 9 program procedures and effectiveness.
- Turning now to the fifth area, we addressed
- 11 the support for and commitment to compliance and ethics.
- 12 Again, finding the documentation and the program
- 13 comprehensive, clear, appropriately scoped, and
- 14 supported by adequate procedures. The organization
- 15 primarily responsible for the program, Exelon compliance
- 16 and ethics, is lead by a committed senior executive
- 17 whose organization is sufficiently empowered; and
- 18 empowered is important.
- 19 Organizations exist just about everywhere the
- 20 degree to which they can -- they have the clout to get
- 21 done what they're there for. Is sometimes in question,
- 22 I don't think that's the case here; it's also well



- 1 experienced and well structured.
- 2 ECE, which is the Ethics and compliance
- 3 organization. Has access to and regularly makes use of
- 4 a broadly based group of subject matter experts from
- 5 across Exelon to assess risks; to be messengers for
- 6 ethics and compliance and to work at identifying areas
- 7 where changes may be appropriate that also includes
- 8 substantial representation from Com Ed.
- 9 Policies adopted since the DPA comprehensively
- 10 address lobbying and political consulting agreements and
- 11 services in interactions with public officials. We
- 12 found that the regular reporting required under those
- 13 policies was sound and has been diligently executed.
- 14 Controls require senior and ethics and compliance
- 15 approval of lock-ins retention, written contracts and
- 16 invoices detailing services provided, due diligence or
- 17 disclosure forms from lobbyists. Twice yearly
- 18 documented lobbyist activity and performance reviews
- 19 that have to be signed off by senior personnel not just
- 20 the person doing the review. And detailed reporting
- 21 requests from public officials.
- 22 A broadly scoped and well defined set of



- 1 limits on provisions and gifts and other items of value
- 2 by employees also exist. We look specifically also at
- 3 how the Exelon Com Ed Boards act to set a defective tone
- 4 at the top. To support and foster commitment to
- 5 compliance and ethics and to set appropriately high
- 6 expectations for compliance.
- We found these aspects of providing support
- 8 for a commitment to compliance and ethics sufficient;
- 9 but offer one recommendation. We found the governing
- 10 documents give only generally defined and I'll use air
- 11 quotes; I hate to do it.
- 12 But executive management and equally generally
- 13 defined ethics and compliance oversight. I'm omitting
- 14 the air quotes there. That role requires more
- 15 definition and specifically delimitation; particularly
- 16 relevant should the company face future incidents that
- 17 involve high level obligations of misconduct.
- 18 It should be made clear that executives do not
- 19 have the ability to self define what oversight means and
- 20 allows. But instead, should be made to understand that
- 21 their contribution focuses on promoting and acting to
- 22 secure compliant ethical performance not just in their



- 1 organization, but by themselves.
- I believe that this is in fact the intent of
- 3 understanding of leadership. So, it's not a question of
- 4 thinking that there is any deliberate omission here; our
- 5 principle concern about this issue lay elsewhere.
- 6 Consider, for example the perspective an employee who's
- 7 concerned but wary about reporting circumstances or
- 8 incidents.
- 9 Fuzziness and documentation available to that
- 10 employee on websites and otherwise, about how executive
- 11 management might occur. Particularly in sensitive
- 12 matters involving senior managers or executives can dim
- 13 prospects for reporting and for continuing to provide
- 14 information needed for and useful in investigations.
- The two generally described executive
- 16 oversight role however, I -- I want to point out stands
- 17 in contrast. To what we generally found otherwise and
- 18 we saw which is clear and confidence building statements
- 19 in governing documents, procedures, and other guidance
- 20 in communications about compliance and evidence.
- 21 Turning now to the sixth and last area our
- 22 audit addressed we found with respect to actions



- 1 following discovery of potential misconduct or
- 2 validation that it has occurred after investigation. We
- 3 found that the investigating processes that apply well
- 4 designed and timely completed.
- 5 And on review of specific documentation and
- 6 discussion of a number of actual investigations, gave no
- 7 indication that they lacked either objectivity or
- 8 diligence in their execution.
- 9 Participation in and actions to identify
- 10 remedies once misconduct was found, appeared sound in
- 11 deciding how to assign personal consequences for
- 12 misconduct. And in identifying where individual cases
- 13 where misconduct or other concerns that been validated
- 14 may warrant a review of compliance program or other
- 15 governing document contact or content for potential
- 16 improvement.
- So, it was clear that both in responding to
- 18 specific incidents and in determining what implications
- 19 those incidents had for the program, we found a strong
- 20 intention and appropriate attention. We did make one
- 21 recommendation of moderate significance and it also
- 22 relates to an issue I got into a little bit earlier.



- 1 Which is kind of the tone or the message or
- 2 the perception of message by a person who is thinking
- 3 about reporting or participating in an investigation.
- 4 There is an exception to the Company's promise of
- 5 preservation of Anonymity in cases where legal safety or
- 6 security concerns exist. That exception is valid, and I
- 7 want to start there; we're not arguing with the
- 8 exception.
- 9 And also we asked and found no recollection by
- 10 anybody that exception had ever been applied.
- 11 Nevertheless there's importance not just in applying it
- 12 judiciously, but also making clear to reporters that the
- 13 exception will be tightly controlled. And that calls
- 14 for two things; documenting the process; we understand
- 15 the process and we think the people responsible for it
- 16 understand it. But we think documenting it and making
- 17 sure that documentation is available to employees is
- 18 important.
- 19 And second, we think that using the exception
- 20 should require senior executive approval. Not just at
- 21 the investigative level, if you put it. That
- 22 recommendation will not just help tighten up assurance



- 1 is that the exception will be, as it should be, very
- 2 limited. But it will also send a clear message to
- 3 employees that controls exist on the application of that
- 4 exception; because employees know exists, so it's
- 5 important to make sure that they're getting firm notice
- 6 that there are tight controls in review over its
- 7 application.
- 8 The last area we looked at was an examination
- 9 of the electronic capabilities used to manage case
- 10 assignment, status, supporting documentation, or
- 11 evidence and results, achieved through investigations.
- 12 We found those sound as well; they were brought online
- 13 after capable outside with substantial IT experience
- 14 were engaged. We found no reason to question their
- 15 quality or completeness in terms of access control when
- 16 they were -- were put into effect.
- 17 However, since implementation, management has
- 18 not undertaken periodic testing to assure that those
- 19 controls on access, what I mean by access is by people
- 20 who would find out sensitive information about
- 21 investigations without being authorized to do so. The
- 22 company has not undertaken periodic testing to make sure



- 1 that those procedures remain sufficiently sufficient to
- 2 avoid unauthorized access.
- 3 We saw no reason to think such access has
- 4 occurred but in our view, good practice calls generally
- 5 for both documentation of procedures and processes that
- 6 control access. And for, as I said periodic testing, as
- 7 with any other sensitive IT systems to make sure the
- 8 controls remain effective.
- 9 Overall, Com Ed and Exelon work together to
- 10 provide and execute an ethics and compliance program for
- 11 the Illinois electric utility it's important to see
- 12 their work as integrated. It's not a Com Ed
- 13 responsibility, and it's not an Exelon responsibility.
- 14 Accountability exists in both companies but the
- 15 manage -- the conduct of the program is a joint response
- 16 of Exelon's ECE group and Com Ed which I think is a good
- 17 thing.
- 18 It takes advantage of the resource access you
- 19 can gain by having such a large organization, and it
- 20 also continues to involve folks at the local utility
- 21 level in a way that's meaningful. And that in and of
- 22 itself, I think has material advantages in sending the



- 1 right message to employees. Instead of something that's
- 2 coming out of coming out of the home office somewhere.
- 3 This is something that's real and in their house. We
- 4 found dedicated, experienced, and as I said before
- 5 perhaps most significantly empowered, and well supported
- 6 leaders and managers in the compliance and ethics
- 7 function.
- 8 We also found substantial Board of director
- 9 engagement; and that means by both the Commonwealth
- 10 Edison and the Exelon board. The last two years have
- 11 brought significant positive change and a focus on
- 12 continuing improvements. Recommendations we made we
- 13 believe will improve an already generally sound
- 14 operating program.
- I want to close by, I guess, where I started
- 16 by thanking the Commission for another opportunity to
- 17 serve. As always we thank the Staff whose support is
- 18 again as always was welcome and full in the conduct of
- 19 our work. And I also want to thank the Company's for
- 20 showing diligence in addressing our request. We asked a
- 21 lot of questions and we're known to be persistent and
- 22 stubborn in getting answers. They also GAVE free access



- 1 TO personal levels from those who support activities all
- 2 the way up to the CEO and members of both boards.
- 3 And we also found the Company being open in
- 4 considering different ways of moving its program
- 5 forward. I would say one of the things I was most
- 6 impressed was the notion that while there is confidence
- 7 that the program is sound there remains a desire to move
- 8 it forward. And I think that desire is sincere.
- 9 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you for your presentation.
- 10 Mr. Rippie and Mr. Glockner would you like to provide a
- 11 response?
- 12 MR. GLOCKNER: I appreciate the opportunity to
- 13 provide comments and both Mr. Rippie and I are happy to
- 14 answer any questions that you may have regarding the
- 15 report or our compliance and ethics program generally.
- So I -- I will start by saying that the, from
- 17 our perspective, the review by the Commission's Auditor
- 18 was thorough and objective. We appreciate their work
- 19 and recommendations, this was as important for us as it
- 20 was for the Commission. At both Com Ed and Exelon we've
- 21 taken a wide range of actions over the last three years
- 22 to strengthen our compliance and controls and functions.



- 1 And as Mr. Antonuk noted I think the results of that
- 2 work gets reflected in his report.
- 3 Although we've made significant improvements
- 4 over the last three years, We also have, as Mr. Antonuk
- 5 reported, are very conscious that we can always get
- 6 better. That is a commitment that is important to both
- 7 Com Ed and Exelon. The program can't be static. And we
- 8 appreciate the report makes a number of recommendations
- 9 for improvement. We are committed to implementing all
- 10 of the recommendations that the report makes.
- 11 I'm happy to walk through each of them
- 12 individually, you know, and let you know where we are
- 13 with respect to them. I don't know where you are timing
- 14 perspective.
- 15 CHAIR SCOTT: If you want to do that briefly,
- 16 that would be great.
- 17 MR. GLOCKNER: Sure. So I'll start with the
- 18 recommendations relating to financial accounting
- 19 practices and internal controls. There were two of
- 20 these, the first related to the Chief Compliance Ethics
- 21 Officer conducting distinct review of internal financial
- 22 controls as opposed to applying principally on a review



- 1 conducted by the internal audit. That really relates to
- 2 the structure of the program as it was when Mr. Antonuk
- 3 reviewed it. I am the Executive Vice President for
- 4 compliance audit and risk, but I am also Com Ed's
- 5 designated Chief compliance and ethics officer. In my
- 6 role I now oversee the internal audit program, I
- 7 review -- it's part of my work the internal audit
- 8 assessments of our internal control environment.
- 9 Mr. Antonuk is correct that it would be
- 10 advisable to document that distinct review which we will
- 11 do moving forward. The report also recommends that we
- 12 ensure the reviews and revisions on its policy and
- 13 procedures are completed on an established cycle. So
- 14 this was a point that was noted in different junctions
- 15 in their report. The company had fall behind with
- 16 respect to updates to a number of its policies. We have
- 17 systematically brought those up to date. And the
- 18 current State we are up to date with our policies and I
- 19 have established a process to ensure that we remain up
- 20 to date and alerts trigger when policies are not up to
- 21 date.
- 22 With respect to compliance and risk



- 1 assessments Liberty recommended we enhance the tracking
- 2 of our implementation recommendations arising up from
- 3 compliance and risk assessment. There were four
- 4 recommendations to communication policies.
- 5 One was the development of a structured plan
- 6 for addressing compliance and ethics communication.
- 7 That is a process of implementation we've been using a
- 8 creation of compliance and ethics calendar -- training
- 9 calendar. So a recommendation that Exelon should
- 10 deliver communications to employees through surveys and
- 11 focus groups to measure their effectiveness. And we do
- 12 plan to design participant surveys for future training
- 13 to help us asses the effect and quality of the training
- 14 programs and help strengthen them. There's a
- 15 recommendation that we implement the system for
- 16 compliance and ethics communications and employee access
- 17 to policies. This is another good idea. Something that
- 18 we will do we don't currently track web clicks on our
- 19 intranet resources because we are happy to implement
- 20 those on our compliance calendar.
- 21 A recommendation we continue evaluating and
- 22 adjusting employee engagement surveys. That's something



- 1 that we changed significantly with the employee
- 2 engagement survey that we conducted across Exelon in the
- 3 second half of last year. The sort of study, state of
- 4 questions that have been asked every year. Trends have
- 5 been, we have added significantly to that list of
- 6 questions for example Mr. Antonuk referred to which is
- 7 to make sure we were capturing a wider range of concerns
- 8 that we continue to adjust questions where necessary.
- 9 But we also want to make sure we keep a good
- 10 balance of new questions and questions we can track
- 11 trends. The report also noted in Mr. Antonuk's and two
- 12 other points with respect to this topic where it
- 13 emphasized the importance of follow through. One of
- 14 those is addressing outstanding issues with respect to
- 15 training. And including the use of exit interviews to
- 16 elicit information relevant to compliance and ethics.
- 17 We have a project in process with respect to doing
- 18 those.
- 19 There were two recommendations regarding
- 20 support for commitment to compliance and ethics. First,
- 21 was management should act as the superior in ensuring
- 22 compliance and ethics policies and procedures. Undergo



- 1 regular review and update, we talked about that a little
- 2 earlier but we are back on track with respect to that
- 3 and committed to staying on track there. As Mr. Antonuk
- 4 said in it's recommendation in compliance with policies
- 5 and procedures and actual practice should develop the
- 6 corporate compliance schedule of executive management.
- 7 As the report and Mr. Antonuk described it.
- 8 I think this is a significant matter and I can
- 9 assure you that I am fully independent in my functioning
- 10 and in my teams functioning. That's something that is
- 11 communicated by our management team and communicated by
- 12 our program as well. But as Mr. Antonuk points out, the
- 13 greater the width of our policies leaves a little
- 14 ambiguity with respect to that. Reach out and someone
- 15 will clarify.
- 16 There were two recommendations regarding
- 17 actions following discovery of misconduct. One of those
- 18 was to document the process; we're addressing exceptions
- 19 to the commitment to preserving the anonymity and legal
- 20 safety and security concerns. I think that's a good
- 21 call out and some Areas that need policy change. One of
- 22 the things that we're really focused on is strengthening



- 1 what I referred to as speak out culture within Com Ed
- 2 and Exelon. Having a culture around compliance and
- 3 ethics is what our company is already where everybody --
- 4 its everyone's responsibility not to just be compliant
- 5 and perform but appropriate themselves in this regard.
- 6 And the final recommendation was documenting
- 7 the investigation databank procedures that others
- 8 control access. We are going to in the future document
- 9 regular testing we just wanted to make clear that Exelon
- 10 and Com Ed are committed to the engagement and
- 11 expectation of our customers. But its also an
- 12 expectation that Com Ed and Exelon maintains directors
- 13 and avoidance. Happy to answer any questions.
- 14 CHAIR SCOTT: Mr. Rippie, did you have
- 15 anything you wanted to add?
- 16 MR. RIPPIE: No. We just wanted to make clear
- 17 that the commitment, engagement, and dedication, that
- 18 Mr. Glockner talked about is a reflection of the Com Ed
- 19 compliance management team. Well as across Exelon and
- 20 across the compliance and ethics organization Mr.
- 21 Glockner leads. As he said we're all to committed to
- 22 get an ethical and fully compliant organization.



- 1 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Are there any
- 2 questions from my colleagues for either Com Ed or
- 3 Liberty? Commissioner Reddick.
- 4 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: No. I'm good.
- 5 CHAIR SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe.
- 6 Commissioner Carrigan.
- 7 COMMISSION CARRIGAN: You said you were going
- 8 to make all the recommendations in the report. I just
- 9 wondered where you were at with respect to updating
- 10 those practices.
- 11 MR. GLOCKNER: Sure so when I arrived in
- 12 spring of 2020, sort of as the company was negotiating
- 13 the sort of beginning of the work of kind of a really
- 14 systematic overhaul of the program. A number of
- 15 policies had fallen out of date. As I prioritized the
- 16 work for the program I made the choice just focus on
- 17 assessing the program make a change in focusing on what
- 18 I believe is kind of the highest priority. Particular
- 19 policies and procedures, what I would describe as
- 20 political compliance.
- 21 So we implemented, and systematically updated
- 22 since then a set of four policies pertaining to



- 1 interactions with public officials. Because I was
- 2 making significant changes to the program, I did have
- 3 prioritized some of the policies, the documented program
- 4 structure. Because I wanted to have a structure in
- 5 place and finalized before changing policies to reflect
- 6 what was going to work in prepping this. And really the
- 7 one policy that most significantly lagged needed
- 8 finished which is the policy describing the overall
- 9 structure of our compliance program. But in terms of
- 10 you know, clarity of operation communication to
- 11 employees about their own action, I think we've been
- 12 consistently clear throughout this period. Now that the
- 13 restructure is largely complete we have brought the Com
- 14 Ed to conformity with the policy. And we anticipate
- 15 keeping it.
- 16 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: I'd like to confirm
- 17 first with Mr. Antonuk is it fair to describe your audit
- 18 as a process audit. Your looking at the procedures in
- 19 place, but if I read your report correctly, you did not
- 20 have extensive contact with a lot of employees to gauge
- 21 their perception of the culture that Com Ed is trying
- 22 to --



- 1 MR. ANTONUK: That's correct we did. We did
- 2 look at the surveys, which is some evidence of
- 3 perception, and we also looked at that data
- 4 disaggregate, if you will by function location. So we
- 5 saw those indicators. And then with respect to
- 6 investigations we did not talk to any reporters of
- 7 misconduct or concern. We did talk to the
- 8 investigators. We looked at individual cases and kind
- 9 of you know pulled out pieces from the system, evidence,
- 10 notes of interviews, and questions. What about this
- 11 what about that? We looked to resolve -- we looked at
- 12 where there was a finding of noncompliance and what was
- 13 the remedy. We looked at what departments were engaged
- 14 and started taking significant personnel action in their
- 15 HR applications.
- So you're right we looked a lot at the
- 17 documentation, but we looked at a lot of what I think
- 18 are tangible signs of how it plays out. So, we were
- 19 trying to look at evidence of whether the execution was
- 20 poor with all the expect the document expectation. We
- 21 did not however, do any kind of polling or sampling to
- 22 go to employees and kind of say, you know, are you



- 1 getting the message. Tell me what your values are no,
- 2 we didn't we did not do that.
- 3 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Thank you. All right.
- 4 Mr. Glockner, from that perspective at your early
- 5 engagement in changing the processes at Com Ed. So,
- 6 it's been how many years that you've been working on
- 7 this.
- 8 MR. GLOCKNER: About three and a quarter;
- 9 three.
- 10 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Having been there that
- 11 long can you give us any insight as to your perception
- 12 how the culture has or has not been effective.
- MR. GLOCKNER: It's a big question. So what I
- 14 would say is that I think there is a strong realization
- 15 across Exelon and Com Ed that ethics issues were there.
- 16 In that we're seeing a lot of engagement with my team
- 17 and a lot of engagement with the front ended issues as
- 18 opposed to -- we have to find out about something and
- 19 have to clean up an issue. The employee engagement
- 20 survey that Mr. Antonuk talked about is a big reflection
- 21 point for us. The survey that was taken 2019; they're
- 22 typically done in two-year intervals. The delay was



- 1 sort of due to the pandemic and corporate separation.
- 2 So it's hard to read too much into that. What I'm
- 3 really interested to see is what we do the next time to
- 4 improve employee perceptions that they have with respect
- 5 to ethics.
- 6 With respect to issues, one of the things that
- 7 we did with the data, is we sort of filter or filtered
- 8 it by supervisor. Looked at the employee engagement
- 9 score with respect to specifically having this question
- 10 for every supervisor to give us a sense of whether there
- 11 were parts of the organization where there was
- 12 particular hot spots. We provided information to the HR
- 13 teams that had identified the supervisor where those
- 14 scores were the lowest and needed the follow up in those
- 15 areas. Other things the corporate scores across this
- 16 survey will help give us a sense of whether they're
- 17 working.
- 18 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: My final question is
- 19 really general. Recent experience suggest that your
- 20 executive team isn't enough engaged in the culture
- 21 enough.
- MR. GLOCKNER: I would answer yes with respect



- 1 to Com Ed. Many of them are new in their roles as well.
- 2 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Commissioner
- 3 Paradis.
- 4 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Thank you. Just two
- 5 questions and one of them are specific. So I was
- 6 interested on page 79 of the report, seeing number six.
- 7 It states, "Four policies were adjusted to address risks
- 8 as they would apply when consulting with Public
- 9 Officials." Can you give us a general idea as to why
- 10 those adjustments were made; what was that in response
- 11 to?
- 12 MR. GLOCKNER: So, as I mentioned we rolled
- 13 out these four policies in early July 2020. They were
- 14 expansive, relatively complex, as one would do
- 15 procedures. The one thing I told, kind of my team, you
- 16 know, I was focused on reporting numbers and trends with
- 17 respect to the individuals reporting issues. I think
- 18 one of the things that matter is to have onsite
- 19 increased oversight. Some of those are going toward
- 20 violations. Others are management issues that we are
- 21 referring to HR.
- MR. ANTONUK: I'm sorry. One quick finish no,



- 1 we did find the changes were sufficient to bring them in
- 2 accord with things we've seen elsewhere, and I should
- 3 mention at one of the places that we've seen elsewhere
- 4 is first energy. Where the use of charitable
- 5 contributions to not me but what federal authorities set
- 6 one according to charity was an issue. So I would say
- 7 we looked at this with reference to what we learned
- 8 there, and we did not find anything here that from you
- 9 know from a policy perspective, was lacking. We also
- 10 did some looking at kind of the execution of them, and
- 11 then it doesn't appear that, you know the rules just are
- 12 on paper are actually being followed.
- 13 CHAIR SCOTT: In terms of how the decisions
- 14 get made to determine who gets audited.
- MR. RIPPIE: So there are regular practices
- 16 that channel requests for charitable contributions into
- 17 the corporate peers unit they review them for purpose
- 18 for alignment. Our policies as well as to determine
- 19 that there's nothing improper either of how the was made
- 20 for the relationship of the requester, depending upon
- 21 the amount of the request they are approved at different
- 22 levels all the way up to our chief executive officer.



- 1 Don't know what else I can tell you about particulars.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 MR. ANTONUK: There a time I should mention
- 4 before we move the policies that relate to political
- 5 contributions do require disclosure of contributions
- 6 that are that are connected to political influence SO
- 7 even if it's a request for that, otherwise would look
- 8 like perfectly one for a normal charity if it comes from
- 9 someone who has a political connection that gets
- 10 reported and. That was our focus was really not so much
- 11 on how you're choosing from the vast array of legitimate
- 12 charity, but are you using what are you trying to use a
- 13 travel contribution to make a contribution that's a
- 14 little more self interested.
- MR. RIPPIE: So the managers of any external
- 16 consultant are required to do performance twice a year.
- 17 Those are reviewed by my team. We prohibit the of any
- 18 invoice from an external boss unless there's a detailed
- 19 description of the services record that has been this
- 20 department sees them all, and ultimately up to the CEO.
- 21 MR. ANTONUK: I can't resist jumping unless
- 22 you mind? I think that was a good description of how to



- 1 approach this process and procedure perspective I'm go
- 2 tell you one it around these bases many times too many
- 3 companies but two things one, you heard on every
- 4 detected should follow on so to the extent you can
- 5 follow the money you diminish the chance the second
- 6 issue is or no the more people you have to engage to
- 7 make it an are to do with it so they have done things to
- 8 follow the money they created it a situation where more
- 9 people have participated.
- 10 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you very much. We
- 11 appreciate all the time and effort in developing this
- 12 report. Thank you very much.
- MR. GLOCKNER: Thanks.
- MR. ANTONUK: Thank you.
- 15 CHAIR SCOTT: Continuing on with the Public
- 16 Utilities Agenda.
- 17 Item E-1 concerns a filing by Mid American to
- 18 modify its qualifying facility. Congregation & small
- 19 power production Facilities Rate (Rate QF) The filing is
- 20 an annual adjustment to rates in accordance with the
- 21 Illinois Administrative code part 430. Commission staff
- 22 recommends not suspending the filing.



- 1 Are there any objections to not suspending the
- 2 filing?
- 3 (No verbal response.)
- 4 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the filing is not
- 5 suspended.
- 6 Item E-2 concerns an investigation against
- 7 Liberty Power Holdings LLC. The order identifies 10
- 8 violations of the administrative code and the Public
- 9 Utilities Act and directs the company to pay \$184,327 in
- 10 fines.
- 11 There are substantive edits to the order.
- 12 First, for violation 3, the edits adopt
- 13 Staff's recommended penalty of \$2 for each non-compliant
- 14 Uniform Disclosure Statement (UDS) that was sent to
- 15 customers. The edits impose a total penalty of \$85,822
- 16 for violation 3 and increase the total penalty assessed
- 17 to \$227,238.
- 18 Second, the edits adopt Staff's Brief on
- 19 Exceptions language on violations 4, 8, and 10
- 20 justifying a \$10 per day multiplier over an 835-day
- 21 period to determine each penalty amount.
- Third, the edits identify Staff's note in its



- 1 briefs on Exceptions that Liberty obtained and
- 2 maintained a performance bond as a condition for its
- 3 certification as an ARES.
- 4 Before we continue, are there any comments
- 5 from Commissioners? Commissioner Reddick.
- 6 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Yes. Thank you
- 7 Chairman. While I concur in the ordered result, I am
- 8 concerned that the language of the order might be
- 9 understood to diminish the seriousness of systemic
- 10 violations like deficient customer contact scripts or
- 11 training materials. Regulated ARES firms should not act
- 12 on such a misrepresentation.
- 13 Systemic shortcomings can be root causes of
- 14 multiple distinct violations that follow. Commission
- 15 oversight is not designed to detect every individual
- 16 instance of a resulting violation. And the Commission's
- 17 response need not be limited by the number of instances
- 18 customers are harmed and individually detected. When
- 19 the evidence shows that violations reflect company
- 20 training or policies at odds with the Commission's
- 21 marketing rules, such systemic violations support
- 22 remedies and penalties of equal scope.



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              CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you Commissioner.
 2
    there any other comments?
                    (No verbal response.)
3
              CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, I move the edits.
 5
    Is there a second?
              COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Second.
              CHAIR SCOTT: Are there any objections to
    approving the edits?
8
9
                    (No verbal response.)
              CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the edits are
10
    approved.
11
              Are there any objections to approving the
12
    order as edited?
13
14
                    (No verbal response.)
15
              CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
    approved as edited.
16
17
              Items E-3 through E-5 concern applications for
    authority to install distributed generation facilities
18
    in Illinois. The orders grant the licenses, finding
19
    that the applicants meet the licensing requirements.
20
21
              Are there any objections to considering these
    items together and approving the orders?
22
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                    (No verbal response.)
1
              CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
 2
3
    approved.
              Item E-6 concerns a complaint against Indra
 5
    Energy in Chicago. The order denies the complaint
    finding that the Commission cannot award the additional
    damages sought by the Complainant.
              There are substantive edits to the order.
8
              The edits modify the citation to the provision
    in the Public Utilities Act that limits the Commission's
10
    authority to award damages sought by the complainant.
11
              I move the edits, is there a second?
12
              COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Second.
13
              CHAIR SCOTT: Are there any objections to
14
    approving the edits?
15
16
                    (No verbal response.)
17
              CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the edits are
    approved.
18
              Are there any objections to approving the
19
    order as edited?
20
21
                    (No verbal response.)
22
             CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
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- 1 approved as edited.
- 2 Item E-7 concerns a proceeding regarding the
- 3 termination of a Certificate of service authority to
- 4 operate as a retail agent, broker, and consultant. The
- 5 order suspends the Respondent's certificate for one
- 6 month.
- Are there any objections to approving the
- 8 order?
- 9 (No verbal response.)
- 10 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 11 approved.
- 12 Item E-8 concerns a joint petition by Ameren
- 13 and Shelby Electric Cooperative for approval to release
- 14 five residential customers from Shelby to Ameren. The
- 15 order grants the petition.
- Are there any objections to approving the
- 17 order?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- approved.
- 21 Items E-9 and E-10 concern complaints against
- 22 Ameren and Com Ed in West Frankfort and Highland Park,



- 1 Illinois. The parties have filed a joint motion to
- 2 dismiss in both Dockets indicating that all issues have
- 3 been resolved. The ALJ recommends granting both motions
- 4 with prejudice.
- 5 Are there any objections to hearing these
- 6 items together and granting the joint motions to dismiss
- 7 with prejudice?
- 8 (No verbal response.)
- 9 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motions are
- 10 granted with prejudice.
- 11 Item E-11 concerns an application for
- 12 certification to install, maintain or repair Electric
- 13 Vehicle Charging Station Facilities in Illinois. The
- 14 order grants the certificate, finding that the applicant
- 15 meets the requirements.
- Are there any objections to approving the
- 17 order?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 20 approved.
- 21 Item E-12 concerns a motion to withdraw a
- 22 petition to cancel a certificate of service authority to



- 1 install energy efficiency measures. The ALJ recommends
- 2 granting the motion.
- 3 Are there any objections to approving the
- 4 order?
- 5 (No verbal response.)
- 6 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 7 approved.
- 8 Items E-13 through E-15 concern petitions to
- 9 cancel Certificates of Service authority to install
- 10 energy efficiency measures. The orders cancel the
- 11 certificates finding that the cancellations will not
- 12 deprive Illinois residents of any necessary service and
- 13 are not otherwise contrary to the public interest.
- 14 Are there any objections to considering these
- 15 items together and approving the orders?
- 16 (No verbal response.)
- 17 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
- 18 approved.
- 19 Items E-16 through E-23 concern applications
- 20 for certificates to install energy efficiency measures
- 21 in Illinois. The orders grant the certificates, finding
- 22 that the applicants meet the requirements.



- 1 Are there any objections to considering these
- 2 items together and approving the orders?
- 3 (No verbal response.)
- 4 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
- 5 approved.
- 6 Moving onto our Gas items.
- 7 Item G-1 concerns a penalty against Nicor for
- 8 violation of part 590 of the Commission rules relating
- 9 to pipeline safety. Commission Staff and The Company
- 10 have agreed to a penalty and corrective actions the
- 11 Company must take. The order approves the agreement.
- 12 Are there any objections to approving the
- 13 order?
- 14 (No verbal response.)
- 15 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 16 approved.
- 17 Item G-2 concerns Liberty's request to
- 18 reconcile revenues under its Gas Uncollectible
- 19 Adjustment Rider (Rider GUA) for the 2020 reporting
- 20 period. The order approves the reconciliation as set in
- 21 the appendix to the order, finding that the costs during
- 22 the reconciliation period were prudently incurred.



- 18 facilities-based carrier of telecommunication services
- 19 in Illinois. The order grants the certificate, finding
- 20 that the applicant meets the requirements.
- 21 Are there any objections to approving the
- 22 order?



- 1 (No verbal response.)
- 2 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 3 approved.
- 4 Moving onto our Water and Sewer items.
- 5 Item W-1 concerns Illinois American's
- 6 Application for a certificate of public convenience and
- 7 necessity to provide water service to certain areas in
- 8 DuPage County. The order grants the application finding
- 9 that service to the postponed area is necessary to
- 10 provide adequate, reliable, and efficient service and is
- 11 the least-cost means of serving customers.
- 12 Are there any objections to approving the
- 13 order?
- 14 (No verbal response.)
- 15 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 16 approved.
- 17 Moving onto our Miscellaneous items.
- 18 Item M-1 concerns Docket 22-0485 directing
- 19 Ameren to perform an analysis and study of its continued
- 20 membership in the mid continent Independent System
- 21 Operator (MISO) In compliance with the final order,
- 22 Ameren submitted its study to the Commission on July 21,



- 1 2023. To provide the public with the opportunity to
- 2 review and respond to the study, Commission Staff has
- 3 submitted a report recommending the Commission initiate
- 4 a Notice of Inquiry (NOI). The order establishes an NOI
- 5 to allow parties 60 days from the date of the order to
- 6 submit comments on the report and 30 days thereafter to
- 7 submit reply comments. More information about the NOI
- 8 will be posted shortly on the Commission's website.
- Are there any objections to approving the
- 10 order?
- 11 (No verbal response.)
- 12 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 13 approved.
- 14 And I would just ask for anyone who has an
- 15 interest in this subject; it's a very important issue we
- 16 take very seriously and it's very important that folks
- 17 submit comments. We extended the time and gave the
- 18 opportunity for response in the hopes that we would get
- 19 a robust set of comments on this issue. I recognize we
- 20 have one study from one entity and some assumptions on
- 21 methodology and recognize that there may be more than
- 22 that. We very much are looking forward to seeing more



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- 1 comments on this issue.
- 2 Moving on to our Petitions for Rehearing.
- 3 Item PR-1 concerns Docket 20-0330, which is
- 4 the Company's petition for reconciliation of its 2019
- 5 QIP investments. On July 14, Nicor submitted a petition
- 6 for rehearing and a request to stay the final order.
- 7 The Company seeks rehearing on the order's
- 8 disallowances, various accounting issues, and filings in
- 9 other proceedings to address future reconciliation years
- 10 and base rates. The ALJ recommends granting the
- 11 application in its entirety and granting the request to
- 12 stay. We will address this item through three votes.
- 13 First, on the petition for rehearing, I will
- 14 call roll call on this item. If you are in favor of
- 15 granting the petition on rehearing pleas say, "aye" and
- 16 if you are opposed say, "Nay."
- 17 CHAIR SCOTT: Commissioner Carrigan.
- 18 COMMISSION CARRIGAN: Aye.
- 19 CHAIR SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe?
- 20 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Aye.
- 21 CHAIR SCOTT: Commissioner Reddick?
- 22 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Nay.



- 1 CHAIR SCOTT: Commissioner Paradis?
- 2 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Nay.
- 3 CHAIR SCOTT: I vote Nay. The Nays have it
- 4 and the petition is denied.
- 5 Under the Commission's Authority in Section
- 6 10-112 of the Public Utilities Act, the Commission
- 7 issues an Amendatory order that modifies the final
- 8 order's appendix to change the calculation of interest
- 9 for factor O refunds to a simple interest calculation.
- 10 The order also amends the appendix to modify the
- 11 ADIT-Federal and ADIT-State for adjusted Net QIP and
- 12 adjusted net depreciation to represent a sum total of
- 13 all adjusted investments.
- 14 Are there any objections to approving the
- 15 amendatory order?
- 16 (No verbal response.)
- 17 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
- 18 approved.
- 19 Third, the Company seeks to stay the
- 20 effectiveness of the final order in this Docket during
- 21 the term of the rehearing period. Company argues that
- 22 it will suffer irreparable harm if the stay is not



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- 1 granted. The Commission disagrees and the Company is
- 2 directed to remove the disallowed 2019 QIP plant from
- 3 its 2020 and 2021 QIP reconciliations as well its
- 4 pending rate case.
- 5 Are there any objections to denying the motion
- 6 to Stay?
- 7 (No verbal response.)
- 8 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is
- 9 denied.
- 10 Before we continue are there any comments from
- 11 Commissioners? Commissioner McCabe.
- 12 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: This is the first time
- 13 the Commission has disallowed QIP expenses.
- 14 The Public Utility Act states, "The petition filed by
- 15 the natural gas utility shall include testimony and
- 16 schedules that support the accuracy and the prudence of
- 17 the qualifying infrastructure investment for the
- 18 calendar year being reconciled."
- 19 It appears that over time, the parties have
- 20 become less diligent in making their case, with the
- 21 expectation that all expenses will be passed through via
- 22 the QIP rider. In this Docket, the record was



- 1 insufficient in some cases to make a determination of
- 2 whether some or all of the project's expenses were
- 3 prudent.
- 4 The AG was the only intervenor. In some
- 5 instances, their requests for specific information to
- 6 determine prudence were rebuffed; QIP reconciliations
- 7 are technical cases. Having all stakeholders engaged
- 8 with the needed information will help the review
- 9 process.
- 10 On page 30 of its rehearing request, Nicor
- 11 asks to provide additional evidence, referring to the
- 12 Commissions "New burden of proof standard." This is not
- 13 a new standard. This will help the review process. And
- 14 provide a better record and fuller discussion in future
- 15 QIP cases.
- 16 CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you Commissioner McCabe.
- 17 I have some comments as well.
- 18 The Commission's decisions, in both the final
- 19 order and in response to Nicor's petition for rehearing
- 20 reaffirms the Commission's commitment to reviewing the
- 21 prudence of infrastructure installed authorized under
- 22 Section 9-220.3 of the Public Utilities. That while



- 1 this provision of the act is subject to sunset. At the
- 2 end of this year, the Commission will continue to review
- 3 plant investments made by all natural gas utilities
- 4 under this provision to ensure that customers only pay
- 5 for prudently incurred costs.
- 6 I also note that in future QIP proceedings,
- 7 the initial burden of proof lies on the company to
- 8 demonstrate that costs were reasonably and prudently
- 9 incurred. At the same time, it is imperative that all
- 10 parties work to develop a complete and robust record to
- 11 inform the Commission's decisions. The natural gas
- 12 systems in this state impact the lives of all
- 13 Illinoisans and I encourage all interested parties to
- 14 engage at the Commission in future proceedings.
- 15 As energy costs continue to increase for
- 16 customers and as Illinois embarks on an energy
- 17 transition to mitigate the effects of climate change,
- 18 the review of natural gas investments has never been
- 19 more critical. It is the Commission's duty to balance
- 20 affordability and reliability for natural gas customers.
- 21 And I look forward to ensuring those principles are met
- 22 in future QIP dockets and rate cases.



- 1 Any other comments from Commissioners?
- 2 Commissioner Reddick.
- 3 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
- 4 With several incoming Commissioners, we have
- 5 recently had a number of opportunities to introduce new
- 6 members of Commissioners' offices. Today, I am pleased
- 7 to welcome Julie Ward. Julie joined the Commission as
- 8 one of my advisers about 2 1/2 weeks ago. Actually, I
- 9 am more than pleased at her arrival-I am relieved.
- 10 After several months at less than full strength, my team
- 11 is complete. Our workload is already down from
- 12 overwhelming to merely challenging.
- Julie came to the Commission from the
- 14 Northwestern University Energy and Sustainability
- 15 Masters Degree Program. Before that, she took her
- 16 undergraduate biology degree and artistic talent to the
- 17 University of Cincinnati's Cincinnati Law School, then a
- 18 stint in a law firm practice; ultimately, she chose
- 19 public service here at the Commission.
- 20 Julie joins an extraordinary cadre of advisors
- 21 who support the Commissioners, we take every chance we
- 22 get to acknowledge their efforts and their importance to



- 1 our work. So welcome Julie. I anticipate that the
- 2 addition of your perspective, insights, and challenges
- 3 will make our team even better.
- 4 CHAIR SCOTT: The Commission welcomes you
- 5 Julie.
- 6 Moving on to other business.
- 7 Items 0-1 and 0-2 concern approval of Batches,
- 8 contracts, and confirmations under the Illinois
- 9 Adjustable Block Program and Solar For All Program.
- 10 Are there any objections to considering these
- 11 items together and approving the Program Administrator's
- 12 Submissions?
- 13 (No verbal response.)
- 14 CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the submissions
- 15 are approved.
- 16 Item O-3 concerns joint comments of the
- 17 Illinois Commerce Commission and the New Jersey Board of
- 18 Public Utilities in relation to FERC's PJM capacity
- 19 Market forum in Docket AD23-7-000. The comments provide
- 20 perspective for FERC to consider relating to generation
- 21 retirements within PJM, lessons learned from Winter
- 22 Storm Elliot, generator compensation, and the promptness



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    of PJM's capacity auctions in the future.
              Are there any objections to authorizing the
 2
    submission of the Commission's Comments in FERC's
    proceeding?
 5
                    (No verbal response.)
               CHAIR SCOTT: Hearing none, the filing of the
    Comments is authorized.
               Item 0-4 was already discussed earlier and
8
    this concludes our Public Utilities Agenda.
10
11
12
                    (Which were all the proceedings had in
13
                    the above-entitled cause on this date.)
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14	SDTC
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16	Michael Morciant
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