

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITY REGULAR OPEN MEETING
Thursday, December 14, 2023
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice at 11:30 a.m.
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

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Good morning under the Open
2 Meetings Act I call the December 14, 2023 Regular Open
3 Meeting to order.

4 Commissioners Carrigan, McCabe,
5 Reddick, and Paradis are with me in Chicago; we have a
6 quorum.

7 We have two requests to speak today
8 from Ms. Rosalia Grillier and Ms. Donna Carpenter.

9 Under 2 Ill Administrative Code section
10 1700.10 any person desiring to address the Commission
11 shall be allowed up to three minutes; only one person
12 may speak on behalf of any organization. Please note
13 that the Commission will not respond directly to your
14 comments. We will hear from our speakers beginning
15 with Ms. Grillier, and I apologize if I've
16 mispronounced your name. Are you here?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is Rosalia Grillier Here?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. How about Donna
21 Carpenter?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: No. All right. I'll just ask
2 one more time; I know you're not Rosa Grillier. Is
3 Rosa Grillier or Donna Carpenter here?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Last call. All right.

6 And we will move on to our Public
7 Utilities agenda.

8 There are edits to the November 16,
9 Public Utilities Regular Open Meeting minutes and the
10 November 30, Public Utility Special Open Meeting
11 minutes.

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

15 (No verbal response.)

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

18 Moving on to our Electric Items.

19 Items E-1 and E-2 concern the
20 initiation of reconciliation proceedings for Ameren's
21 Hazardous Materials Adjustment Clause Rider and coal
22 tar riders for Ameren, Nicor, North Shore and Peoples

1 Gas. The orders initiate the reconciliation
2 proceedings.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
7 approved.

8 Item E-3 is Docket 18-1540 which
9 concerns a Commission investigation against LifeEnergy
10 LLC. In the final order of this Docket, the Commission
11 assessed a \$1M fine to LifeEnergy and also directed it
12 to refund customers \$34,178. The order also grants the
13 Company's motion to stay enforcement on the final
14 order. On June 14, LifeEnergy filed a petition to
15 reopen the proceeding to request that the Commission
16 lift the stay and that the Commission direct the
17 company to pay the fine and customer refunds to the
18 Commission.

19 The company claims that it has not done
20 business in Illinois since October 2018, and states
21 that it would be infeasible for it to identify all
22 customers that are owed a refund. The order agreed

1 with the company's assertion and directs it to pay the
2 \$1M fine and customer refunds to the Commission's
3 Financial Information Section.

4 Are there any objections to approving the
5 order?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
8 approved.

9 Item E-four concerns a motion from
10 ComEd to clarify the reconciliation amount identified
11 in the final order of docket 23-0345. The amendatory
12 order corrects the total reconciliation adjustment
13 identified in the final order from \$351.355M to
14 \$351.515M.

15 Are there any objections to approving the
16 order?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
19 approved.

20 Item E-5 concerns docket 22-0486 and
21 23-0055 consolidated, which is ComEd's filing for a
22 Multi-year integrated Grid Plan and petition for

1 approval of a multi-year Rate Plan. The proposed order
2 approves the Grid Plan and Rate Plan with various
3 modifications from parties.

4 There are substantive edits to the order.

5 For the company's Grid Plan, the edits
6 find that the plan does not comply with the
7 requirements set forth in section 16-105.17 of the Act,
8 and therefore rejects the company's Grid Plan. In this
9 Docket, multiple parties identified areas where the
10 company's plan as filed was non-compliant with the
11 requirements of the Act.

12 To remedy these deficiencies, parties
13 recommend a number of post-order workshops and
14 stakeholder collaboration to fix deficiencies, in
15 anticipation of the company's next Grid Plan filing in
16 2026. The parties in this Docket, thus present the
17 Commission with two options.

18 (1) Approve the Grid Plan as filed.

19 (2) Approve the Grid Plan with
20 modifications with compliance achieved through
21 post-final order activities. The edits note that
22 section 16-105.17 of the statute provides the

1 Commission with a third option; which is to reject the
2 plan for failure to comply with the requirements of the
3 statute.

4 The edits find that the Commission cannot
5 approve the Grid Plan as filed or as modified by
6 parties, and therefore reject the Grid Plan. The Act
7 requires the company to file an updated plan within 3
8 months of the order with the necessary information
9 identified by the edits in the order. Once refiled,
10 the Commission shall initiate a Docket for parties to
11 review and scrutinize the re-filed plan.

12 Specifically, the edits address the
13 following deficiencies in the plan.

14 First, the edits find that the company
15 failed to comply with section 16-105.17(d)(3) and
16 section 16-105.17(f)(2)(J)(i), which require the
17 company to submit a Grid Plan designed to support
18 efforts to bring at least 40 percent of the benefits of
19 grid modernization, clean energy, and distributed
20 energy resources, (DERs) to Equity Investment Eligible
21 Communities EIECs. The Act also requires that the
22 company support efforts to bring 40 percent of the

1 benefits from proposed programs, policies, and
2 initiatives from the Grid Plan to low-income and
3 Environmental Justice Communities.

4 The edits find that the company failed
5 to describe how it's filed plan supports these efforts.
6 The edits find that the company must use an appropriate
7 assessment framework, such as the Equity Reporting
8 Framework developed and supported by Staff, the joint
9 NGOs and EDF to show compliance with these sections of
10 the Act. Its refiled Grid Plan, the company must
11 develop a framework that identifies at a minimum, what
12 specific efforts and benefits are being supported the
13 magnitude of anticipated benefits, and who receives the
14 benefits.

15 Second, the edits find that the company's
16 Grid Plan failed to comply with section
17 16-105.17(d)(1), (2), and (7) of the act. The edits
18 find that the company's plan does not provide a
19 sufficient analysis of the cost-effectiveness of
20 proposed system investments to ensure utility
21 expenditures are cost effective, and to demonstrate how
22 the Grid Plan will minimize total system costs, while

1 maximizing benefits. ComEd must develop an analytical
2 approach that values contributions toward the statutory
3 goals, both quantitative and qualitative. The edits
4 further find that the Grid Plan must identify types of
5 investments where benefit cost analysis (BCA)
6 frameworks will be appropriate. Without sufficient
7 cost-effectiveness frameworks in place, the Commission
8 cannot determine that the company's proposed
9 investments in the Grid Plan are cost-effective.

10 Third, the edits find that ComEd's Grid
11 Plan does not comply with section 16-105.17(d)(11) of
12 the Act, which relates to affordability for all
13 customers including low-income customers. The edits
14 find that the plan has not taken sufficient steps to
15 demonstrate that it provides affordable delivery
16 service rates to all customers. The edits further find
17 that the plan's deficiencies related to
18 cost-effectiveness make it impossible to determine if
19 the proposed plan is affordable.

20 Fourth, the edits find that the plan does
21 not comply with section 16-105.17(f)(2)(E), (f)(2)(F),
22 and (d)(10) of the act. The edits find that required

1 elements in the plan for, "implementing open standards
2 and interfaces," or otherwise enabling third parties to
3 connect DER resources, "seamlessly and easily" are
4 absent. The edits find that the Grid Plan fails to
5 evaluate the short-term and long-term benefits and
6 costs of DERs on the distribution system. The edits
7 find that the plan fails to identify the places, times,
8 and types of new investment needed to meet expected
9 transition developments.

10 Fifth, the edits find that ComEd's Grid
11 Plan fails to comply with section
12 16-105.17(f)(2)(J)(ii) of the Act, which requires the
13 company to provide the environmental impact of
14 projected flexible resources.

15 Sixth, The edits find that ComEd's Grid
16 Plan does not comply with section 16-105.17(d)(6) of
17 the Act, which requires that the Grid Plan be designed
18 to ensure opportunities for robust public participation
19 through open and transparent planning processes. The
20 edits find that the plan failed to sufficiently
21 consider feedback and input from parties both in this
22 docketed proceeding and in the pre-Docket activities.

1 Parties recommend the Commission use further post-order
2 workshops as a tool to bring the company's plan into
3 compliance. The edits find that the company's lack of
4 transparency in both the Docket and pre-Docket workshop
5 do not support further workshops to bring the company's
6 plan into compliance; the edits urge ComEd to
7 incorporate more transparent processes in preparing its
8 re-filing. The edits further outline a structure for
9 any post-order workshops ordered in that proceeding.
10 The aim of this structure is to create guidelines that
11 will improve data sharing and deliverables produced
12 from workshops to better inform future Commission
13 decisions.

14 Seventh, the edits find that the grid
15 plan is not compliant with section 16-105.17(f)(2)(K)
16 of the Act, which relates to the evaluation of
17 non-traditional grid resources. The edits find that
18 the plan does not provide sufficient public information
19 to enable DERs to act as alternatives to utility
20 capital investments as required by the Act. The edits
21 direct ComEd to produce a compliant framework in its
22 refined refiled Grid Plan.

1 Eighth, because the edits find that the
2 Grid Plan is not compliant with the Act, the edits are
3 unable to approve any of ComEd's proposed investments
4 in capacity expansion, customer operations, facility
5 relocation, IT projects, new business, preventive
6 maintenance, and system performance, among other
7 categories. ComEd must present purposefully designed
8 investments and the necessary assessment frameworks for
9 the Commission to determine if the proposed investments
10 comply with the Act

11 Ninth, because the edits find that the
12 plan is not compliant with the Act, the edits are
13 unable to approve programs related to ComEd's
14 performance metrics until a compliant Grid Plan is
15 approved by the Commission. Edits find that the
16 company will still be able to meet the goals of
17 Performance Metrics 1 and 2 without the level of
18 spending proposed in the rejected Grid Plan.

19 Turning now to the rate plan, there are
20 substantive edits to the order.

21 The edits acknowledge that while the
22 statute allows the Commission to reject a Grid Plan,

1 the Commission must approve or modify and approve a
2 Rate Plan. The edits find that given the complexities
3 of this Docket, time constraints, and lack of
4 disaggregated financial evidence, the Commission must
5 adopt an alternative methodology to establish a rate
6 base and revenue requirement for each test year that is
7 reasonable and prudent. Thus, the edits use an
8 alternative methodology to identify an appropriate rate
9 base and revenue requirement for each test year. The
10 edits adopt the rate base approved by the Commission in
11 Docket 23-0345 as a starting point to be used in
12 addition to other expenses approved in this order.

13 The edits note that the rate base and
14 revenue requirement will be subject to change once the
15 Commission approves a Grid Plan that is compliant with
16 the Act. Once the Commission approves a compliant Grid
17 Plan, the rate base and revenue requirement for each
18 test year shall be updated appropriately. Any expenses
19 approved in this rate plan that change as a result of a
20 compliant Grid-Plan shall also be updated.

21 Second, the edits approve a return on
22 equity of 8.905 percent based on adopting Staff's

1 non-constant discount cash flow (DCF) model of 8.48
2 percent and a capital asset pricing model (CAPM) of
3 9.33 percent using a modified version of staff's
4 methodology. The edits further acknowledge that the
5 new multi-year rate framework is less risky than
6 traditional rate-making and encourage parties to
7 explore the quantifiable risk reduction of this
8 framework in future multi-year rate cases. This
9 adjustment, along with Staff's proposed capital
10 structure results in a total return on rate base of
11 6.571 percent for test year 2024, 6.595 percent for
12 test year 2025, 6.665 percent for test year 2026, and
13 6.704 percent for test year 2027.

14 I move these edits, Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Second by Commissioner McCabe.

17 I will call roll call vote on the edits. If you would
18 like to approve the edits say, "aye", if you would like
19 to deny the edits say, "nay". Commissioner Carrigan.

20 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Nay.

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe.

22 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Reddick.

2 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Paradis.

4 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I vote aye, the, "ayes" have it
6 and the edits are approved.

7 I will also call a roll call vote on
8 the order as edited. If you would like to approve the
9 order as edited say, "aye", if you'd like to deny the
10 order as edited say, "nay". Commissioner Carrigan.

11 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Nay.

12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe.

13 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Reddick.

15 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Paradis.

17 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I vote aye. The "ayes" have it
19 and the order is approved as edited.

20 Item E-6 concerns docket 22-0487
21 and 23-0082 consolidated, which is Ameren's filing for
22 a multi-year integrated Grid Plan and petition for

1 approval of a multi-year rate plan. The proposed order
2 approves the Grid Plan and rate plan with various
3 modifications from parties.

4 There are substantive edits to this order.

5 Similar to docket 22-0486 and
6 23-0055 consolidated, the edits find Ameren's proposed
7 Grid Plan does not comply with the requirements set
8 forth in section 16-105.17 of the Act. The edits
9 therefore reject Ameren's Grid Plan. The edits find
10 that the Commission cannot approve the Grid Plan as
11 filed or as modified by parties. The edits reject the
12 Grid Plan and direct the company to file an updated
13 plan within three months of the order with the
14 necessary information identified in the order. Once
15 refiled, the Commission shall initiate a Docket for
16 parties to review and scrutinize the plan.

17 Specifically the edits address the
18 following deficiencies in the plan.

19 First, the edits find that Ameren's
20 Grid Plan does not comply with section 16-105.17(d)(3)
21 nor section 16-105.17(f)(2)(J)(i) of the Act. The
22 edits find that Ameren's Grid Plan does not

1 sufficiently describe how the company supports efforts
2 to bring at least 40 percent of benefits from proposed
3 programs, policies, and initiatives to rate payers in
4 low-income and EJ communities. Ameren must use an
5 appropriate measuring framework to demonstrate
6 compliance, similar to the Equity Reporting Framework
7 Strawman proposal developed by Staff, the joint NGOs,
8 EDF and the AG. The edits find that the emphasis for
9 the new framework in the refiled Grid Plan must be on
10 demonstrating progress on specific benefits flowing to
11 EIEC, EJ, and low-income communities, both in terms of
12 targeted investment amounts and other non-monetary
13 metrics.

14 Second, the edits find that the
15 company's plan does not comply with section
16 16-105.17(d)(1), (2), and (7) of the Act. The record
17 lacks evidence that Ameren's Grid Plan investments have
18 been evaluated according to a methodology that
19 incorporates the requirements of the Act beyond the
20 general framework approach utilized by the company.
21 The edits find that the company must develop an
22 analytical approach that sets values for contributions

1 towards statutory goals, both quantitative and
2 qualitative, and identify types of investments where
3 BCA frameworks will be appropriate. Without a
4 sufficient methodology and framework in place, the
5 Commission is unable to determine the
6 cost-effectiveness of Ameren's proposed investments in
7 this plan.

8 Third, the edits find the company's
9 plan is not compliant with section 16-105.17(d)(8)
10 which relates to environmental goals. The edits find
11 that without sufficient frameworks in place to assess
12 the plan under the requirements of section
13 16-105.17(d)(1), (d)(2), (d)(3), (d)(7), and
14 (f)(2)(J)(i), the Commission cannot determine
15 compliance with section 16-105.17(d)(8).

16 Fourth, the edits find that Ameren's
17 Grid Plan does not comply with section 16-105.17(d)(11)
18 of the Act which relates to customer affordability.
19 Ameren has not appropriately prioritized investments
20 based on their impacts to customer affordability and
21 overall bill impacts. Further, the edits find that
22 without sufficient frameworks and analyses in place to

1 determine the cost-effectiveness of the plan and its
2 proposed projects, the Commission cannot sufficiently
3 analyze the affordability of the proposed plan.

4 Fifth, the edits find that the
5 company did not comply with section 16-105.17(d)(5) of
6 the Act as it relates to opportunities for robust
7 public participation through open and transparent
8 planning processes. In lieu of compliance with the Act
9 in multiple sections, parties in this Docket recommend
10 the Commission direct further stakeholder processes to
11 support approval of a compliant Grid Plan. The
12 Commission finds that the company's failure to
13 sufficiently consider stakeholder proposals in this
14 Docket and in pre-docket activities demonstrates the
15 company's non-compliance with the Act. Therefore, the
16 Commission cannot approve the plan at this time. The
17 edits recognize that there are topics where further
18 discussion after a compliant Grid Plan is approved will
19 be required. To ensure productive stakeholder
20 engagement going forward, the edits discuss minimum
21 requirements for any future workshops relating to the
22 Grid Plan approved by the Commission.

1 Sixth, the edits find that the
2 company's plan does not comply with section
3 16-105.17(f)(2)(F) of the Act, which relates to current
4 system conditions. The edits find that Ameren does not
5 provide sufficiently detailed information of all
6 current system conditions as required by the Act. The
7 edits find Staff's recommendations on this topic
8 reasonable and direct the company to discuss these
9 topics in its refiled plan.

10 Seventh, the edit's find that
11 Ameren's plan does not comply with section 16-105.17
12 (f)(2)(F) of the Act, which relates to the forecast of
13 system conditions including scenarios. The edits find
14 that the electrification scenario analysis and high
15 level DER adoption for forecasting tied to long-term
16 renewable resource procurement plan (LTRRPP) forecasts
17 are insufficient. The company has not made clear how
18 and to what degree those scenarios inform the Grid
19 Plan's, forecast of costs and proposed projects. The
20 Company's analysis must enable the Commission to
21 evaluate how investments correspond to base-case and
22 alternative scenarios of anticipated DERs on its system

1 to inform the Commission's approval of a plan.

2 Eighth, the edits find that as a
3 result of non-compliance with multiple sections of the
4 Act, the Commission cannot approve the company's
5 proposed investments in IT projects, its proposed PLTE
6 system, capacity expansion, system performance and
7 corrective maintenance.

8 Ninth, the edits find that Ameren's
9 EV and hosting capacity map proposal lacks
10 transparency. The edits find Ameren's loose timeline
11 for implementation of these proposals to be concerning.
12 The edits therefore direct Ameren to confer with
13 stakeholders to develop a more prescriptive and
14 aggressive timeline for implementing its proposal.

15 Tenth, the edits find that Ameren's
16 Grid Plan does not comply with section
17 16-105.17(f)(2)(G) of the Act which relates to the
18 evaluation of benefits and costs of DERs. The edits
19 direct Ameren to include an evaluation of short-term
20 and long-term benefits and costs of DER in its refiled
21 Grid Plan.

22 Eleventh, the edits find that

1 Ameren's plan does not comply with section
2 16-105.17(f)(2)(J)(ii) which relates to analysis of
3 flexible resources. The edits agree with Staff's
4 finding that Ameren's plan did not contain information
5 on the environmental impacts or a forecast of flexible
6 resources, their resource type, and size or anticipated
7 needs that can be met by those resources. The edits
8 direct the company to provide forecast analysis on
9 flexible resources and environmental impact
10 considerations in the company's refiled Grid Plan.

11 Twelfth, the edits find that the
12 Commission is unable to approve the company's proposals
13 or intervenor modifications to the company's programs
14 relating to the company's approved performance metrics.

15 Moving on to Ameren's rate plan,
16 there are substantive edits to the order.

17 As with Docket 22-0486 and 23-0055
18 consolidated, the edits acknowledge that while statute
19 allows the Commission to reject a Grid Plan, the
20 Commission must approve or modify and approve a rate
21 plan. Given the complexities of this Docket, time
22 constraints, and lack of disaggregated financial

1 evidence, the Commission must adopt an alternative
2 methodology to establish a rate base and revenue
3 requirement for each test year that is reasonable and
4 prudent.

5 Thus, the edits adopt an alternative
6 methodology to identify an appropriate revenue
7 requirement and rate base for each test year. The
8 edits adopt the revenue requirement and rate base
9 approved by the Commission in Docket 23-0320 as a
10 starting point to be used inclusive of other expenses
11 approved in this order. The edits note that these
12 figures will be subject to change once the Commission
13 approves a Grid Plan that is compliant with the Act.
14 Once the Commission approves a compliant Grid Plan, the
15 rate base and revenue requirement for each test year
16 shall be updated appropriately. Any expenses approved
17 in this rate plan that change resulting from an
18 approved compliant Grid Plan shall also be updated.

19 Second, the edits approve a return
20 on equity of 8.72 percent based on adopting Staff's
21 non-constant DCF of 8.59 percent and a CAPM of 8.84
22 percent using a modified version of Staff's

1 methodology. The edits further acknowledge that the
2 new multi-year rate framework is less risky than
3 traditional ratemaking and encourages parties to
4 further explore the quantifiable risk reduction of this
5 framework in future multi-year rate cases. This
6 adjustment along with Staff's proposed capital
7 structure results in a total return on rate base of
8 6.571 percent for test year 2024, 6.59 percent for test
9 year 2025, 6.665 percent for test year 2026, and 6.704
10 percent for test year 2027.

11 I move the edits, is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Seconded by Commissioner
14 Paradis.

15 I will call a roll call vote on the
16 edits. If you would like to approve the edits say,
17 aye If you would like to deny the edits say, nay .
18 Commissioner Carrigan.

19 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Nay.

20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe.

21 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Reddick.

1 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Paradis.

3 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I vote Aye. The ayes have it
5 and the edits are approved.

6 I will also call a roll call
7 vote on the order as edited. If you would like to
8 approve the order as edited say, aye , if you would
9 like to deny the order as edited say, nay .

10 Commissioner Carrigan.

11 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Nay.

12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner McCabe.

13 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Reddick.

15 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Paradis.

17 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I vote Aye. The ayes have it,
19 and the order is approved as edited.

20 Before we continue, are there
21 comments from Commissioners? Commissioner Carrigan.

22 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Thank you Chairman Scott.

1 I want to provide some brief remarks that will be
2 further detailed in written dissents for both the ComEd
3 and Ameren cases. To be clear, I do not believe the
4 company's proposed multi-year integrated Grid Plan was
5 compliant with statute. I believe as Commission Staff
6 and other intervenors suggested, there was a viable
7 path forward through modification that would have
8 brought the company's plan into compliance while moving
9 CEJA's electrification goals forward in a cost
10 contained manner protective of ratepayers, all without
11 delaying plan implementation. It is for this reason I
12 dissent. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you Commissioner Carrigan.
14 Commissioner Reddick.

15 COMMISSIONER REDDICK: Thank you Chairman Scott.

16 I must begin by taking a moment to acknowledge the
17 astonishing amount of that these cases represent.

18 I saw first-hand the efforts of Commission
19 personnel. They should be proud of their effort and I
20 thank them for it.

21 But we know that the teams at the utilities and
22 among intervening parties began their work months or

1 years before these cases reached us. Their work has
2 brought us to a point where a meaningful, affordable
3 infrastructure plan seems achievable.

4 *Change*

5 I would like to offer some personal observations
6 on why we are here; a point that I see as a redirection
7 or a course correction.

8 The deficiencies that led to the rejection of the
9 Grid Plans were, of course, statutory, but the real
10 obstacle may have been the deliberate process of
11 change.

12 The climate and equitable jobs Act CEJA is
13 demanding; not just in what we all must do, but how it
14 must be done.

15 CEJA defines many discreet tasks and
16 qualifications that together ask for novel actions, and
17 approaches from every actor in the utility regulation
18 ecosystem.

19 Utility ratepayers are asked to pay more for
20 necessary changes.

21 Utility engineers are asked to adopt a new
22 perspective and share network design decisions with

1 users.

2 Utilities are asked to innovate, instead of
3 simply upgrading.

4 DER actors are asked to be candid and a
5 singular opportunity to define their needs as inputs to
6 original designs.

7 Regulators are tasked with reviewing
8 infrastructure designs to ask, not only what and how
9 much, but why there , and why now .

10 I see today's orders as a necessary, required by
11 law, redirection of the work of these diverse sets of
12 Actors.

13 *Redirection*

14 In critical areas business as usual prevailed
15 over change.

16 Plans for capacity and reliability improvements
17 favored broad system upgrades over incremental
18 infrastructure designed purposefully to achieve CEJA's
19 objectives.

20 Though broad investments would have incidental
21 effects on CEJA's statutory objectives, the
22 cost-effectiveness of that approach to advancing CEJA's

1 more focused goals cannot be determined.

2 Investments designed to enable and accommodate
3 DER are core elements of the CEJA transition.

4 But innovation to integrate these new resources
5 into the grid loses out to making today's
6 interconnection processes marginally faster.

7 Using statutory language, Locationally
8 differentiated investments for implementing open
9 standards and interfaces or otherwise seamlessly and
10 easily connecting DER to the grid have not been
11 prioritized.

12 CEJA's essential and enhanced ratepayer
13 protections, equity, affordability and
14 cost-effectiveness mandates are not honored by reliance
15 on subjective, qualitative assessments, which used to
16 be enough.

17 Respect for these guard rails, and
18 intentionality in transition investments, are essential
19 checks on new spending, given the magnitude of the
20 transition costs ratepayers will be asked to pay.

21 All the actors in this process have encountered
22 unexpected hurdles and eye-opening realizations in

1 getting to this point. Paying attention to them will
2 move us in the right direction. Thank you Chairman
3 Scott.

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you Commissioner Reddick.
5 I have a few comments as well.

6 First, the Commission appreciates and
7 fully recognizes the work that parties have put into
8 these dockets and the pre docket Activities that
9 occurred before ComEd and Ameren filed their plans.
10 However, after thoroughly reviewing the record and the
11 significant shortcomings identified by parties in these
12 dockets, it is clear that there's still work to be done
13 to define, to refine these plans until the Commission
14 can find that each company's plan sufficiently meets
15 the requirements created by the Climate and Equitable
16 Jobs Act. The Commission must ensure that both
17 companies are investing in their systems to necessarily
18 meet the state's clean energy goals while also
19 preserving customer affordability. This is by no means
20 a small task.

21 The Commission's decisions today
22 protect the goals that CEJA created. Both Grid Plans

1 proposed by the companies represented billions of
2 dollars that would be shouldered by ratepayers.
3 While the Commission recognizes that there will be
4 costs to achieve the state's clean energy goals, CEJA
5 specifically requires the companies to ensure that
6 their plans incorporate cost-effectiveness principles
7 and sufficiently consider affordability. The
8 Commission fully expects to approve a Grid Plan for
9 each company in the future that will allow them to make
10 these investments however the burden lies on each
11 utility to demonstrate that their plans comply with the
12 requirements of the Act. They have not done so here.

13 The re-filing of the Grid Plan and
14 the docketed proceeding that will follow will allow the
15 utility and parties to further develop frameworks,
16 plans, and methodologies that will give the Commission
17 the information it needs to determine the scale, scope,
18 and timing of the proposed investments by the company.
19 This information will also allow the Commission to
20 perform its necessary duty in determining the refiled
21 compliance with the Act.

22 I also want to thank all of the parties

1 who put in tremendous amount of work on these
2 multi-year dockets. I especially want to thank
3 Commission Staff and the ALJs for their work.

4 I know that it may be disappointing to
5 realize that we are not at the finish line and that
6 there is a lot of work left to do; I share those
7 feelings. But I'm also hopeful that the work that
8 we're putting in going forward will result in Illinois
9 ratepayers, the companies and interested parties alike
10 being in a much better place. Initial grid and rate
11 plans that adhere to the dictates of CEJA will lead us
12 to an energy transition that is good for all
13 Illinoisans.

14 Item E-7 concerns a petition for
15 interlocutory review from Good Energy in docket 23-
16 0285. We will hold this item for later disposition.

17 Item E-8 concerns a petition from
18 Ameren for approval of reconciliation under its
19 Customer Generation Rebate rider, (Rider CGR) and its
20 Customer Generation Charge rider (Rider CGC). The
21 order approves the reconciliation as set forth in the
22 appendices for the calendar year 2022 and for projected

1 costs in 2023.

2 Are there any objections to approving the
3 order?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Item E-9 concerns a petition from
8 ComEd seeking authority to engage in actions to incur
9 debt with a principal amount of no more than \$2B. The
10 order grants the petition, permits ComEd to engage in
11 the specified transactions, and grants the relief
12 requested in the petition.

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 Item E-10 concerns a petition from
19 ComEd to engage in transactions with affiliates. The
20 order grants the petition.

21 Are there any objections to approving the
22 order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
3 approved. Items E-11 through E-14 concern applications
4 for certifications to install distributed generation
5 facilities in Illinois. The orders grant the
6 certificates finding that the applicants meet the
7 requirements.

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

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
12 approved.

13 Items E-15 and E-16 concern
14 petitions from Ameren and Southwest Electric
15 Cooperative to release two non-residential customers
16 from Ameren Service Territory to Southwest Electric
17 Cooperatives territory. The orders grant the
18 petitions.

19 Are there any objections to considering these
20 items together and approving the orders?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are

1 approved.

2 Item E-17 concerns the Illinois Power
3 Agencies (IPA) petition for approval of the agency's
4 2024 electricity procurement plan. The order approves
5 the 2024 plan.

6 There are substantive edits to the order.

7 The edits clarify the IPA's draft plan
8 revision processes and adds details explaining
9 provisions in the plan. The edits further address
10 clerical issues within the order.

11 Are there any objections to approving the
12 edits?

13 (No verbal response.)

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

16 Are there any objections to approving the
17 order as edited?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
20 approved as edited.

21 Item E-18 concerns a customer
22 complaint against Ambit Northeast LLC in Warrensburg,

1 Illinois. Parties filed a stipulation and joint motion
2 to dismiss, stipulating that all matters in the dispute
3 have been resolved and requesting that the Commission
4 dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

5 Are there any objections to granting the
6 motion and dismissing the complaint with prejudice?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is
9 granted and the complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

10 Item E 19 concerns an application
11 for a license to operate as a retail electric agent,
12 broker, or consultant in Illinois. The order grants
13 the license, finding that the applicant meets the
14 requirements.

15 Are there any objections to approving the
16 order?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
19 approved.

20 Items E-20 through E-23 concern
21 petitions for create certificates to install energy
22 efficiency measures in Illinois. The orders grant the

1 certificates finding that the applicants meet the
2 requirements.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
7 approved.

8 Moving on to Gas Items.

9 Items G-1 through G-3 Concern the
10 initiation of various reconciliation of revenues
11 collected under riders for Nicor, Peoples Gas, and
12 Ameren. The orders commence the annual reconciliation
13 proceedings under the riders.

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

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
18 approved.

19 Item G-4 concerns the approval of an
20 agreed penalty between Commission Staff and People's
21 Gas for a violation of federal rules incorporated by
22 the Commission. The order directs the company to pay

1 the agreed penalty of \$120,000 together with corrective
2 actions.

3 Are there any objections to approving the
4 order?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
7 approved.

8 Item G-5 concerns a motion for
9 clarification from Nicor in Docket 23-0066. Nicor is
10 requesting clarification on the following low-income
11 discount topics.

12 One. The Commission's definition of
13 what a total bill discount entails.

14 Two. Requirements for customer
15 re-certification in the low-income discount rate for
16 customers whose income is between 200 percent and 300
17 percent above the federal poverty level.

18 Three, the applicability of Rider LIDR
19 to low-income customers.

20 We will hold this item for further
21 disposition.

22 Item G-6 Concerns two motions for

1 relief in Dockets 23-0068 and 23-0069 consolidated. We
2 will address these items with two votes.

3 First North Shore filed a Motion for
4 Relief requesting the Commission allow the company
5 until May 1st, 2024 to implement the Commission's
6 decision to revert the company's billing system back to
7 monthly bills.

8 The order denies the motion for relief finding
9 that the company had multiple opportunities to raise
10 this concern regarding implementation, timing, and the
11 docketed proceeding. The order finds that the company
12 can file an application for rehearing and submit any
13 additional evidence at any time within 30 days of the
14 Commission's order. The order further finds that the
15 final order nullifies North Shore's existing rates when
16 the company's revised tariff sheets take effect.

17 Are there any objections to approving the
18 order?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the order is
21 approved.

22 Second, People's Gas filed a motion for

1 clarification to clarify the total amount the
2 Commission disallowed in its decision to pause the
3 company's Safety Modernization Program or SMP. The
4 company requests that the Commission reduce the amount
5 of disallowance to \$146.2M to exclusively include what
6 it deems to be neighborhood work.

7 The order denies the motion finding
8 that the final order in this docket based its
9 disallowance of SMP 2024 test year investment on
10 people's lack of justification for the requested
11 spending level. The order finds that peoples is asking
12 the Commission to consider new evidence outside of the
13 record. Submissions of new evidence should be
14 requested in a petition for rehearing. The order finds
15 that the company has an enduring responsibility to
16 comply with sections 8-101, 8-401, and 8-505 of the Act
17 to ensure it maintains an adequate, safe, and reliable
18 system.

 Are there any objections to
19 approving the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, The order is
22 approved.

1 And before we continue, I'd like to
2 comment on the appropriate manner in which the public
3 may comment, provide input, or express an opinion to
4 the Commission. Section 200.710 and section 1700. 10
5 of the Commission rules allows for individuals or
6 entities to file public comment in a Docket or appear
7 before the Commission in an Open Meeting to express an
8 opinion on a matter. In this docket, and only in this
9 docket, Commissioners received numerous direct
10 communications from members of the public.

11 These ex-parte communications frustrate
12 the efforts of Commissioners and Commission Staff to
13 perform our duties as time and resources must be used
14 to file ethics reports and make the communications
15 public when receiving direct communications from the
16 public. We would implore members of the public to
17 please use the appropriate channels of communication
18 when seeking to express an opinion on a docketed matter
19 going forward. Thank you.

20 Item G-7 concerns a complaint
21 against Nicor in Glenview, Illinois. Parties have
22 filed a stipulation and joint motion to dismiss

1 stipulating that all matters in the dispute have been
2 resolved and requesting that the Commission dismiss the
3 complaint with prejudice.

4 Are there any objections to granting the
5 motion and dismissing the complaint with prejudice?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is
8 granted and the complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

9 Item G-8 concerns a petition from
10 Liberty Utilities seeking approval and authorization
11 for the company to borrow \$90.6M from an affiliated
12 interest. The order grants the petition.

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 our Telecommunications Items.

19 Item T-1 concerns the Commission
20 setting of maximum rates and charges for operators for
21 the 2024 calendar year. The order sets the maximum
22 rates using the calculations proposed by Commission

1 Staff.

2 Are there any objections to approving the
3 order?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Item T-2 concerns a petition from
8 Illinois Valley Cellular to relinquish its designation
9 as an eligible telecommunications carrier. The order
10 grants the petition.

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 Moving on to Water and Sewer items.

17 Items W-1 and W-2 Concern Illinois
18 American Water's petitions to reconcile revenues under
19 its Qualifying Infrastructure Plant Rider or (rider
20 QIP) surcharge and its Variable Income Tax Rider or
21 (Rider VIT). The orders approved the reconciliations
22 as set in the appendix to the orders, finding that the

1 costs during the reconciliation period were prudently
2 incurred.

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

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the orders are
7 approved.

8 Moving on to our miscellaneous items.

9 Item M-1 concerns the setting of the
10 interest rate to be paid on customer deposits for
11 electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities as well
12 as telecommunications carriers for calendar year 2024.
13 The order sets the rate at 5.50 percent.

14 Are there any objections to approving the
15 order?

16 (No verbal response.)

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

19 Items M-2 and M-3 concern approval of
20 the Illinois Statewide Technical Reference Manual for
21 energy efficiency and associated policy documents. The
22 orders approved version 12.0, volumes one through four

1 of the manual and associated policy documents.

2 Are there any objections to approving the
3 orders?

4 (No verbal response.)

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

7 Moving on to petitions for rehearing.

8 Item PR-1 concerns a petition from
9 WattB incorporated in docket 23-0464. In its petition,
10 the company has taken steps to regain compliance with
11 the Secretary of State and has engaged with the
12 compliance specialist to ensure ongoing compliance with
13 Secretary of State requirements. The new evidence
14 presented by the company demonstrates that it has taken
15 necessary steps to warrant rehearing.

16 Are there any objections to granting the
17 Petition for rehearing?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the petition is
20 granted.

21 Moving on to Other Business.

22 Item O-1 concerns approval of batches,

1 contracts, and confirmations under the Adjustable Block
2 Program.

3 Are there any objections to approving the
4 program administrator's submissions?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the submissions
7 are approved.

8 Item 0-2 concerns December 2023
9 solicitations of bids to sell indexed renewable energy
10 credits to Ameren, ComEd, and Mid-American.

11 Are there any objections to approving the
12 procurement administrator's benchmark methodology?

13 (No verbal response.)

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

16 Item 0-3 concerns approval of batches,
17 contracts, and confirmations under the Illinois Solar
18 for All program.

19 Are there any objections to approving the
20 program administrator's submissions?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none the submissions are

1 approved.

2 Item 0-4 concerns submittal of
3 Commission comments in FERC Docket ER24-462000. These
4 comments oppose PJMs November 21st, 2023 filing that
5 proposes to revise its open access transmission tariff
6 to establish a new Cost of New Entry or (CONE) area for
7 the ComEd transmission zone in Illinois.

8 Are there any objections to approving the
9 submission of the Commission's comments?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the submission of
12 the comments is approved.

13 Item 0-5 concerns the approval of a
14 third-party consulting service contract for NERA
15 Economic Consulting to serve as the Illinois Power
16 Agency's Program Administrator.

17 Are there any objections to approving the
18 contract?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, The contract is
21 approved.

22 Item 0-6 concerns approval of the

1 contract for the Commission's Executive Director. The
2 contract names Jonathan Feipel as the Commission's next
3 Executive director.

4 Are there any objections to approving the
5 contract?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the contract is
8 approved.

9 Welcome back to the ICC Jonathan.

10 This concludes our agenda.

11 Judge Teague Kingsley, do we have any
12 other matters to come before the Commission today?

13 JUDGE KINGSLEY: No. Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Do any of the Commissioners have
15 any business to discuss?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I have two items before we wrap
18 up. One is to thank and congratulate Eric Lounsberry
19 on his retirement. Eric Lounsberry joined the ICC in
20 1989 as an Economic analyst bringing engineering
21 insight and experience to the job. Eric accepted a
22 leadership position as supervisor of a newly

1 established gas engineer program in 1997. Eric
2 developed training and guidance for new and existing
3 engineers and his methods for case review have been
4 incorporated into each of the current engineering
5 programs at the Illinois Commerce Commission.

6 In 2016, Eric took the position as the
7 director of the Commission's Safety and Reliability
8 Division. He has also served as the Commission's
9 liaison to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency
10 Office of Homeland Security where he has worked to
11 ensure Illinois utilities are prepared for natural,
12 manmade, or technological disasters, hazards, or acts
13 of terrorism. Eric's work ethic and diligence set an
14 example for all of those who had the pleasure of
15 working with him over these many years. He has
16 dedicated 34 years of work to the safety and
17 reliability of public utilities in Illinois. We wish
18 him all the best as he opens a new chapter in his life.
19 He should have more time for his Granddaughter and
20 Legos; hopefully in that order. Thank you, we will
21 miss you.

22 And finally with this being the last

1 Regular Open Meeting of the year, I want to thank
2 Commission Staff for all the work that you have done
3 this year. The scope and depth of work at the
4 Commission continues to increase each year and your
5 ability to continue to meet any and all challenges is
6 greatly appreciated. We've asked a tremendous amount
7 from you this year and you've delivered, thank you.

8 And I wish to thank the advisors who
9 have been working tirelessly. I know I speak for all
10 of us in thanking you for your dedication. It's a
11 great team and I know we all appreciate your work very
12 much. And with that, I wish everyone a safe and
13 healthy holiday season. And if there are no further
14 comments and without objection, this meeting is
15 adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Which were all the proceedings had in
17 the above-entitled cause on this
18 date.)

19
20
21

22 STATE of ILLINOIS.)

1 COUNTY of COOK)

2

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

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

12

13

Michael Marciniak

14

15

MICHAEL R. MARCINIAK.

16

Certified Electronic Reporter, CER-2316

17

Notary Public

18

19

20

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