

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING
THURSDAY, June 15, 2023
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Met pursuant to notice at 11:30 AM at 160
North LaSalle Street Suite C-800.

PRESENT:

Carrie Zalewski, Chair

Ann McCabe, Commissioner

Michael Carrigan, Commissioner

Conrad Reddick, Commissioner

Stacey Paradis, Commissioner.

MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES

BY: Michael R. Marciniak, CER

Notary Public

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Good morning. Under the
2 Open Meetings Act, I call the June 15th, 2023 regular
3 open meeting to order. Commissioners Carrigan, McCabe,
4 Reddick, Paradis, are with me in Chicago; we have
5 quorum. We have nine requests to speak today, from
6 first, Nicole Magerko; second, Allen Pearl; third, Adam
7 Toerner; fourth, Adela Bass; fifth, Caroline Wooten;
8 sixth, Donald Rothschild; seventh, Cheryl Johnson;
9 eighth, Yurania Thomas; and ninth, Maria Leticia
10 Toribio.

11 We are going hear these speakers in the order I
12 just listed beginning with Ms. Magerko under 2
13 Administrative Code section 1700.10 any person desiring
14 to address the commission shall be allowed up to three
15 minutes. Only one person may speak on behalf of any
16 organization. Please note that the commission will not
17 respond directly to any comments. Ms. Magerko are you
18 on -- I think this is a remote speaker.

19 MS. MAGERKO: Yes. I am, can you hear me?

20 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you great.
21 So, I have a clock here in the room I'll be watching
22 with three minutes on it. And you can go ahead and

1 state and spell your name, and then when you start
2 talking, my advisors will start the clock and I'll give
3 you a warning of 30 seconds.

4 MS. MAGERKO: Okay. Thank you. So yeah my
5 name is Nicole Magerko, N-I-C-O-L-E M-A-G-E-R-K-O.
6 Okay. Hi.

7 COMMISSIONER ZALEWSKI: You can proceed.

8 MS. MAGERKO: Thank you. Hi. My name is
9 Nicole, and I'm a People's Gas customer and Artist here
10 in Chicago. Thank you for the opportunity to hear from
11 myself and others about the proposed rate increases by
12 our utility providers. I'm here today to ask you to
13 reject the proposed People's Gas rate hikes and reign in
14 a utility company that is operating under the premise
15 that we are not in a climate crisis or living through a
16 serious period of inflation.

17 As an artist I know many people in the Arts
18 sector who are paying 80 percent of their income towards
19 their rent; eighty percent just to keep a roof over
20 their heads. These proposed rate hikes would push many
21 of these artists away from their craft. Either towards
22 more stable work to stay alive, or has been more common

1 in the past few years, out of the city altogether.
2 Causing Chicago to lose out on the important and
3 critical cultural work of our creative's.

4 But this wont just affect our arts community,
5 with rising costs of living touching every corner of our
6 city many residents are already grappling with the
7 challenge of managing their household budgets. By
8 imposing higher utility bills, we risk pushing
9 vulnerable populations further into financial hardship,
10 exacerbating inequality, and creating a greater divide
11 between the have's and the have not's within our
12 communities.

13 In addition to the financial and economic
14 concerns, we must consider the long term impact on
15 public health. The increased financial strain resulting
16 from higher utility bills may force individuals to make
17 difficult choices. Such as sacrificing necessary
18 healthcare or essential medications.

19 Personally, I have friends on disability who
20 cannot go out and work more hours or get another job.
21 Because if they do then they might lose access to
22 critical, life-saving care through Medicaid.

1 These rate hikes, if pushed through will
2 sacrifice our disabled friends and family in the name of
3 profit? We cannot overlook the fact that affordable
4 energy access is a fundamental right, and a vital
5 component of our public health infrastructure.
6 Moreover, this proposed increase comes at a time when
7 the world is grappling from the urgent issue of climate
8 change. We are acutely aware of the need to transition
9 to clean and sustainable energy sources to mitigate the
10 impacts of climate change, and protect our environment
11 for future generations.

12 However this utility increase will undermine
13 our collective efforts to promote renewable energy
14 solutions and reduce carbon emissions. It sends a
15 contradictory message by discouraging energy efficiency
16 measures, and hindering the adoption of alternative
17 renewable energy sources.

18 We have an opportunity here to start planning
19 for the transition to electrifying our city and taking
20 major steps toward reducing Illinois' carbon footprint.
21 However, increasing the utility rates for a company that
22 is continuing to invest in outdated fossil fuel

1 infrastructure is not the way to go. The proposed
2 utility increase for People's Gas is not only unjust but
3 also counterproductive to our collective goals. It
4 places an --

5 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thirty seconds.

6 MS. MAGERKO: Thank you. It places an undue
7 financial burden on residents, obstructs progress for
8 renewable energy solutions, and threatens economic
9 stability. I ask you today to join me in opposing this
10 increase and advocating for alternative approaches that
11 prioritize affordability, sustainability, and social
12 equity. Thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next, Mr. --
14 hold on one second. Is Mr. Pearl there? Second call
15 for Mr. Pearl. All right. Moving onto our third public
16 commentator is Mr. Toerner.

17 MR. TOERNER: Hello. Yes. Adam Toerner, and
18 it's T-O-E-R-N-E-R.

19 COMMISSIONER ZALEWSKI: Okay. You may
20 proceed.

21 MR. TOERNER: Hi. My name is Adam Toerner,
22 I'm a People's Gas customer and advocate with the

1 Illinois Sierra club. I'm here to speak for myself and
2 the countless other customers and environmentally
3 conscious citizens who seek to prevent utilities from
4 preventing the transition away from fossil fuels while
5 asking customers for increasingly more money to finance
6 their projects.

7 The people's Gas rate hike will unnecessarily
8 drives up cost for maintaining an outdated pipeline
9 infrastructure which is likely to become a stranded
10 asset. In a time when utilities would be wise to invest
11 money into de carbonization. This is no doubt a
12 challenging situation for gas utilities but the answer
13 is not to pass on additional cost to customers, while
14 financial hardship becomes increasingly prevalent.

15 The collective debt of People's Gas customers
16 in April was \$134M; more than any other
17 major utility in the state. It also goes without saying
18 that a record rate hike during continued record profits
19 hardly seems to make much sense. With the Climate
20 Equity and Jobs act, we're slated to see coal and gas
21 plants shut down in the coming decades.

22 Why are we enabling the irresponsibility and

1 lack of transparency of utilities who prioritize the
2 escalation of immediate profit over long-term
3 sustainability. Shareholders obviously want to make
4 money, but we're not regulate utilities like the public
5 goods they are and maximize savings for customers who
6 have no choice but to purchase from their local utility
7 or suffer the cold.

8 We must modernize our heating system based on
9 clean energy alternatives. This is not only imperative
10 but an opportunity for citizens and businesses alike to
11 save money, and create healthier more equitable
12 communities. The ICC has the power to deny the proposed
13 raised hike -- the proposed rate hike and should do so
14 in order to prevent the further incentivization of
15 mismanagement and misaligned priorities within People's
16 Gas, and all the utilities in Illinois. That's all.
17 Thank you for your time and attention.

18 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next, Adella
19 Bass; Ms. Bass?

20 UNKNOWN CALLER: Hello? She having' problems,
21 she don't have the link to get in. She's calling to the
22 office now 'cause she doesn't see the link.

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Can someone provide her
2 with the link? We'll go ahead and call her again, we'll
3 have my advisor checking in to see if we can get her the
4 link; it should be in the response to the grant to
5 request to speak. Okay, so we'll come back to Ms. Bass.
6 Ms. Wooten, is Ms. Wooten on?

7 MS. WOOTEN: Yes. Can you hear me okay?

8 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you.

9 MS. WOOTEN: Okay. Great.

10 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Ms. Wooten, if you could
11 state and spell your name, and we'll go ahead and start
12 the clock.

13 MS. WOOTEN: Yes. My name is Caroline Wooten,
14 C-A-R-O-L-I-N-E W-O-O-T-E-N. So hi, my name is Caroline
15 and I'm a Chicago resident and a People's Gas customer I
16 also work for the Illinois Sierra Club; I'm the
17 organizing director for the Illinois Chapter. I'm here
18 to voice my opposition to the People's Gas 402 million
19 dollar rate hike. I know personally my gas bills are
20 already very high, and I don't want my household or
21 other households to have to pay an additional \$142
22 annually.

1 I'm especially troubled because this rate hike
2 will be used to elongate the life of gas infrastructure.
3 Rather than begin the transition to all electric homes.
4 You don't need me to explain that climate change is here
5 and now. Just last week, we had the forest fires in
6 Canada impact the air quality of much of the Northeast
7 and parts of the Midwest. Extreme weather events like
8 this impact people. They impact our health, our quality
9 of life, and in many cases they prematurely shorten
10 lives.

11 As someone who had a friend who died during
12 extreme heat, I really feel that when we're choosing to
13 prolong the life of fossil fuel infrastructure, or find
14 pathways to move on, we are really making life or death
15 choices for people. What's more, gas use inside the
16 home is harmful in and of itself. Independent of
17 climate change. Gas stoves have been linked with
18 childhood asthma in study after study.

19 Here in Illinois, 21 percent of childhood
20 asthma cases are attributed to gas stoves. This is the
21 highest rate of any state in the Nation. There is no
22 reason we should be raising rates on customers to invest

1 in outdated technology that harms our health and harms
2 our planet. I urge the Commission to prioritize
3 consumers and the climate. If we're spending money,
4 let's spend it on infrastructure that meets the demands
5 of our present. And let's do it wisely where we can
6 keep prices affordable for households; especially middle
7 and low income households. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is Ms.
9 Johnson.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

11 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you. If you
12 want to state --

13 MS. JOHNSON: Hello?

14 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: -- and spell your name then
15 we can start the clock for three minutes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. My name is Cheryl
17 Johnson, I'll spell my name, C-H-E-R-Y-L J-O-H-N-S-O-N.
18 I'm having problems with my computer, I don't know why I
19 can't see my documents.

20 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you if you
21 want to proceed.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Yes. I'm here to state

1 that I object to this rate hike with People's Gas. I
2 want to thank you guys for the opportunity to make -- to
3 make -- opportunity to be able to make this comment on
4 behalf of low-income community. TCR has been organizing
5 and advocating for the past 43 years. I am here to
6 advocate against the proposed rate hike by People's Gas.
7 Family and low-income community are already facing
8 difficult choices due to the affordability of this
9 crisis.

10 Now it's time for us to make unaffordable
11 rates even worse. People's Gas has broken profit
12 records for the past six years, while low income
13 residents have to choose between paying their bills or
14 putting food on their table or buying medicine. They are
15 literally profiting off the late fees from residents who
16 are already -- can't afford utility. That should be
17 considered a basic human right.

18 When People's Gas proposed fixed charge,
19 customers will be forced to pay \$45 every month before
20 even using any gas. In addition to their existing and
21 harmful late payment fees, People's Gas is blatantly
22 taking advantage of residents to contribute to their

1 overall profit. People's Gas is making it almost
2 impossible for low-income residents to pay they bills.

3 And when unable to pay, are charged yet
4 another fee. The People's Gas parent company has
5 been -- has said that, "Late payments fees are important
6 part of their profit". That's not right, residents who
7 cannot pay they bills on-time and fund the People's Gas
8 record breaking profit. It's time to put people over
9 profit. I ask the Commission, the Commission should
10 reject the record People's Gas rate hike.

11 You know, because this is terrible, you know,
12 we have to make these choices in our community. And our
13 comm -- you know we bear the burden of the highest
14 utility rates and the affordability of it. And tacking
15 all this and giving them a rate hike is just so unfair
16 to citizens of this city -- citizens of this state. So
17 I please hope that the commission will consider
18 rejecting People's Gas rate hike. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next is
20 Yurania Thomas. Good Morning Ms. Thomas, do you want to
21 state and spell your name and then we'll start the clock
22 when you start speaking.

1 MS. THOMAS: Good Morning. My name is Yurania
2 Thomas, Y-U-R-A-N-I-A T-H-O-M-A-S. I'm a parent leader
3 on the South side of Chicago. I am from the South side
4 spur branch power pack of Illinois. I was introduced to
5 the LIHEAP bill and gas and lights which is Com Ed. My
6 gas bill was \$600 and my lights was \$300. It was a lot
7 for me to handle, and I was denied the benefit even
8 though I put effort in paying on my bill, it wasn't
9 enough.

10 I received a pink notice for the gas bill, but
11 my lights was okay. I continued with LIHEAP and
12 followed up with a lawyer that deals with handling CEDA.
13 She got in touch with the head director who oversee
14 CEDA, and he said, "It would be straightened out" and I
15 would receive it. So, please say no to raising the gas
16 hike and make it affordable for us and the future to
17 come. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. And the ninth
19 is Maria Leticia Toribio.

20 MS. TORIBIO: Good Morning. My name is Maria
21 Leticia Toribio --

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Ma'am, hold on one second.

1 If we could, if you could state and spell your name.

2 MS. TORIBIO: So my name is Maria Leticia,
3 M-A-R-I-A L-E-T-I-C-I-A.

4 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. You may begin.

5 MS. TORIBIO: And my last name is Toribio,
6 T-O-R-I-B-I-O. So I'm here today to talk about my
7 experience with People's Gas. I had a situation a
8 couple of years ago where I was having a really hard
9 time paying my Bill, and I had a debt of about \$1,000 on
10 my account.

11 And so I entered into a payment plan, but it
12 was very difficult to pay my payment plan because my
13 bill was already expensive and on top of that, more
14 money that I had to pay on my payment plan. So it took
15 me two years to pay that off. And during that time it
16 was very difficult for me, because it was hard for me to
17 pay for that as well, and it was more difficult to pay
18 for both food and for clothes and for other things for
19 my daughters.

20 And in that time that I was going through
21 that, we weren't in the pandemic yet. And so after --
22 after going through the pandemic, there's a lot of us

1 that have lost loved ones; loved ones who provided for
2 us economically. And I've talked with many families in
3 my community that have lost family members that provided
4 economically, and that's made it more difficult. For
5 low income families, it's very difficult to get ahead.
6 And so for that reason, I ask you to think really hard
7 before you raise these rates. That's everything. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. That's the --
10 we went through the list the first time, but I am going
11 to call Ms. Bass again, to see if she was able to log
12 on.

13 MS. BASS: I was able to log on.

14 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: If you would like to state
15 and spell your name, then we'll start the clock at three
16 minutes.

17 MS. BASS: My name is Adella, A-D-E-L-L-A,
18 last name Bass, B-A-S-S. Hi, my name is Adella Bass and
19 I want to thank the Commission for letting me speak here
20 today. I am asking that you please reject the rate hike
21 for People's Gas. As a current customer, I struggle
22 daily to try to pay my bills monthly. With three small

1 children, and a balance back from Covid, I am just
2 having the most difficult time. For my family the cost
3 of natural gas is just too high.

4 And it's hitting us very hard, and it's also
5 harming our health. Our bills are already are hard to
6 make and monthly making ends meet have been just
7 impossible. I ask that you guys not to raise the rate
8 hike because it hits home for me, because I suffer from
9 asthma and different health issues; as well as my
10 children and my husband.

11 Increasing this rate and also continuing to
12 provide fossil fuel gas, is detrimental to our planet.
13 I am asking today, that you guys please not raise the
14 rate hike for People's pockets as well as their health.
15 People's Gas already receives so much money from little
16 people like us. And it's just impossible to continue to
17 keep fueling -- pumping money into people's pockets when
18 we already don't have it.

19 I'm asking the Commission to do the right
20 thing, for my health, my kid's health, and the planet's
21 health. Please reject the People's Gas rate hike and
22 reform the failing pipe replacement program. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. I'm going to
2 call just one last time Mr. Pearl; double check. Nope,
3 not seeing him on. Okay.

4 Thank you to everyone for making public
5 comments, this concludes our request to speak.

6 Now moving onto our Public Utilities Agenda.

7 There are edits to the May 18th, 2023, Regular Open
8 Meeting minutes, are there any objections to approving
9 the minutes as edited.

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the minutes
12 are approved as edited.

13 Item E-1 concerns a petition by Mid-American

1 for an exemption from multiple sections of the Illinois
2 Administrative Code, relating to information on customer
3 bills. The petition exempts Mid-American from including
4 definitions or explanations of any abbreviations or
5 technical words on the bill. The Company will instead
6 take alternative measures to ensure the customers have
7 access to this information; the order grants the
8 petition.

9 Are there any objections to approving the
10 order?

11 (No verbal response.)

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

14 Item E-2 concerns a complaint against Com Ed
15 in Chicago, Illinois. The parties have filed a
16 stipulation and joint motion to dismiss. Finding that
17 all matters in the dispute have been resolved.

18 The ALJ recommends granting the stipulation
19 and joint motion to dismiss and dismissing the matter
20 with prejudice. Are there any objections to granting
21 the stipulation, and motion, and dismissing the matter
22 with prejudice?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
3 stipulation and the motion are granted, and the matter
4 is dismissed with prejudice.

5 Items E-3 through E-5 concern applications for
6 certifications to install, maintain, or repair electric
7 vehicle charging station facilities. The orders grant
8 the certificates finding that the applicants meet these
9 certifications requirements. Are there any objections
10 to considering these items together and approving the
11 orders?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
14 are approved.

15 Items E-6 through E-13 concern applications
16 for certification as an installer of distributed
17 generation facilities. The orders grant the application
18 finding that the applicants meet the specified
19 requirements.

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

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
2 are approved.

3 Item E-14 concerns an application for a
4 certificate of service authority to act as a retail
5 electricity supply agent, broker, and consultant in
6 Illinois. The order grants the certificate finding that
7 the applicants meets the requirements.

8 Are there any objections to approving the
9 order?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
12 approved.

13 Item E-15 concerns a petition to cancel a
14 certificate to operate as a retail electric agent,
15 broker, and consultant in Illinois. The petition states
16 that they do not have any customers in Illinois, and do
17 not have any future plans to operate in Illinois. The
18 order cancels the certificate.

19 Are there any objections to approving the
20 order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is

1 approved.

2 Items E-16 through E-20 concern petitions to
3 cancel certificates of service authority to install
4 energy efficiency measures. The orders cancel the
5 certificates.

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

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 Items E-21 through E-26 concern applications
12 for authority to install energy efficiency measures.
13 The orders grant the certificates finding that the
14 applicants meet the requirements.

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

17 (No verbal response.)

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

20 Moving onto our gas items.

21 Item G-1 concerns Nicor's petition to review
22 the accuracy and the prudence of the companies

1 qualifying infrastructure plan or "CQIP" expenses. To
2 reconcile costs with revenues for the 2019 calendar
3 year. The orders approve a reconciliation finding that
4 the costs were prudently incurred and reasonable. There
5 are substantive edits to the order.

6 First, the edits disallow approximately 7.1
7 million dollars of cost over runs in five group one
8 projects. Due to shortcomings in the companies planning
9 and field change activities, including failures to have
10 or obtain necessary planning information. And to bid
11 contracts before initiating project construction.

12 Second, the edits disallow approximately 10.6
13 million dollars from 13 group two projects imprudent
14 cost over runs and lack of sufficient information to
15 justify these costs as prudent and reasonable.

16 Third, the edits disallow approximately 14.2
17 million dollars in costs resulting from the companies
18 failure to obtain sufficient right of way permissions to
19 perform work on private property.

20 Fourth, the edits instruct the company to
21 remove the disallowed 2019 CQIP plant from the cost
22 determination in docket 23-0066, within 30 days of the

1 date of this order.

2 Fifth, the edits instruct the company to file
3 and dockets numbered 21-0259 and 22-0224 the 2020 and
4 2021 CQIP reconciliations within 60 days of the date of
5 this order. Updated exhibits and testimony were
6 necessary regarding all related impacts resulting from
7 the decisions in this docket.

8 Six, and finally, the edits direct the company
9 to file a report that describes the impact of the
10 adopted disallowances on ongoing and future CQIP
11 reconciliations and rate cases within 60 days of the
12 date of the order.

13 I move the edits, is there a second?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Are there any comments
16 from Commissioners before we vote?

17 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: Yes. I'm voting in
18 support of the edited order while the Public Utilities
19 Act provides the provision with clear approval authority
20 for these plant addition categories. The company is
21 only entitled to recover prudently incurred cost in
22 order to avoid the excessive waste and cost over runs

1 from being passed onto rate fares.

2 This order directs the customers to be made
3 whole through rate case and reconciliation proceedings.
4 Going forward, I expect to see better up-front planning
5 project bidding, appropriate access to all project sites
6 and adequate evidentiary support to justify expenditures
7 during the proceeding. Avoiding similar disallowances
8 in the future is entirely within the company's control.

9 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Any other comments?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Are there objections to
12 approving the edits to the order?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the edits
15 approved.

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

18 (No verbal response.)

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

21 Item G-2 concerns a complaint against People's
22 Gas in Chicago. On August 29th, 2022, People's filed a

1 motion to dismiss with no response from the complainant.

2 There are substantive edits to this orders.

3 First, the edits grant the motion to dismiss
4 in part, finding that the Commission lacks jurisdiction
5 to award damages and dismisses the complainant's request
6 for the award of \$1,500 in damages. However, for the
7 four remaining requests in the original complaint, the
8 edit finds the request to be within the Commission's
9 jurisdiction and deny the motion to dismiss with respect
10 to these requests.

11 Second, the edits direct the ALJ to proceed
12 with the docket with respect to the remaining elements
13 of the complaint. The edits direct parties to provide a
14 full and complete record to ensure the Commission can
15 sufficiently consider the record and make finding with
16 respect to the complainant's allegations.

17 I move the edits, is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Are there any objections
20 to approving the edits to the order?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the edits

1 are approved. Are there any objections to approving the
2 order as edited?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
5 approved as edited.

6 Item G-3 concerns a billing complaint filed
7 against Amvet Illinois in Naperville, Illinois. The
8 parties filed a stipulation and joint motion to dismiss
9 the matter with prejudice. Stating that all matters in
10 dispute have been resolved.

11 Are there any objections to granting the
12 motion to dismiss and dismissing the matter with
13 prejudice?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the motion
16 is granted and the matter is dismissed with prejudice.

17 Item G-4 concerns a petition by Nicor Gas
18 seeking a limited exemption from section 501.250G of the
19 Commission rules. To extend the period of time for
20 replacing meters that failed sample testing. The order
21 grants the petition finding the company's request
22 reasonable and economically and technically sound.

1 Are there any objections to approving the
2 order?

3 (No verbal response.)

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

6 G-5 concerns a petition by Nicor to issue and
7 sell up to 300 million dollars in long term debt. The
8 order authorizes the issuances noting that there are no
9 contested issues in this case. Staff concludes that the
10 issuance of debt will not impair the company's financial
11 strength and is not contrary to the public interest.

12 Are there any objections to approving the
13 order?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order is
16 approved.

17 Moving onto our Telecommunications items.

18 Items T-1 through T-3 concern applications for
19 certificates of wireless authority to operate as a
20 reseller of telecommunication services throughout
21 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 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the orders
5 are approved.

6 Under our Water and Sewer items, item W-1
7 concerns a filing by Illinois American Water to amend
8 it's plumbing system modification loan and grant
9 program. Commission Staff has reviewed the filing and
10 recommends not suspending it.

11 Are there any objections to not suspending the
12 filing?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the filing
15 is not suspended.

16 Item W-2 concerns Prairie Path Waters
17 reconciliation preceding with respect to the company's
18 bad debt expense Ryder or Ryder BDE. Commission Staff
19 has reviewed the company's petition and recommends
20 approving the reconciliation. The order approves the
21 reconciliation as set forth in the appendix of the
22 order.

1 Are there any objections to approving the
2 order?

3 (No verbal response.)

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

6 Item W-3 concerns a petition by Illinois
7 American Water for the issuance of a certificate of
8 public convenience and necessity. To provide waste
9 water treatment service to the city of Granite City and
10 its environs in Madison County and to purchase assets
11 owned by Granite City. Illinois American seeks
12 Commission approval to engage with appraisers to
13 determine the market value of the portions of the waste
14 water system. The Company intends to purchase from
15 Granite City. The interim order approves the appraiser
16 engagement agreements.

17 Are there any objections to approving the
18 interim order?

19 (No verbal response.)

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

22 Under our petitions for rehearing, item PR-1

1 concerns an application for rehearing and a complaint
2 against Illinois American Water in Bolingbrook,
3 Illinois. The ALJ recommends denying the application
4 finding that the application raises no new arguments or
5 evidence that hasn't already been litigated.

6 Are there any objections to denying the
7 application for rehearing?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
10 application is denied.

11 Under other items, item O-1 concerns approval
12 of batches contracts and confirmations under the
13 Illinois Adjustable Block Program.

14 Are there any objections to approving the
15 program administrator's submissions?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
18 submissions are approved.

19 Item O-2 concerns June 2023 solicitations of
20 bids to sell zonal resource credits to Ameren.

21 Are there any objections to approving the
22 procurement administrator's recommendations on selection

1 of winning bids?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
4 recommendations are approved.

5 Item 0-3 concerns the Commission's annual
6 report to the General Assembly on the Cable and Video
7 Service Deployments by providers that were granted State
8 issued cable and video service authorization. Each
9 provider is required to report on its cable and video
10 service and metrics regarding its low-income household
11 customers. The Commission then reports this information
12 in its annual report.

13 Are there any objections to approving the
14 report?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the report
17 is approved.

18 Item 0-4 concerns the approval of the Illinois
19 power agencies proposed contract for the program
20 administrator for the Illinois Solar for All program.

21 Are there any objections to approving the
22 contract.

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the contract
3 is approved.

4 Item 0-5 concerns approval of batches,
5 contracts, and confirmations under the Illinois Solar
6 for All program.

7 Are there any objections to approving the
8 program administrator's submissions hearing?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: The submissions are
11 approved.

12 This concludes our agenda. Judge T Kinsley,
13 do we have other matters to come before the commission
14 today?

15 MS. KINSLEY: No madam Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: So, I'm going to make a
17 couple remarks. This will be the last time that I will
18 be presiding over an open bench session, and tomorrow
19 will be the end of my service. Four years of service at
20 the Commission and 17 years of service at the State
21 government. So, I want to take a moment to thank
22 everyone who works tirelessly day in and day out to

1 advance the mission and goals of the commission.

2 During my tenure, we've seen unprecedented
3 global events, public health crises, and legislation at
4 the State and Federal level that expanded the scope of
5 the Commission's work and, in my opinion, made our work
6 even more critical to the people of Illinois.

7 So first, I want to thank ICC Staff for their
8 commitment to meeting the goals and the deadlines even
9 as our responsibilities and workload continued to mount
10 every day. I'm impressed by the amount of knowledge and
11 expertise that each of you possess on such a wide array
12 of issues. And every time a new challenge was
13 presented, the commission staff answered the call of
14 these new challenges without missing a beat. You should
15 know both internally and externally, your efforts were
16 noted and appreciated at all levels of state leadership.

17 I also want to thank the other commissioners,
18 both past and present during my tenure, for their
19 professionalism and the commitment to this job. We have
20 spent hours deliberating and analyzing complex and
21 complicated issues. I've always tried to instill a
22 collaborative spirit within the commission's

1 deliberation, and that requires partnership and a
2 willingness to participate with open minds. And I am
3 internally grateful for my colleagues, notably the
4 notably the commissioners Reddick in Paradis. I applaud
5 your ability to quickly get up to speed and engage with
6 the materials before us. I believe that this job has
7 one of the steepest learning curves, and you both have
8 master fully handled the challenge.

9 Mr. McCabe, it was wonderful to work alongside
10 you and learn from your decades of experience in this
11 space and Commissioner Carrigan. We've been together
12 the longest, and I want to thank you for your steadfast
13 leadership and ability to navigate all of the curve
14 balls that were thrown our way during our shared time
15 into my Rock star team of advisors. Robert, you quickly
16 came up to speed on complex policy and challenging
17 procedural issues. Thank you for helping me cross the
18 finish line. And, Tanya, we've been together since the
19 beginning, and even before then. You are one of the
20 most brilliant lawyers I know. Thank you for always
21 being there for me no matter what was thrown our way.

22 I want to thank the Governor's office for

1 giving me the opportunity to serve as Chairman. This
2 job has truly been the most exciting, engaging, and at
3 times challenging, I've ever and will likely ever know.
4 The work being done at this commission truly makes a
5 difference, and it's been an honor to get to be a part
6 of it. I want to thank Governor Pritzker for the
7 opportunity and for his unwavering support and
8 confidence in me throughout my time as Chairman.

9 While I'm leaving with the mix of motions, I
10 know that I'm leaving the commission in good hands.
11 Incoming chairman, Scott comes into this position with a
12 wealth of knowledge and experience, and this will allow
13 him to serve as a great agency.

14 Had finally and probably most importantly, I
15 want to thank my family who supported me through this
16 roller coaster of an experience. Through the highs and
17 the lows and the working on the weekends and the
18 vacation spent working as well. Mike, Reese, Henry,
19 May, Cecilia, and my mom. You have always been there
20 for me and you allowed me to pour myself into a job that
21 I care deeply about.

22 So I'll end with the story. At the outset of

1 the pandemic, I alerted the Governor to the important
2 and critical work being done to keep consumers lights on
3 and homes warm during perilous times. His response was
4 simple but profound. He thanks the commission for the
5 work and his response was simple but profound. He
6 thanks the commission for the work and reminding me that
7 quote, we literally help say save lives at this job
8 every day. And he was right. Without the critical work
9 at the commission, catastrophic things can happen. But
10 I'm confident the commission will weather any storm that
11 comes away and do everything to avoid catastrophic
12 outcomes. And I know this because I've witnessed the
13 commission's ability to handle any and everything that
14 has been thrown our way while I've been here.

15 The truth is the commission is an incredible
16 place to work, and I will always be cheering you on from
17 the sideline. A leader is only as good as the team.
18 And the team will remain and do the important work under
19 new leadership. I will never forget the commissions
20 commitment to mission, work ethic, and kindness, because
21 it made all the difference. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: This is Chair Carrie

1 Zalewski's last meeting. She became Chair in April
2 2019. Her many contributions include heading the
3 implementation of the Climate Equal Jobs Act and it's
4 challenging timelines. Significant work by ICC staff
5 and stakeholders continues.

6 The chair has championed ICC Staff,
7 prioritized public participation in our proceedings,
8 navigated Covid procedures, and disconnection
9 moratorium. She contributed to the boards of PJM and
10 MISO states where decisions are made on long range
11 transmission, cost allocation, interconnection and
12 resource adequacy. Especially in MISO zone for she's
13 the founding chair of any counsel that brings together
14 commission chairs from all 50 states and regions to
15 discuss timely and relevant topics. She frequently
16 discusses the clean energy transition at various forms.

17 Carry has boundless energy and curiosity. The
18 knowledge and insight she's gained will be a great asset
19 in her next endeavor. She will be missed as a
20 colleague.

21 COMMISSIONER CARRIGAN: In my first appearance
22 on this bench a few months ago, I thank the chair for

1 her welcome to a new member of the commission. I also
2 commented on the support I had received from her office,
3 from her and her advisors and from the other
4 commissioner's offices during the very few but very
5 hectic days between my appointment and my first open
6 meeting. All of that support has continued without
7 pause or decline.

8 Since that initial open meeting. I have
9 continued to be the grateful beneficiary of the
10 collegial atmosphere she has encouraged, both among
11 commissioners subject to open meeting constraints and
12 among the advisors who do the hard work. Our chair
13 regularly checked in with other commissioners
14 individually to inquire about work and about well being
15 in this demanding role.

16 She has recounted the ups and downs Of The
17 Commission's evolution, shared the wisdom of her
18 experience, and solicited ideas for improving commission
19 processes and products. While only occasionally
20 suggesting that an exciting idea deserved a pause for a
21 second thought. So, I want to thank her again publicly
22 and wish her only the best in her next starring role.

1 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank You.

2 COMMISSIONER PARADIS: One more. Although
3 I've only worked with chair for a few months, I've known
4 of her work and her reputation for many years. She's a
5 consummate professional with a commitment to serve
6 Illinoisans. We are all sad to see her leave, why am i
7 getting upset, anyways, wish her the best of luck in the
8 future -- I think it's our kids being here, but the
9 biggest congratulations goes -- there they are. To her
10 and her family for her services to the commission and in
11 the state of Illinois.

12 CHAIRMAN ZALEWSKI: So sweet. Okay. Thank
13 you. No other comments and without objection the
14 meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

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

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