



For Immediate Release
October 24, 2017

ICC CONTACT: Marianne Manko
Office: (217) 782-5793
Mobile: (217) 993-1000
Marianne.Manko@Illinois.gov

Commissioner Edwards to Host Winter Preparedness Policy Session

CHICAGO: On Wednesday, October 25, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will host a policy session to analyze and review issues surrounding 2017-2018 winter season preparedness. Led by **Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards**, the public policy session will be held at the ICC's Chicago office from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"With colder temperatures and the threat of ice and snow just around the corner, families and businesses are counting on reliable and affordable energy to keep warm and operating this winter," said Commissioner Edwards. "It is imperative that we work together on coordination to ensure our utilities are best prepared to handle the worst of conditions."

Following the polar vortex, stakeholders continue to rely on increased coordination between gas and electricity markets to avoid some of the problems experienced during January 2014 when the nation endured prolonged periods of bitterly cold temperatures – driving up energy use and stressing available power supplies.

Experts from the gas and energy industry, including regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and Illinois' local distribution companies (LDCs), will address how the U.S. Natural Gas Market and region is positioned to meet the 2017-2018 winter demand.

The session will also feature discussions on energy efficiency, customer outreach efforts, and available resources for low-income customers such as LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and other programs offered by individual utility companies.

Session panelists include:

- Chris McGill, Vice President, Energy Analysis & Standards, American Gas Association
- Tim Aliff, Director of System Operations, Midcontinent Independent System Operator

- Kenneth Seiler, Executive Director, System Operations & Rich Mathias, Senior Consultant, PJM Interconnection
- Tim Eggers, Manager Gas Supply, Ameren Illinois
- Chuck Rea, Director Energy Efficiency & Regulatory Analytics, MidAmerican Energy Company
- Ellen Rendos, Managing Director Customer Experience, Nicor Gas

Click [here](#) to listen to a live audio feed during the session. Click [here](#) to access the Winter Preparedness policy session agenda.

The discussion will take place in the Main Hearing Room at the ICC's Chicago Office located at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Ste. C-800, Chicago, IL 60601. Audio access will be available via the ICC Website.

###

About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

Follow the Illinois Commerce Commission on Twitter @ILCommerceComm