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ICC Issues Electric Vehicle Notice of Inquiry Summary Report

Chicago, IL....The Illinois Commerce Commission today issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) Summary Report on electric vehicles ("EVs") designed to identify issues, challenges and opportunities related to EV deployment and its impact on the electric grid. The NOI was initiated by the Commission on September 24, 2018 at the behest of Acting Commissioner Anastasia Palivos as a means to gather more information about transportation electrification. The report is intended to build upon two Commission Policy Sessions held on the subject in April 2018 and September 2018.

According to Palivos, the electrification of the transportation sector may be key to helping states reach their clean energy goals and could lead to many benefits to the grid. Bloomberg's NEF's Electric Vehicle Outlook 2018 report predicts that 55 percent of all new car sales and 33 percent of global fleets will be electric by 2040.

"The growth of electric vehicle sales is accelerating across the nation. As Illinois transitions toward a modernized grid, regulators need to have a greater understanding about EV adoption in order to prepare for the growing demand of electric cars and buses. I would like to thank everyone who offered comment for this report. We received 34 submissions from 26 entities, 23 Initial Comments and 11 Reply Comments. All of the information collected and the varying viewpoints provided are included in the summary report," said Palivos.

Interested parties were asked to respond to a series of questions and issues related to energy efficiency, grid reliability and resilience, barriers and benefits to EV deployment, EV charging infrastructure, ratemaking, and regulatory treatment of EVs and charging stations. Every submission was carefully considered and analyzed in the report.

The most frequently cited barrier to EV adoption included high upfront costs, range anxiety and lack of charging infrastructure, and a lack of consumer awareness, education and outreach. Several participants agreed that the main benefits surrounding EV deployment are environmental and economic benefits.

The comments illuminate issues that must be addressed before any benefits stemming from the integration of EVs into the electric system as a viable and accessible alternative to internal combustion engine vehicles may be realized by industry stakeholders. The comments also serve as a starting point for discussions among stakeholders regarding the role of utilities, regulators, and other market participants in the electric vehicle charging infrastructure industry and the optimal level of regulatory guidance needed in the electric vehicle and charging infrastructure industry.

The NOI is non-binding and not intended to result in Commission action but rather, to serve as an information gathering exercise. Pursuant to the Commission's rules, the NOI proceeding is not a rulemaking and is non-decisional in nature, but information gathered may or may not form the basis for the initiation of a rulemaking or for other purposes.

Visit the ICC's EV NOI webpage at https://www.icc.illinois.gov/Electricity/workshops/evnoi.aspx to read the completed NOI and the Initial and Reply Comments.

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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.

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