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ICC Decision Boosts New Illinois' Renewable Energy Economy, Emphasizing Importance of Growth in Central and Southern Illinois

Chicago, IL....Tuesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved with modifications the Illinois Power Agency's Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (Plan) which will stimulate significant new investments in the renewable energy economy. The plan is expected to vault Illinois into the top tier of states for development of renewable energy resources.

The Plan was adopted pursuant to Public Act 99-0906, also known as the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), which requires the ICC to approve a long-term renewable resources procurement plan. Signed into law by Governor Bruce Rauner in 2016, FEJA substantially increases the state's renewable energy targets. The Commission's final order is consistent with the intent of FEJA to increase wind and solar development in Illinois.

"The changes adopted by the Commission ensure that all Illinoisans and all regions of the state will benefit from the development of renewable energy resources, and the strengthening of our clean energy economy," said Acting Commissioner Anastasia Palivos, "The ICC would like to thank the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) and other stakeholders involved in this important and complex proceeding. We look forward to working closely with the IPA to ensure the Plan's successful execution and a greener Illinois."

Changes adopted by the Commission ensure that projects within the boundaries of municipally-owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives in the state, largely in Central and Southern Illinois, will be able to participate in programs under the Plan.

According to renewable energy advocates, strong interest already exists for new development. Since June 2017 alone, over 11 megawatts of renewable projects were built in municipal and electric cooperative territories in Illinois. Experts also estimate that there are 300 projects with a total of 130

megawatts at various stages of development in these territories.

The Plan addresses how the IPA will implement a variety of programs and procurements to meet its obligations to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), such as the Illinois Solar for All Program, created to provide a solar market for low-income households and communities.

Additional highlights of the Plan approved by the Commission include:

- Auditing procedures to ensure Illinois residents benefit from the Plan
- Additional incentives and rewards for projects benefiting the public, especially low-income communities
- Adoption of a higher threshold in the public interest criteria used to evaluate the procurement of RECs from generation facilities in neighboring states, maximizing job creation in Illinois
- Elimination of all spot REC procurements to increase investment in new renewable resources that will help meet Illinois' long-term renewable energy goals

Illinois is no stranger to leading energy policy. According to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Illinois developed the most creative policy solution for approaching solar development, including work force development and equitable distribution of benefits to consumers. Adoption of the plan strengthens Illinois' leadership in energy policy.

The first two procurements under the Plan for utility-scale wind and brownfield solar development are expected to occur this summer. Solar procurements under the Plan will take place following the hiring of an IPA Program Administrator. The IPA is expected to update the Plan in 2019, until which time the Commission will monitor execution and implementation of the Plan.

To read the Commission's Final Order in Docket No. 17-0838, click [here](#).

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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.

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.

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