



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

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ICC CONTACT: Victoria Crawford
Office: (217) 557-5819
Victoria.Crawford@Illinois.gov

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

The ICC Explores the Future of Energy Storage

CHICAGO...The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) held a policy session Wednesday to examine the future of energy storage and its relationship to the electric grid in Illinois. Acting Commissioner Anastasia Palivos and Staff hosted the session, inviting numerous expert panelists to weigh-in during the three-hour session. Each provided varying analyses of the landscape and challenges of energy storage in Illinois.

“If distributed energy resources have a chance at someday replacing fossil fuels, they will most likely be consistent and distributed evenly across our electric grid,” said Acting Commissioner Anastasia Palivos in her opening remarks. “An increase in energy storage could not only make the grid more resilient, it could also have a positive economic impact by lowering the cost of electricity.”

Panel one entitled “An Overview of Energy Storage” covered the history, technology and current landscape. **George Crabtree**, Director of Joint Center for Energy Storage Research at *Argonne National Laboratory*, kicked-off the first panel discussion by pointing out that, on average, electricity generators maintain 40 percent more infrastructure than necessary to ensure adequate and reliable energy. He outlined the numerous ways energy storage could be installed on the grid and add value to existing infrastructure.

Nitzan Goldberger, State Policy Director for *Energy Storage Association* wrapped up Panel one by reviewing three major barriers for energy storage: value, competition, and access. “As the Massachusetts *State of Charge* report demonstrates, the electricity market currently has the least amount of storage capacity of any U.S. commodity market,” Goldberger said. “Food, water, gasoline and oil commodity markets all maintain storage capacity that covers around 10% of the daily consumption, thereby

reducing vulnerability to supply shocks, reduced productivity, and wasteful infrastructure – something we need to emulate with storage in the electricity markets to ensure we can meet peak demand.”

Panel two, “Real World Applications & Energy Provider Perspectives,” examined specifically how and where energy storage can create value in Illinois. **Ben Kaun**, Program Manager, Energy Storage & Distributed Generation at *EPRI*, focused on the current status of energy storage, drivers, research priorities, and publicly-available resources for accessing energy storage value; **Matt Stedl**, Development Director of Energy Storage at *Tradewind Energy, Inc.*, detailed the value of Front-of-The-Meter (FTM) energy storage opportunities, while **Scott Vogt**, VP of Energy Acquisition for *ComEd*, provided the framework of storage application and challenges. **Regina McCormack**, Government & Regulatory Affairs for *Invenergy*, further probed the applications of frequency regulation, T&D deferral and microgrids. She also offered suggestions on how changes in regulation may assist in these applications.

Panel three, “A Vision of the future,” considered current and future laws, policies and regulatory framework. **Sam Gomberg**, Senior Energy Analyst with *Union of Concerned Scientists* examined the methods being used to address storage integration in more than 20 states that are moving forward on battery storage, and made recommendations on how to advance deployment in Illinois. Further outlining existing and potential legal and regulatory framework in Illinois was **Elizabeth McErlean**, an Energy Attorney at *McGuireWoods, LLP*. **Scott Baker**, Sr. Business Solutions Analyst with *PJM* discussed the electric storage resources available in the PJM markets since the passing of [FERC Order 841](#), while **Dan Berwick**, the General Manager of Energy Storage at *Borrego Solar* compared solar development in several states with energy storage development, outlining varying policy and incentive considerations. Each panel was followed by a Q&A session.

“It was lively and engaging, full of thoughtful analysis and valuable perspectives on the changes coming to the grid,” said Crabtree. “It was wonderful that the Commission brought so many interested parties together for formal panels and informal discussion.”

Click [here](#) to view the agenda and presentations. Click [here](#) to access information on future or previous ICC Policy Sessions.

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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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