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## ICC Hosts 2019 Summer Preparedness Policy Session

Chicago, IL...On Wednesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) held its annual Summer Preparedness Policy Session for 2019. Hosted by Commissioner D. Ethan Kimbrel, representatives from the state's regulated electric utilities and regional transmission organizations (RTOs) detailed their plans to handle peak usage over the hot summer months. Consumer advocate groups raised summertime consumer utility issues.

Commissioner Kimbrel presented welcoming remarks and his Legal and Policy Advisor Carrera Thibodeaux moderated the three-panel policy session.

### The Utility Summer Preparedness Panel consisted of the following Panelists:

From Commonwealth Edison Company

- Terence R. Donnelly, President and Chief Operating Officer
- Jane Park, Senior Vice President, Customer Operations
- David R. Perez, Vice President, Transmission & Substation

From MidAmerican Energy Company

- Neil Hammer, Director, Market Assessment
- Arick Sears, Senior Regulatory Attorney

From Ameren Illinois Company

- Brice Sheriff, Director, Regulatory Affairs
- George Justice, Vice President, Electric Operations

All three regulated utilities testified that they were ready to meet the forecasted peak load for summer. In addition, each utility discussed their specific efforts to enhance system reliability and resiliency, storm response, and customer engagement.

“ComEd’s priority is to provide safe and reliable power to families and businesses all year round,” said Terry Donnelly, president and COO of ComEd. “The work we have completed will allow us to deliver on that commitment and ensure the power grid and our employees are prepared to meet the needs of our customers throughout the hotter summer months.”

"The persistent rain and severe weather that Illinois has experienced this year has already tested our preparedness. We are happy to report to the ICC and our customers that our system is ready, we have adequate resources to serve the anticipated demand for electricity, and overall rates continue to remain well below the national average," said George Justice, vice president of Electric Operations, Ameren Illinois.

RTO Summer Electricity Preparedness Panel consisted of the following Panelists:

From Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

- Bob Kuzman, Regional Director, Regulatory Affairs-Central Region

From PJM Interconnection (PJM)

- Brian M. Lynn, Senior Trainer in the State & Member Training Department

“MISO's seasonal assessments review projected demand and resources for the MISO footprint and assess resource adequacy and risks for upcoming seasons,” said Bob Kuzman, state regulatory affairs advisor for MISO. “MISO is projecting adequate resources to meet the 2019 summer peak demand forecast and our reserve margin requirement.” MISO is the wholesale electricity provider for central and southern Illinois.

“PJM, along with our utility partners, has planned for above average temperatures and higher usage throughout this summer. With experienced operators, proper forecasting and ample reserves, we’re confident we will be able to meet the electricity needs of Northern Illinois and the larger PJM footprint,” said Brian Lynn. PJM Interconnection is the wholesale electricity operator for the northern region of Illinois.

The Consumer Advocate Panel consisted of the following Panelists:

From the Citizens Utility Board of Illinois

- David Kolata, Executive Director

From the Office of the Illinois Attorney General

- Susan L. Satter, Public Utilities Policy Counsel

David Kolata with the Citizens Utility Board said that while reliability has improved since the mid-2000s in Illinois, climate change and extreme weather events are stressing the state’s electric system. He advocated for structural changes to protect consumers including decarbonization, greater integration of distributed energy resources like wind and solar, and capacity market reform.

Susan Satter from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office advocated on behalf of consumers struggling with strained budgets and debt carried over from winter energy bills and those paying high electric

supply prices. She said air conditioning is the single largest driver of electricity bills for most consumers in the summer, and bills are sensitive to both usage and supply price. She also said that in the United States, the summer heat causes more deaths than floods, lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes, combined.

Click [here](#) to see the slides from Wednesday's presentations.

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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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