



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

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ICC to Host Smart Cities Policy Session

CHICAGO – On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the Illinois Commerce Commission will host a policy session on Smart Cities, a concept which has been defined as the ability to integrate multiple technological solutions in a secure fashion to manage a city's assets.

Chairman Brien Sheahan, who organized the session, hopes it will serve as a forum for relevant stakeholders to discuss the value of smart cities and how the energy industry can utilize information and communication technologies and devices to deliver innovative customer services, realize cost savings, and optimize operational efficiencies.

"As smart grids, building energy management tools, smart water meters, and other data-rich technology deployments and upgrades generate more relevant and targeted data, utilities are strategically positioned to lead the way in developing cities of the future," Sheahan said. "The availability of this real-time data could substantially improve regulatory decision-making and allow for increased implementation of such technologies to best deliver customer benefits."

The session will feature panels intended to explore the role of the energy consumer in smart cities; discuss strategies for accelerating innovation, specifically the role of the industry and academia; and consider the role of utilities in building smart cities and reshaping how fundamental services are delivered and managed.

Speakers include Michael Abba, Director of Smart Grid Integration and System Improvement, Ameren; Bill Abolt, VP of Energy, AECOM Technology Corporation; Andrew Barbeau, Senior Clean Energy Consultant, Environmental Defense Fund; Brenna Berman, Commissioner and CIO, Department of Innovation and Technology, City of Chicago; Michelle Blaise, SVP of Technical Services, ComEd; Michael Britt, VP of Energy Innovation, Southern Company; Charles Catlett, Senior Computer Scientist, Argonne National Laboratory; Patty Durand, Executive Director, Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative; Anne Evans, CEO, Elevate Energy; Mel Gehrs, Silver Spring Networks; Dave Kolata, Executive Director, Citizens Utility Board; Jennifer Montague, Director of Strategy and Technology, ComEd; Russel Ragsdale, Principal Manager of Grid Modernization, Southern California Edison; Susan Satter, Public Utilities Counsel, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Dr. Mohammad Shadidehpour, Bodine Chair Professor and Director, Illinois Institute of Technology; David South, Senior Principal, Sustainability, West Monroe Partners; Joe Svachula, VP of Engineering and Smart Grid, ComEd; and Michael Zeto, General Manager and Executive Director of Smart Cities, AT&T.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and take place in the Main Hearing Room of the ICC's Chicago office, located at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite C-800. To view the full agenda for the session, click [here](#).

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.