



**For Immediate Release**

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### **ICC Hosts Summer Preparedness Policy Session**

Chicago – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) today heard from representatives of utilities and regional transmission organizations (RTOs) that serve the state as it hosted its Summer Preparedness Policy Session.

Moderated by ICC Commissioner John Rosales, the session featured presentations from the electric utilities and the RTOs as they detailed their plans to handle traditional peak seasonal summer usage. Specifically, the panelists focused on the following discussion topics:

- What are the most significant threats to the grid during the summer months and how is the utility prepared to address these threats?
- How have infrastructure investments and upgrades due to EIMA helped utilities to improve service and meet demand in the summer months?
- What challenges are the RTOs facing with regard to assuring electric reliability this year?

Rosales noted that Illinois utilities have made efforts “to modernize and strengthen the grid . . . intended to improve system reliability, thereby helping Illinois customers experience less outages, and improving power restoration.” In addition, utility representatives discussed specific efforts to improve the accuracy of estimated restore times, as well as internal training to ensure that in the event of an outage, employees have the knowledge and skills needed to restore customer service as quickly as possible. The RTOs discussed weather forecasts for this year, their reserve margins, as well as their efforts to coordinate with neighboring transmission organizations to ensure reliability.

Those representing the utilities, generators and RTOs at today’s session say they are in a strong position to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for Summer 2016 with sufficient generation resources and distribution capabilities in order to meet peak load.

[Click here to see the slides from today’s presentations.](#)

Today’s presenters included:

- Terence R. Donnelly, Executive VP and COO and Michelle Blaise, Sr. VP of Technical Services for Commonwealth Edison Company: Electricity provider for 3.8 million customers in Illinois, including the City of Chicago, collar counties and Northern Illinois.

- Ron Pate, Sr. VP of Operations and Technical Services, Shawn Schukar, Sr. VP of Transmission Development and Project Management, and Brice Sheriff, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Ameren Illinois Company: Electricity provider for 1.2 million Illinois customers in Central and Southern Illinois.
- Jeff Gust, VP of Compliance and Planning for Mid-American Energy Company: Electricity provider for 85,000 Illinois customers in Northwestern Illinois.
- Robert Benbow, Sr. Director of System Wide Operations for Midcontinent Independent System Operator: The wholesale electricity provider for the Central and Southern portions of Illinois.
- Richard Mathias, Sr. Consultant for PJM Interconnection: The wholesale electricity provider for the Northern region of Illinois.

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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.