

January 31, 2024

Mr. Jim Zolnierek
Chief – Public Utilities Bureau
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

RE: Thermal Energy Network Forum

Dear Mr. Zolnierek,

The Geothermal Exchange Organization (GeoExchange) is a nonprofit trade association promoting the manufacture, design, and installation of geothermal heat pump (GHP) systems. Our members include manufacturers, installers, technology providers, utilities, and developers. Our mission is to drive adoption of GHPs, the cleanest, most efficient heating and cooling technology in existence.

GeoExchange applauds the Illinois Commerce Commission's (ICC) workshop process that brought together a wide range of stakeholders to inform the public on GHP potential in the state. Thermal energy networks (TENs) are an opportunity for GHP deployment on a wide scale. Utility ownership of TENs is an emerging business model that has the potential to drive a clean heating and cooling transition. ICC oversight will be essential to ensure reliable and cost-effective delivery of TEN service.

GeoExchange and our members stand by to assist in the further exploration and development of TEN policies and procedures that will benefit all Illinoisians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this process.

Sincerely,



Ryan Dougherty, President
Geothermal Exchange Organization