



THERMAL ENERGY NETWORK WORKSHOP #1

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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INTRODUCTIONS

- The meeting today will be recorded and may be posted on the Commission's webpage at <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/informal-processes/Thermal-Network-Energy-Providers>.
- In the interest of time, we will forgo formal introductions of the participants. Please refer to the WebEx "Participants" panel to view participants in today's workshop. We additionally ask that all participants enter their name and the entity that they are representing (if not yourself) in the chat.
- Reminder: please keep your microphone muted unless speaking.
- Please identify yourself and the organization you represent the first time you speak during the workshop. Subsequently, please identify yourself each time you speak.
- Out of respect for everyone's time and other commitments, we have a "hard stop" time of 11:00am for this workshop.



Topic	Agenda Item	Presenter
<p>Overview and Review of Thermal Energy Network Technology</p>	<p><u>Opening and Introductions</u> <i>9:00 – 9:15 am</i></p>	<p>Jim Zolnierek, ICC Staff</p>
	<p><u>Thermal Energy Network Technologies and Issues*</u></p> <p>National Perspective <i>9:15 – 9:30 am</i></p> <p>Utility Pilot Project Data <i>9:30 – 9:45 am</i></p> <p>Technology Overview <i>9:45 – 10:00 am</i></p> <p>Water Perspective <i>10:00 – 10:15 am</i></p> <p>Customer Centered Approach <i>10:15 – 10:30 am</i></p> <p><i>Q&A and Discussion</i> <i>10:30 – 10:55</i></p>	<p>Ania Camargo, Building Decarbonization Coalition (BDC)</p> <p>Isabel Varela, Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)</p> <p>Aaron Powell, Buro Happold</p> <p>Jay Egg, Egg Geo</p> <p>Bill Talbert, Salas O'Brien</p>
	<p><u>Closing and Next Steps</u></p>	<p>Jim Zolnierek, ICC Staff</p>



ILLINOIS HB 3445 AND SB 1699 HA 3

- HB 3445 includes a requirement that the Commission:
 - ...in order to develop a regulatory structure for utility thermal energy networks that scale with affordable and accessible building electrification, protect utility customers, and promote the successful planning and delivery of thermal energy networks, shall convene a workshop process for the purpose of establishing an open, inclusive, and cooperative forum regarding such thermal energy networks.
- HB 3445 passed both chambers of the General Assembly and was sent to Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 22, 2023. On August 16, 2023, Governor Pritzker issued an Amendatory Veto of House Bill 3445, which did not strike this workshop language.
- The Thermal Energy Network workshop language contained in HB 3445 has been included in SB 1699 HA 3. SB 1699 HA 3 passed both chambers of the General Assembly but has not yet been signed into law by Governor Pritzker.
- While the Thermal Energy Network workshop language is not currently law, Staff is continuing with this workshop process in order to disseminate information and to provide stakeholders a forum to discuss Thermal Energy Networks.



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Determine appropriate ownership, market, and rate structures for thermal energy networks and whether the provision of thermal energy services by thermal network energy providers is in the public interest;
2. Consider project designs that could maximize the value of existing State energy efficiency and weatherization programs and maximize federal funding opportunities to the extent practicable;
3. Determine whether thermal energy network projects further climate justice and emissions reductions and benefits to utility customers and society at large, including but not limited to public health benefits in areas with disproportionate environmental burdens, job retention and creation, reliability, and increased affordability of renewable thermal energy options;



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

4. Consider approaches to thermal energy network projects that advance financial and technical approaches to equitable and affordable building electrification, including access to thermal energy network benefits by low and moderate income households; and
5. Consider approaches to promote the training and transition of utility workers to work on thermal energy networks.



WORKSHOP STRUCTURE AND REPORT

The proposed Thermal Energy Network Forum legislative language requires:

- 3 or More Workshops - The series of workshops shall include no fewer than 3 workshops.
- Post Workshop Comment Period -- After the conclusion of the workshops, the Commission shall open a comment period that allows interested and diverse stakeholders to submit comments and recommendations regarding the thermal energy networks.
- Commission Report -- Based on the workshop process and stakeholder comments and recommendations offered verbally or in writing during the workshop process the Commission shall prepare a report, to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than March 1, 2024, describing the stakeholders, discussions, proposals, and areas of consensus and disagreement from the workshop process, and making recommendations regarding thermal energy networks.
 - Currently the last Commission meeting prior to March 1, 2024, is scheduled on February 20, 2024. Effectively, Staff will need to submit a draft report to the Commission on or around February 9, 2024.



THERMAL ENERGY WORKSHOP INFORMATION

See <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/informal-processes/Thermal-Network-Energy-Providers> for information on this workshop series.

Parties interested in receiving an e-mail invitation and other workshop related distributions, please send your e-mail address to jim.zolnierek@illinois.gov and include “Illinois Thermal Energy Network Workshop Series Invitation” in the subject line of your e-mail.