

**NICOR GAS COMPANY’S RESPONSE TO THE ICC STAFF’S THIRD REQUEST FOR COMMENTS IN THE THERMAL ENERGY NETWORKS WORKSHOPS**

Pursuant to a request from the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”) Staff in the workshops addressing Thermal Energy Networks, Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a Nicor Gas Company (“Nicor Gas” or the “Company”), through its undersigned attorneys, respectfully submits these Comments addressing Staff questions raised in the workshops.

**Thermal Energy Network Workshop – Request for Comment #3**

**1) Approaches to promote the training and transition of utility workers to work on thermal energy networks.**

Natural gas utilities are in a unique position to train their personnel to work on thermal energy networks. These employees are highly skilled and possess many of the necessary skills required for thermal energy network installation, such as drilling and underground pipe installation. Natural gas utilities have extensive experience with workforce development, training employees to safely install and maintain utility scale systems. The new thermal energy skillset can be integrated into this workforce development. Importantly, natural gas utilities operate under strict safety standards which will be incorporated into the thermal energy network training. Additionally, natural gas utilities have relationships with the union workforce, local businesses, and communities, which will play an important role in the thermal energy network installation process.

Dated: January 3, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

NORTHERN ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY  
D/B/A NICOR GAS COMPANY

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