



ICC Chair Zalewski to Participate in NARUC ‘Virtual’ Exchange Program with Southern African Regulators

Chicago, IL – Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Carrie K. Zalewski is one of three experts chosen by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) to participate in a virtual exchange program this week as part of a regional partnership with the Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA). The partnership is designed to enhance RERA’s ability to oversee power market reforms, enhance competitiveness, integrate more renewables into the grid while maintaining resiliency and strengthen technical capabilities to regulate electricity. The webinar series which will focus on the integration of renewable energy technologies and energy storage will take place by webinar on February 24-25, 2021.

“It’s an honor to have been selected to participate in this exchange program. I look forward to having a discussion with South African regulators from Namibia, Zambia, and Botswana about the progress Illinois has made to add renewables onto the grid while maintaining resiliency, and to hear their plans to improve regulation of their electric power sectors, and increase the use of renewable energy sources,” said Zalewski.

On February 24, 2021, Zalewski will make a presentation about integrating renewable energy onto the grid. She will highlight components Illinois has adopted such as approving utility-scale micro-grids, procurement for Renewable Energy Credits, and reviewing interconnection rules. She will also serve on a peer review panel to offer feedback on sections of the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia’s Technical requirements for Mini-Grids, Rules on Tariffs Applicable to Mini-Grids, and Licensing Regulations. She will also be providing comments and recommendations for further development of regulations.

On February 25, 2021, the Electricity Control Board of Namibia (ECB) will provide a presentation detailing their progress related to energy storage regulation. Zalewski and the other NARUC experts will follow up with feedback following a Q&A Session on the topic.

“While the purpose of this forum is to support Southern Africa to further develop their powers nationally and regionally, I expect to come away learning new things and am excited to have the opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas and best practices with peers across U.S. States and Southern Africa,” said Zalewski.

Joining Zalewski as the other NARUC Experts are: John Garvey, Utility Supervisor, Clean Energy & Markets Section, New York Department of Public Service, and Rajan Mutialu, Senior Analyst, California Public Utilities Commission.

The webinar exchange program is sponsored by the Power Sector Program, Bureau of Energy Resources, and the U.S. Department of State and organized by NARUC.

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