



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ICC Initiates Safety and Reliability Notice of Inquiry

Chicago, IL- On Wednesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission opened a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) as a means to gather information and more closely examine its rules and regulations as well as the practices and procedures of public utilities to provide safe and reliable electricity and natural gas services.

“Monday’s gas explosion in Baltimore and violent storms here in Illinois that left hundreds of thousands without power demonstrate how incidents involving utility plants, equipment or other property can result in the loss of life or injury, outages, or other reliability issues. Through the NOI, the Commission will revisit and re-evaluate rules and procedures intended to keep utility workers and the public safe, and identify what improvements or changes may be needed,” said Chairman Carrie K. Zalewski.

A key part of the ICC’s mission is to ensure consumers have access to safe, reliable and least-cost utility service. Earlier this year, the ICC initiated an NOI to examine and better assess energy affordability. Equally important to the health and welfare of Illinois citizens is the assurance that their electricity and natural gas service is safe and reliable.

The NOI directs specific questions at the utilities with a separate set of questions aimed at interested stakeholders. However, the division is not intended to limit any party’s ability to respond to any of the questions posed and participants may respond to all questions that they can answer. If you are interested in participating, the questions can be found within the docket 20-NOI-02.

The submission of initial comments is scheduled for September 15, 2020 with a deadline for submission of reply comments to follow 30 days later. The Commission anticipates that additional rounds of comments might be beneficial and has granted the NOI manager, Jim Zolnierek, the authority to schedule further rounds or alter the schedule, if necessary, with adequate public notice. He may be reached at [jim.zolnierek@illinois.gov](mailto:jim.zolnierek@illinois.gov).

A Notice of Inquiry proceeding is not a rulemaking, and the information gathered may or may not form the basis for the initiation of rulemaking or other purposes.

For more information about 20-NOI-02 visit the ICC website [here](#).

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## About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, [click here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

