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Illinois Commerce Commission Initiates Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to Evaluate Energy Affordability

Chicago, IL...On Wednesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission voted unanimously to initiate a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) as a vehicle to examine and better assess the issue of energy affordability for all Illinois utility customers. Through the NOI, the Commission seeks to gather highly detailed information and data from Illinois' large investor-owned electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities to evaluate what information is available regarding the affordability of utility services; what is the current state of affordability; and the impact current programs and measures are having on affordability.

"Affordability has been a persistent issue raised by many, including the Illinois Attorney General's Office and other consumer advocate groups, like the Citizens Utility Board, well before the COVID-19 emergency health crisis began. This NOI provides a forum to broaden the discussion on this topic and will enable us to gather important information about the number of disconnections and reconnections under various consumer circumstances, credit and collection practices, and how the utilities and other stakeholders define affordability and low-income," said Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Carrie Zalewski. "As regulators, it's our hope that the data collected will be useful in our decision-making moving forward."

Under the NOI, the public utilities are directed to answer a series of questions relevant to the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2019. Consumer advocates and other interested parties are also encouraged to participate in the NOI and are asked to provide answers to a variety of separate questions.

While the schedule within the NOI requires the utilities to issue initial comments 60 days from the date the Governor of Illinois announces the end of the COVID-19 state of public health emergency, the NOI manager may alter the schedule if deemed necessary. The NOI Manager is Jim Zolnierek. Submission of reply comments will be due 30 days upon submission of the initial comments.

Participants must submit an original and three copies of all comments, reply comments, and other documents to the Chief Clerk of the Commission. Interested persons and entities are also requested to email the same in electronic form (preferably Adobe pdf) to Jim.Zolnierek@Illinois.gov. Copies of all documents filed in the proceeding will be available for public inspection at the Chief Clerk's office in Springfield and the Commission's Chicago office. Additional rounds of comments, if viewed as beneficial or necessary, will be assigned and scheduled by the NOI case manager.

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.

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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.

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