

---

---

# ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

---

---

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER, 2019

---

---

## **Charles Matthews Elected Chairman of Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council**

**The** Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council (IUBDC) elected Charles Matthews, President and CEO of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas as Chairman of the Board at its Annual Meeting on December 2 in Chicago. Mr. Matthews succeeds Bruce Hauk, President of Illinois American Water Company.

The Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council was formed in 2015 to increase business opportunities for diverse suppliers through closer collaboration, technical development and sharing of best practices among leading Illinois utilities. IUBDC charter members include Ameren Illinois, Commonwealth Edison, Illinois American Water, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas and Peoples Gas.

"Today's IUBDC reflects the commitment among participating utilities to not just buy from diverse companies, but to truly engage in a systematic effort to expand the opportunities for all diverse companies to succeed over the long haul," said Matthews, who will serve a one-year term. "Our mantra at IUBDC is to open doors. We did that in 2019 and I look forward to building on the success

## **GridEx V Exercise: More Than 6,500 Electric Company and Government Officials Tested Energy Grid Security**

**On** November 13-14, more than 6,500 participants, who represented more than 425 organizations from across the electric power industry and federal and state governments, participated in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC's) energy grid security and incident response exercise, GridEx V. The two-day exercise was designed to test cyber and physical security incident response protocols and coordination among industry and government stakeholders from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

"NERC's GridEx series offers an invaluable opportunity for industry and government officials at all levels to evaluate crisis communications and security and response plans in order to identify new risks and develop actionable mitigation

strategies," said Edison Electric Institute (EII) President Tom Kuhn. "Through the CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), GridEx also helps us to enhance cross-sector coordination and develop a more detailed understanding of interdependencies and potential impacts to other critical infrastructure sectors."

The ESCC serves as the principal liaison between leadership in the federal government and in the electric power sector, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for national-level incidents or threats to critical infrastructure. The ESCC also facilitates and supports policy- and public affairs-related activities and initiatives designed to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid.

---

### **Inside This Issue**

---

**2 From The Staff**

---

**2 The Illinois Commerce Commission Names  
New Executive Director**

---

**3 Energy News**

---

**4 Energy Association Activities**

---

## FROM THE STAFF

**Happy** Holidays to one and all! Enjoy the Season with lots of cheer and good times (safely, of course!) because before you know it we will all be back to the grind. Sometimes it's challenging, but especially try to enjoy the family times that the Holiday Season provides. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year from all of us at the Illinois Energy Association. **IEF**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

## IUBDC

**Of** my fellow utility leaders and continue to grow the influence of the Council in 2020."

At the Annual Meeting, IUBDC reported that its member-utilities spent a combined \$1.05 billion on goods and services provided by minority, women owned, or veteran-owned companies. Those transactions contributed an incremental \$2.05 billion to the Illinois GDP and sparked an additional \$341.5 million in tax revenues for state, federal, and local governments.

Later, at the Council's annual awards reception and stakeholder recognition event, IUBDC recognized several individuals for their achievements in increasing opportunities for diverse companies, and highlighted new programs and tools that are filling the pipeline of qualified diverse suppliers. Among those recognized were:

- **Jerry Fulmer** – recipient of the Jerry Garland Award for

Excellence in Supplier Diversity.

- **Brien Sheahan** – retiring Commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission.
- **Regine Jeune and Joshua Davis**. Jeune, president of DB Sterlin Consultants, and Davis, president of Lyons View Manufacturing and Supply, were recipients of scholarships funded by IUBDC from the Kellogg Advanced Management Education Program at Northwestern University. **IEF**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

## Gridex V

**One** example is the electric power industry's Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA) program, which was tested during GridEx V. During a previous GridEx, several industry executives identified the need for a program that would help electric companies restore critical computer systems following a major cyber incident. The CMA program—based on the industry's traditional mutual assistance networks—was developed and launched by the ESCC within a year. More than 145 entities—including investor-owned natural gas and electric companies, electric cooperatives, public power utilities, Canadian electric companies, and RTOs/ISOs—now participate in the program, which covers approximately 80 percent of U.S. electricity customers and 75 percent of U.S. natural gas customers.

Following the completion of GridEx V, NERC will produce an after-action report outlining the

newly identified opportunities for industry and government stakeholders to enhance their collective security posture.

"Protecting the energy grid from threats that could impact national security and public safety is a responsibility shared by both the government and the electric power industry," said Kuhn. "Together, we will identify and apply the lessons learned from GridEx V, as we continue our work to enhance energy grid security and resiliency." **IEF**

## The Illinois Commerce Commission Names New Executive Director

**The** Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) recently announced that Christy George has been named as its new Executive Director.

When Ms. George took over on November 18, 2019, she was the first female executive director, not serving in an interim capacity, to supervise the Commission Staff and oversee management of the agency's budget. Presently, there are approximately 211 employees at the ICC.

"Christy has an impressive resume of serving in both the public and private sector and overseeing budgeting, technology, consumer protection, employment and general management matters for various agencies," said ICC Chairman Carrie Zalewski. "Her outstanding qualifications and background make her well-equipped to take on the role of executive director. We look forward to having her at the Commission." **IEF**

## Ameren Illinois Receives National Recognition for Service Reliability

**Ameren** Illinois was recognized by PA Consulting as a recipient of the 2019 ReliabilityOne™ Most Improved Utility Award during a special ceremony, Nov 20, in Austin, Texas.

This award is presented to energy companies that have shown sustained progress in their efforts to keep the power on. In selecting award winners, PA Consulting identified utilities that have exhibited the highest sustained levels in reliability in both duration and frequency over the past five years.

"We are proud of the strides we have made to modernize our electric grid, reduce outages, restore power more quickly after storms, and improve customer satisfaction," said Richard J. Mark, chairman and president, Ameren Illinois. "The investments we have made in technology and physical improvements are resulting in an improved electric grid and better reliability for our customers."

Since 2012, Ameren Illinois has installed hundreds of miles of storm-resistant utility poles and power lines, along with advanced technology that detects service disruptions and immediately re-routes power from alternative sources. In addition, more than 1 million smart meters are providing customers with enhanced energy usage data and access to programs to help them save on their energy bills. These investments have contributed to a 20 percent overall increase in reliability.

All utilities operating electric delivery networks in North America were eligible for consideration for the ReliabilityOne™ Most Improved Utility Award. The selection of provisional recipients was based primarily on system reliability statistics that measure the frequency and duration of customer outages. After provisional recipients were selected, each company participated in an on-site certification process, which provided an independent review and confirmation of the policies, processes and systems used to collect, analyze and report a company's reliability results.

"Since 2000, PA Consulting's ReliabilityOne™ program has celebrated electric utilities providers that are reaching new heights of reliability," said Gregg Edeson, PA Consulting's ReliabilityOne™ Program Director. "This year we recognize a new category of top performers, the 'most improved' utilities in the US. Ameren Illinois has been on a journey to improve reliability via innovative technologies and people-led process improvement." **IEF**

## National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Set to 'Bridge the Divide' Under New Leadership

**The** National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners concluded its 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas, with new leadership elected and a set of new resolutions approved by the board.

Mississippi Public Service Commission Chairman Brandon Presley was installed as the new president, who announced NARUC's focus during his term. The theme, *Bridging the Divide*, is aimed at closing the gap in access to utility services, particularly high-speed Internet access, between urban/suburban areas and rural communities. Presley also announced a taskforce focused on rural broadband disparities.

Along with Presley, other officers elected were First Vice President Paul Kjellander of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission and Second Vice President Judith Jagdmann of the Virginia State Corporation Commission. All officers assumed their positions at the close of the meeting.

Presley succeeds, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner, who presided over the meeting, which featured general sessions covering topics such as a debate on energy resource options, a discussion with Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Richard Glick and challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence applications in the energy sector. Guest speaker Russell Gold, Washington Post reporter and author of *Superpower*, challenged regulators to "think outside of the box" to meet the challenges of an inflexible, outdated energy system.

Wagner announced a new collaborative with federal partners, such as the Department of Energy, to address the regulatory challenges to comprehensive implementation of cybersecurity measures at the bulk power and distribution-level electric systems. Also, a [national survey](#) on the priority issues for utility commissioners was announced. **IEF**

## Current Issues Seminar in New Mexico April 5-8

**The** annual Current Issues Seminar hosted by the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University will be held in the state Capitol of Santa Fe on April 5-8, 2020. Among this year's participants are some of the nation's leading experts on energy policy issues.

Registration information for the Current Issues Seminar can be obtained by contacting Jeanette Walker of the Center for Public Utilities at 505-646-4812. **IEF**

## NARUC Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, DC

**The** National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will hold its Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, DC, from February 9-12, 2020. State Commissioners and staff members from around the country will meet in various committees and subcommittees with an eye toward developing NARUC policy on several important issues of interest to the regulatory community.

Members of the Illinois Commerce Commission serve on key NARUC policy committees. Policies developed at the Winter Meetings may be acted upon at the organization's Summer Meetings in Boston. **IEF**

*Illinois Energy Forum* is published monthly by the Illinois Energy Association, Springfield, Illinois. For questions or comments, please contact James Monk at **217-523-7348** or e-mail at **jmonk@ilenergyassn.org**.

For name or e-mail address changes, contact Erica Drake at **217-523-7348**, fax at **217-523-0643**, or e-mail at **edrake@ilenergyassn.org**.