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# ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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## **Ameren Provides Resources to Promote Diversity Discussions**

**Ameren** Corporation has introduced "Discussion Across Differences," a series of videos and discussion guides that explore and encourage honest dialogue around the issues of diversity and inclusion. The materials – which Ameren uses for its own employees – are free to community organizations, businesses and other groups. They are aimed at helping organizations engage their teams in honest conversations about managing through crisis, fear and differences.

"We believe it's important for Ameren and the business community to continue to support the Ferguson Commission's recommendations to build a stronger region," said Ameren Corporation Chairman and CEO Warner Baxter. "We are offering these free resources as a way to partner with local organizations as we look to continue to build a better and more inclusive St. Louis."

Ameren developed the resources to help foster healing and promote inclusion across the St. Louis region. The

## **Illinois Moves Up to #2 in the Nation for Electrical Grid Modernization**

**IEA** member company Commonwealth Edison achieved record reliability for a third year in a row, much of it due to smart grid work begun in 2012. This modernization work, along with ComEd's focus on customer engagement, helped position Illinois as second in the nation in the 2015 Grid Modernization Index (GMI).

The report, produced by the GridWise® Alliance and the Smart Grid Policy Center, evaluates and ranks states based on their progress in modernizing their electric systems with smart grid technologies. The GMI applies a clearly defined set of criteria to evaluate the progress of state grid modernization efforts in three key areas: policy, customer engagement and grid operations.

"Our smart grid work has helped to deliver the best three years on record of power

reliability for our customers," said Anne Pramaggiore, ComEd president and chief executive officer. "From reliability to customer options to job creation and growing businesses, our smart grid investments are delivering on the promise of great value for our customers and state."

While Illinois moved up this year to the number two spot overall, it ranks as number one in the State Support category, which analyzes, evaluates and rates states' policies to advance and encourage grid modernization, including incentives, technology advancement and emission reduction goals. Illinois also holds the number two spot, second only to California, on the customer engagement category, which measures topics such as the availability of dynamic pricing programs, customer outreach and education efforts and data accessibility.

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## FROM THE STAFF

**One** of our recurring features is a handy one-page listing of members of the key legislative committees which deal with energy policy issues. Readers will find this year's reference sheet on page 3 of the newsletter. We hope you find it helpful to have this information handy when following the various pieces of proposed energy legislation that work their way through the legislative process here in Illinois. Like the old saying, "you can't tell the players without a scorecard." **IEF**

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### Ameren

**Company** announced the availability of the materials at a corporate retreat that was attended by Ameren's leadership team and members of the Ferguson Commission. At the retreat, Ferguson Commission members provided Ameren with an overview of activities and initiatives that have taken place since the commission's report was issued last year.

"We know these are not easy conversations to have; the purpose of these materials is to increase people's comfort with starting and participating in discussions related to diversity and inclusion," said Sharon Harvey Davis, Ameren Corporation vice president and chief diversity officer. "These resources have been effective in generating productive dialogue inside our organization, and we hope they can spur

similar conversations in the broader community."

The "Discussion Across Differences" materials help to foster attitudes and behaviors supporting racial equity, which was identified as a signature priority by the Ferguson Commission, and were developed with input from Ameren employees and community leaders.

"Discussion Across Differences" comprises a five-part video series that features conversations with selected leaders in the St. Louis community. Each video comes with a facilitator guide, participant booklet and presentation deck. **IEF**

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### Grid Modernization

**The** smart grid law was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2011 and opened the doors for ComEd and Ameren Illinois to modernize their systems and provide customers with improved reliability, more programs and options to manage electricity usage, while also enhancing economic development in Illinois and building smart infrastructure for the future.

The GridWiseAlliance, in collaboration with Clean Edge, Inc., announced the release of the 3rd Annual Grid Modernization Index(GMI) in January.

The Index ranks and assesses all 50 states and the District of Columbia, based upon the degree to which

they have moved toward a modernized electric grid.

The Grid Modernization Index report is available for download at [www.gridwise.org](http://www.gridwise.org) and [www.cleandedge.com](http://www.cleandedge.com).

For the third time in a row, California is the highest-ranked state, with a score of 88, more than six points higher than its score in the previous Index. **IEF**

### NRC Approves Braidwood License

**The** Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved Braidwood Generating Station's license renewal application. Years of hard work on the rigorous renewal process have culminated in the facility's ability to operate until 2046 for Unit 1 and 2047 for Unit 2.

"Today's announcement is great news for the state and regional economy," said Braidwood Station Site Vice President Marri Marchionda-Palmer. "In addition to the vast economic impact, it also allows us to continue producing safe, reliable, carbon-free electricity for the state of Illinois for decades to come."

In a 2014 report by the Nuclear Energy Institute, Exelon Generation's nuclear fleet's total economic output impact on the state of Illinois is estimated at \$8.9 billion – of which \$1.7 billion is attributed to Braidwood Station alone. The study cites nearly 20 economic sectors benefitting from Braidwood's continued operation, including construction, manufacturing, transportation and retail trade, among others. **IEF**

## Illinois 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Committees

### Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee

#### Democrats

Sen. Mattie Hunter, Chair (Chicago)  
 Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, Vice-Chair (Chicago)  
 Sen. James F. Clayborne, Jr. (Belleville)  
 Sen. Thomas Cullerton (Villa Park)  
 Sen. Gary Forby (Benton)  
 Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford (Chicago)  
 Sen. Terry Link (Gurnee)  
 Sen. John G. Mulroe (Chicago)  
 Sen. Antonio Muñoz (Chicago)  
 Sen. Michael Noland (Elgin)  
 Sen. Kwame Raoul (Chicago)  
 Sen. Martin A. Sandoval (Chicago)  
 Sen. Donne E. Trotter (Chicago)  
 Sen. Patricia Van Pelt (Chicago)

#### Republicans

Sen. Sue Rezin, Spokesperson (Morris)  
 Sen. Neil Anderson (Moline)  
 Sen. William E. Brady (Bloomington)  
 Sen. Karen McConaughay (St. Charles)  
 Sen. Matt Murphy (Palatine)  
 Sen. Chris Nybo (Lombard)  
 Sen. Dave Syversen (Rockford)

### Senate Environment & Conservation Committee

#### Democrats

Sen. David Koehler, Chair (Peoria)  
 Sen. Heather A. Steans, Vice-Chair (Chicago)  
 Sen. Scott Bennett (Urbana)  
 Sen. Melinda Bush (Grayslake)  
 Sen. Linda Holmes (Aurora)  
 Sen. Pat McGuire (Joliet)  
 Sen. Julie A. Morrison (Deerfield)  
 Sen. John M. Sullivan (Rushville)

#### Republicans

Sen. Kyle McCarter, Spokesperson (Vandalia)  
 Sen. Tim Bivins (Dixon)  
 Sen. Wm. Sam McCann (Jacksonville)  
 Sen. Dave A. Righter (Mattoon)

### House Energy Committee

#### Democrats

Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia, Chair (Aurora)  
 Rep. Michelle Mussman, Vice-Chair (Schaumburg)  
 Rep. Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (East St. Louis)  
 Rep. Andre Thapedi (Chicago)  
 Rep. Will Guzzardi (Chicago)  
 Rep. Pamela Reaves-Harris (Chicago)

#### Republicans

Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, Spokesperson (Jacksonville)  
 Rep. John D. Anthony (Plainfield)  
 Rep. Peter Breen (Lombard)  
 Rep. Mike Fortner (West Chicago)  
 Rep. Bill Mitchell (Forsyth)

### House Environment Committee

#### Democrats

Rep. Pat Verschoore, Chair (Rock Island)  
 Rep. Carol A. Sente, Vice-Chair (Vernon Hills)  
 Rep. Carol Ammons (Urbana)  
 Rep. Dan Beiser (Alton)  
 Rep. Laura Fine (Glenview)  
 Rep. Will Guzzardi (Chicago)  
 Rep. Emily McAsey (Romeoville)  
 Rep. Anna Moeller (Elgin)  
 Rep. Robyn Gabel (Evanston)  
 Rep. Brandon Phelps (Harrisburg)

#### Republicans

Rep. Michael Tryon, Spokesperson (Crystal Lake)  
 Rep. Rich Brauer (Petersburg)  
 Rep. Margo McDermed (Mokena)  
 Rep. Charles Meier (Okawville)  
 Rep. Bill Mitchell (Forsyth)  
 Rep. Thomas Morrison (Palatine)  
 Rep. Reginald Phillips (Charleston)

### House Public Utilities Committee

#### Democrats

Rep. Brandon W. Phelps, Chair (Harrisburg)  
 Rep. Andre Thapedi, Vice-Chair (Chicago)  
 Rep. Luis Arroyo (Chicago)  
 Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (Aurora)  
 Rep. Fred Crespo (Streamwood)  
 Rep. Jack D. Franks (Woodstock)  
 Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (Peoria)  
 Rep. Jay Hoffman (Belleville)  
 Rep. Rita Mayfield (Waukegan)  
 Rep. Elaine Nekortz (Buffalo Grove)  
 Rep. Pat Verschoore (Rock Island)

#### Republicans

Rep. Ed Sullivan, Spokesperson (Mundelein)  
 Rep. Adam Brown (Decatur)  
 Rep. John Cabello (Loves Park)  
 Rep. David Leitch (Peoria)  
 Rep. Michael McAuliffe (Chicago)  
 Rep. Bill Mitchell (Forsyth)  
 Rep. Ron Sandack (Downers Grove)  
 Rep. Grant Wehrli (Naperville)  
 Rep. Keith Wheeler (North Aurora)

## **NARUC Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C.**

**The** National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will hold its Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, DC, from February 14-17, 2016. 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 key issues of interest to the energy industry.

Policies developed at the Winter Meetings may be acted upon at the NARUC's Summer Meetings in Nashville in July. **IEF**

## **Current Issues Semi- nar in New Mexico April 17-20**

**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 Sante Fe on April 17-20, 2016. 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 Walter of the Center for Public Utilities at 505-646-4812. **IEF**

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