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Remembering Ruth Kretschmer

Ruth Kretschmer was truly “one of a kind”. She and her husband of 71 years, Bob Kretschmer, both passed away in their home on December 15, within 15 minutes of each other.

Ruth was born in Elmhurst and, after meeting and marrying Bob, started a family which resulted in three children, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. That alone would have been deemed a successful and fulfilling life for most people. But Ruth Kretschmer was certainly not “most people”.

Along with raising her children, Ruth found time to become active in DuPage County government and politics. She served in many capacities within the county’s Republican organization and also served on the DuPage County Board, chairing its’ Zoning Committee. While in her fifties, she attended college and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePaul University and attended classes at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

But Ruth Kretschmer is most widely remembered as one of the nation’s leading utility regulatory commissioners.

Electric Companies to Deploy Additional Restoration Workers and Support Personnel to Puerto Rico in Early January

Many investor-owned electric companies that are members of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) will deploy nearly 1,500 additional restoration workers and support personnel to Puerto Rico in early January to accelerate ongoing power restoration efforts across the island. These new personnel will work under the direction of the seven incident management teams (IMTs) that were deployed to Puerto Rico on Dec. 10 to support the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s (PREPA’s) regional directors.

Working with PREPA, FEMA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the IMTs are focused on completing a full damage assessment of Puerto Rico’s energy grid to develop an updated and more closely coordinated restoration plan. With this new

wave, the total number of power restoration workers will increase to more than 5,500. This includes the resources already working on the island from PREPA’s own crews, a contingent of crews from New York who are working as part of an intergovernmental agreement, and crews mobilized under USACE contracts.

Since the request for mutual assistance was first received from PREPA in early November, EEI and our member companies have been working in partnership with the American Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to supply technical expertise, materials, equipment, and resources to the island. The deployment of additional crews represents the next phase in the mutual assistance response.

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FROM THE STAFF

We've been having some abnormal winters lately. The current winter is well on the way to qualifying as "abnormal" in a whole different way. December and January have been among the coldest months the Midwest has seen in years and we haven't even made it to the heart of traditional winter yet. There are lots of articles on the internet and in newspapers and magazines providing tips on how to deal with the kind of weather we've been having. It's probably a great idea to read up on how to survive a real winter.

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Ruth Kretschmer

At 20 years, she is the longest serving commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission and at the time of her retirement was the longest serving female state regulatory commissioner in the nation. She also served for many years as Chair of the Committee on Gas for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Kretschmer was a recognized expert in the utility regulatory field and an accomplished public speaker. She was widely sought for conferences and meetings both across the United States and overseas. She journeyed several times to Kazakhstan to provide guidance towards developing that nation's electric

power grid after it became independent of the USSR.

Above all else, Ruth Kretschmer was a leader at a time when leadership in her field was still largely a male province. She was also highly respected by her peers around the nation and her service to both regional and national utility regulatory groups was exemplary. She will be remembered by those she worked with in the Midwest and nationally.

In Illinois, there will truly never be another like her. She provided strong leadership during important times for the state's energy industry and its stakeholders. She was often outspoken but always willing to engage with others who may not have shared her opinions. She will be missed in Illinois and whenever utility regulators gather together. She was also a great friend and we, her friends, will miss her even more. —*Jim Monk*

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Puerto Rico

"Providing support to fellow electric companies in need is a hallmark of our industry, and I am very proud of our unique mutual assistance program," said EEI President Tom Kuhn. "The incident management teams on the island already have enhanced PREPA's organizational structure and management and logistics capabilities so that PREPA is ready to put these additional lineworkers and support per-

sonnel to work as soon as they arrive. These new crews will help to accelerate the restoration mission and to restore power safely and as quickly as possible for the people of Puerto Rico." **IEF**

ICC Power Hearing Set for Jan.16

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will be holding a hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, part of a statewide discussion of the current downstate electricity-distribution system and what can be done to ensure downstate electricity reliability.

The hearing is scheduled from 1-2 p.m. in the Montgomery County Board Room on the second floor.

According to State Rep. Avery Bourne, power generator Dynegy has argued that under downstate Illinois' current electricity-distribution system, it may have to close at least four power plants by 2021 or sooner. The economic impact of these closures would mean the loss of almost 550 jobs and threaten approximately 4,000 indirect jobs. Dynegy owns the Coffeen Power Plant as well as seven other power plants in central and southern Illinois.

Bourne has introduced a bill as a result of meetings with Dynegy Inc. and is currently in the beginning stages of the legislative process. **IEF**

CGA Joins Canada-U.S. Physical, Cyber Security Information Sharing Network

The Canadian Gas Association has joined a network that facilitates information sharing between Canadian and U.S. natural gas delivery companies to support the continued safe and reliable supply of energy to customers.

The Downstream Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (DNG ISAC) is a non-profit organization that serves Canadian and U.S. natural gas delivery companies by facilitating communications between members, government and other critical infrastructure sectors. The DNG ISAC provides secure and timely physical and cyber threat information and indicators, provides analysis coordination, and summarizes industry-affecting information.

Formed in 2014, members of the DNG-ISAC include the American Gas Association, the Canadian Gas Association and the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America. The DNG ISAC recently established a formal relationship with the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre and shares information with the RCMP. Greg Johnston, President of AltaGas Utilities Inc. and member of the CGA Board of Directors, is a member of the DNG ISAC Board of Directors.

"Natural gas distribution companies are committed to the safe, secure and reliable delivery of natural gas to the 6.8 million customers who rely on it to meet their daily energy needs. CGA and our members are proud to join the DNG ISAC. We firmly believe that partnerships like this one between the private sector and governments are key to addressing physical and cyber security threats to critical infrastructure," said Timothy M. Egan President and CEO Canadian Gas Association

"The cybercriminals that seek to do us harm do not recognize borders and so our efforts to detect and mitigate their attacks must be open to all those who are affected and can play a role in enhancing our defenses. Giving all natural gas distribution and transmission companies access to real-time, actionable information, security alerts and analysis enables them to better secure their cyber and physical assets. This combination of vigilance and coordination makes our industry stronger," said Dave McCurdy President and CEO American Gas Association. **IEF**

National Publication Salutes Ameren for Hiring Vets

For the ninth consecutive year, Ameren has been nationally recognized as a Military Friendly® Employer by Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs®, STEM JobsSM, and Military Spouse.

"Our military veteran employees have been key contributors to business growth at Ameren during the last decade," said Mark Lindgren, senior vice president, corporate communications and chief human resources officer for Ameren. "We appreciate the value that military experience brings to the company and we remain committed to recruiting and hiring more veterans for key positions."

Veteran employees appreciate the military-friendly environment at Ameren. "The company is very supportive when I need to be away from work to make up days for missed battle assembly time," said Crystal Masek, Callaway Energy Center employee and master sergeant for the U.S Army Reserve. "Also, there are many other veterans here at Callaway, which makes the transition from the military to the civilian world easier."

Ameren also sponsors a dedicated employee group, which serves as a resource for military veterans and their families, and provides generous benefits to support members and their families during times of deployment. Annually, the Ameren Military-Veteran Employees (AMVE) group participates in recruitment efforts and veteran employment fairs; organizes care-package drives for those deployed; hosts events to raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by military personnel; sponsors Honor Flights; builds wheelchair ramps at the homes of injured and infirmed veterans; and adopts military families during the holidays.

"Thanks to the efforts of our AMVE group, everyone at Ameren is given a chance to support our veterans and their families in a meaningful, personal way," said Harvey Neverman, an Ameren manager and U.S. Air Force veteran who also leads AMVE. "We are humbled by the sacrifices made by our veterans at home and abroad, and we are proud to show our appreciation."

Ameren was showcased along with other 2018 Military Friendly® Employers in the December issue of G.I. Jobs® magazine and on MilitaryFriendly.com. **IEF**

Trends in the States & Localities: Beyond The Beltway

The Center for Digital Government will present a major briefing event on the state and local government technology market. “Tech Trends in the States & Localities: Beyond the Beltway” will take place on March 6, 2018 at Tysons Corner, Virginia. Attendees will hear from leading state and local Chief Information Officers and government executives about opportunities, emerging trends and government initiatives that are shaping the market. This program will also include topics that were formerly covered in Governing Magazines’ annual Outlook – State and Local Market Forecast. Contact Jeremy Smith of the Center for Digital Government at (916)-932-1402 for registration information. **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 11-14, 2018. 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 Meeting in Phoenix in July. **IEF**

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