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Pipeline Safety Legislation Should Be Focused On Truly Advancing Safety

American Gas Association (AGA) Vice President of Operations and Engineering Services Christina Sames recently testified before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Energy, telling the subcommittee that there is little in their discussion draft that accomplishes the goal of enhancing the safety of America's natural gas pipelines.

"The industry is supportive of flexible, risk-based, and practicable improvements to pipeline safety that reflect lessons learned from past pipeline incidents," Sames said in her testimony. "Safety is at the very core of what AGA and its members do, and we go well beyond regulation to improve pipeline safety."

Delivery of natural gas by pipeline is consistently found to be among the safest forms of transportation in studies by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

The discussion draft eliminates the use of Direct Assessment, a predictive tool that determines where pipeline corrosion has occurred and indicates where corrosion could occur. The draft would also require

ICC Releases Annual Report Analyzing Illinois Retail Electric Market

On July 1, the Illinois Commerce Commission's Office of Retail Market Development (ORMD) released its 12th annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor. The report describes in detail the competitive retail market in Illinois and is required under Section 20-110 of the "Retail Electric Competition Act of 2006."

The report aims to provide an overview of the current state of the market, including alternative retail electric suppliers' (ARES) activity and customer switching trends.

Nearly 85% of the non-residential (commercial and industrial) power usage in the ComEd and Ameren service territories were served by ARES. The share of ARES-provided non-residential usage statewide has been fairly constant over the last five years.

At the end of May 2019, about 1.78 million residential customers were on ARES service,

compared to about 1.77 million customers in 2018 and over 3 million customers five years ago.

The number of residential ComEd customers receiving supply from an ARES decreased slightly over the last year while the number in the Ameren Illinois service territory increased slightly over the same period. As of May 2019, approximately 32% and 60% of residential customers received service from an ARES in the ComEd and Ameren Illinois territories, respectively. (see page 22 of the report for details).

The last year saw some growth in the number of active ARES. As of May 2019, there were 68 active ARES offering supply to residential customers in the ComEd service territory (up from 60 a year earlier), and 29 suppliers offering residential customers supply in the Ameren Illinois service territory (two more than a year earlier). Of the

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FROM THE STAFF

We hope everyone is enjoying the Summer, despite the rather wet and prolonged Spring we went through to get there. It's a busy summer on the legislative front, topped off by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Annual Summit in Nashville. Our own State Senator Toi Hutchinson will be closing out her year as NCSL President, so there will be lots to do in Music City for all of the Illinois attendees. Congratulations to President Hutchinson and everyone have a great time in Nashville! **IEF**

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Pipeline Safety

Operators to send an overwhelming amount of information to emergency responders despite repeated requests from fire marshals, fire chiefs and emergency responders for condensed information that is simple to understand.

The proposed legislation also removes the requirement that a regulation be "reasonable" or "cost-beneficial," yet Sames stated that "the cost-benefit analysis was mandated to ensure that regulations do not put an undue burden on customers without a measurable improvement to the safe delivery of natural gas. That's logical and should continue to be the criteria for developing regulations." AGA supports the cost-benefit analysis process set forth by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee.

AGA asked the subcommittee to consider three high-level principles:

1. **Preserve Industry Engagement in Pipeline Safety Rulemaking** by upholding the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's regulatory process.
2. **Support Flexibility in Rulemaking** by recognizing that gas distribution systems differ and avoid one-size-fits all mandates.
3. **Don't Obstruct State Pipeline Replacement Programs** via new mandates that delay pipe replacements or require replacement faster than work can be accomplished safely, reliably, and without compromising quality.
4. **Focus on Provisions that Improve Pipeline Safety** by avoiding extraneous legal, regulatory, and administrative provisions that hamper the regulatory process. **IEF**

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ICC

Offers posted on PlugInIllinois.org for residential service in the ComEd service territory, 86% were fixed rate offers and 10% were variable rate offers (see page 25 of the report for details).

The ORMD report also details steps taken to improve transparency of the Price to Compare on residential and small commercial retail customers electric bills, and enforcement of enhanced consumer protection rules. It also recommends further exploration into value-added incentives offered by

ARES and market participation data. **IEF**

Illinois American Water Diversity Lead Rhonda Carter Adams Recognized for Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

Rhonda Carter Adams, Illinois American Water's Diversity Lead, was recognized by Who's Who Diversity in Color (WWDIC) in the Most Intriguing People category. WWDIC is an annual publication that documents and celebrates the achievements of all people of color in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Along with recognition at an awards ceremony in St. Louis, Mo., on June 13, an article about Adams is featured in the 2019 WWDIC magazine, alongside other nominees, detailing the path that led her to a career in supplier diversity. Prior to joining Illinois American Water in 2018, Adams was a supplier diversity manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and executive director for the Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council. Her career in supplier diversity began at Caterpillar, Inc., where she started as a computer programmer and systems analyst. Networking and a cross-training program opened up the opportunity for her to have a role in their supplier diversity program.

Adams said, "I just knew, that's what I am here for; that's the direction I would like to go because naturally I had the passion for developing my own community." **IEF**

National Energy Publication Recognizes Three Ameren Illinois Employees

Three Ameren Illinois employees were recently selected by Public Utilities Fortnightly for its "Fortnightly Under Forty" list, which recognizes young, up and coming professionals. Seventy-six individuals were selected nationwide. Public Utilities Fortnightly is a monthly publication for utility industry professionals that focuses primarily on utility regulation and policy.

Following is a list of those Ameren Illinois employees who were recognized.

Bethany Luebbers
Supervising Engineer, Electric Project Management---Bethany is responsible for program and project coordination of Ameren Illinois' electric Modernization Action Plan (MAP), a multi-year plan implemented in 2012 to rebuild the company's century-old electric infrastructure. Under MAP, customer reliability has improved by 20 percent and Ameren Illinois has added 1,400 employee and contractor jobs during the period. She is based in Collinsville.

T.J. Green
Engineer, Transmission & Distribution Design---A U.S. Navy veteran, T.J. is leading the way in Ameren Illinois' company-wide transition from 2D substation drawings to smart, dynamic 3D models. This helps visualize the design and space requirements, as well as improve drawing efficiency and accuracy. He leads a cross-functional team dedicated to researching and developing the processes that will be required to support the evolution of substation drawings to fully-functional 3D models and enable Ameren Illinois to respond to the challenges in meeting the energy capacity needs of customers today and tomorrow. He is based in Decatur.

Kyle Young
Engineering Support Specialist, Transmission & Distribution Design Support---Kyle has quickly drawn the attention of senior leadership due to his ability to drive results while delivering the highest level of customer service. Taking on additional work outside of his own area of expertise has given Kyle the knowledge to anticipate potential problems before they have a chance to materialize. His initiative with the SharePoint 365 team site build and file migration project is further evidence of his leadership within the company. He is based in Decatur. **IEF**

Chris Crane Elected EEI Chairman

Christopher M. "Chris" Crane, president and CEO of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, was recently elected chairman of the board of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the national association of investor-owned electric companies. Also elected were two vice chairmen: Ben Fowke, chairman, president, and CEO of Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy, and Gerard M. "Gerry" Anderson, chairman and CEO of Detroit-based DTE Energy.

The announcement was made during EEI's annual convention in Philadelphia. The Institute's chairmanship rotates on an annual basis, and Crane succeeds Lynn J. Good, chairman, president, and CEO of Charlotte-based Duke Energy.

"On behalf of the entire EEI team, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to outgoing EEI Chairman Lynn Good for her leadership throughout this past year," said EEI President Tom Kuhn. "Lynn's advocacy on key policy issues helped to position our industry for the future, and her focus on customers was instrumental in redefining and transforming the customer experience to ensure that EEI member companies can deliver more tailored energy solutions that meet the unique needs of our diverse customers."

"We are excited to announce that Chris Crane was elected EEI Chairman for the 2019-2020 cycle," added Kuhn. "Chris, who previously served as an EEI vice chairman, is a strong champion for our industry, and I am looking forward to his continued leadership as our industry works to deliver a clean and resilient energy future for our customers."

"Our industry is leading an energy transformation," said Crane. "I look forward to working with EEI and its members to deepen our workforce development activities to attract, train, and retain talented employees who are passionate about clean energy, serving customers, and supporting the communities where they live and work." **IEF**

NCSL Annual Meeting in Nashville

Monday, August 5, marks the beginning of the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in Nashville. The NCSL's mission is to "improve state legislatures, foster communication among states and ensure a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system." Several Illinois legislators are members of key NCSL committees. The NCSL serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. It is funded by the states and governed by a 56-member executive committee. For more information go to www.ncsl.org/summit. **IEF**

NARUC Summer Policy Summit in Indianapolis

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will hold its Summer Policy Summit in Indianapolis, from July 21-24. 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.

Policies developed at the summer meetings may be acted upon at the NARUC annual meeting in San Antonio in November. **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.