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# ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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## Bills of Interest

The following bills of interest to the energy industry have been filed in the first Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly:

**Senate Bill 9** (Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign/Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana) – would create the Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act, which would establish new rules and regulations regarding coal combustion residual materials from coal-fired power plants. Passed the Senate by vote of 39-9-7 and the House by vote of 77-35-1.

**Senate Bill 135** (Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria) – would create the Competitive Clean Energy Act which would eliminate all carbon emissions from the state's power supply by 2050 as well as minimize consumer and community impacts from closure of fossil-fuel electric generation facilities. Assigned to Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee. Re-referred to Senate Assignments Committee. Companion bill to **House Bill 125** (Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan).

**Senate Bill 651** (Sen. Kimberly Lightford, D-Chicago/Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria) Adds additional requirements concerning obligations of alternative retail electric suppliers and alternative retail gas suppliers, especially in terms of marketing activities. Passed the

## Major Energy Policy Bills On Hold Until Fall As Session Wraps Up

As the first Spring Session of the 101<sup>st</sup> Illinois General Assembly wrapped up on June 2nd, nearly all of the major energy policy bills introduced this Spring were in a holding pattern until the Fall Veto Session.

Only two significant pieces of energy policy legislation passed both chambers of the legislature.

Six major energy policy initiatives (each of which featured companion House and Senate bills) were in play during the Session and all are currently stalled.

Utilities ComEd and Ameren Illinois pushed for passage of legislation to extend the Energy Infrastructure Maintenance Act, first passed in 2011 and scheduled to sunset in 2013. The bills are SB 2080 (Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort) and HB 3152 (Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Belleville).

Power generation company Exelon Generation offered SB

660 (Sen. Antonio Munoz, D-Chicago) and HB 2861 (Rep. Larry Walsh, D-Joliet), both of which would make changes relating to nuclear power plants and capacity markets.

Environmental advocates supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which touches on renewable energy, energy efficiency and most major areas of the energy industry. SB 2132 (Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin) and HB 3624 (Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago) were vehicles for the proposal.

Another renewable energy proposal was pushed by a coalition named Pathway to 100, with much of its focus on solar energy. The bills were SB 1781 (Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago) and HB 2966 (Rep. William Davis, D-East Hazel Crest).

Power generation company Vistra Energy advocated for SB 2078 (Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort) and HB 2713 (Rep.

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## FROM THE STAFF

**Another** Spring, another Spring Session. Lots of major issues were in play during the legislative session that ended on May 31 – some were resolved, some were not. On the energy policy front, most were not. So, we will have lots to work on over the summer and leading up to the Fall Veto Session. In the meantime, enjoy your summer as much as possible while keeping an eye on making Veto Session productive. **IEF**

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## Bills

**Senate** by vote of 59-0 and the House by vote of 116-0.

**Senate Bill 1570** (Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Peru) – would make several changes to the state's J.U.L.I.E. law dealing with marking underground utility infrastructure. Approved as amended by Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee. On 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the Senate.

**Senate Bill 2132** (Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin) – would make numerous energy policy changes. The bill is a proposal of the Clean Jobs Coalition and touches on renewable energy, energy efficiency and most major areas of the energy industry. Re-referred to Senate Assignments Committee.

**House Bill 840** (Rep. Joyce Mason, D-Gurnee/Sen. Melinda Bush, D-Grayslake) – would require the Illinois Commerce Commission to issue biennial reports to the General Assembly concerning the decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the state. Passed the House by

vote of 73-40 and the Senate by vote of 55-0.

**House Bill 2713** (Rep. Luis Arroyo, D-Chicago) – would establish a Illinois Coal to Solar and Energy Storage program to ease the transition of some of the state's coal-fired power plants to a clean energy future. Approved as amended by House Public Utilities Committee. Re-referred to House Rules Committee. Companion bill to **SB 2078** (Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort).

**House Bill 2861** (Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr., D-Joliet) – would make changes relating to nuclear power plants and capacity markets. Approved as amended by House Public Utilities Committee. Re-referred to House Rules Committee. Companion bill to **SB 660** (Sen. Antonio Munoz, D-Chicago).

**House Bill 3152** (Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Belleville) – would make changes to update the state's Electric Service Customer Choice law, including changes related to energy infrastructure modernization (Smart Grid). Approved as amended by House Public Utilities Committee. Re-referred to House Rules Committee. Companion bill to **SB 2080** (Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort).

**House Bill 3624** (Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago) – companion bill to **SB 2132**. The bill is a proposal of the Clean Jobs Coalition and touches on renewable energy, energy efficiency and most major areas of the energy industry. Approved as amended by House Energy & Environment Committee. Re-referred to House Rules Committee. **IEF**

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## Session Wrap Up

**Luis** Arroyo, D-Chicago). The bills would establish a Coal to

Solar and Energy Storage program to ease the transition of some of the state's coal-fired power plants to a clean energy future.

Power generation company NRG Energy proposed the Competitive Clean Energy Act which would eliminate all carbon emissions from the state's power supply by 2050. The vehicles were SB 135 (Sen. Dave Koehler, D-Peoria) and HB 125 (Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan).

The two energy policy bills that did pass both the House and Senate were SB 9 (Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign) and SB 651 (Sen. Kimberly Lightford, D-Chicago).

SB 9 will create the Coal Ash Prevention Act, which establishes new rules and regulations regarding coal combustion residual materials from coal-fired power plants. SB 651 adds additional requirements concerning performance obligations of alternative retail electric and natural gas suppliers. **IEF**

## Exelon Receives Three National Best Workplace Honors

**Exelon's** efforts to hire, retain and promote employees from a variety of backgrounds and to create an inclusive culture have secured the company three separate honors in 2019, including 24th place on DiversityInc's list of the Top 50 Companies. Exelon moved up eight positions in the rankings compared with 2018 as a result of continued focus on diversity and inclusion, including its work with the United Nations Women HeForShe campaign. **IEF**

## AGA Board Recommends Holistic Approach to Improving Pipeline Safety

**The** American Gas Association (AGA) Board of Directors recently approved a resolution recommending that all members implement Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS), or API RP 1173, a holistic approach to improving pipeline safety that includes the identification, prevention and remediation of safety hazards.

“We never stop searching for new and innovative ways to enhance the safety of the natural gas delivery network,” said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. “Safety is at the very core of what we do, and Pipeline Safety Management Systems is yet another way that America’s natural gas utilities go above and beyond to protect our employees, customers and the communities that we serve.”

At the heart of PSMS is a safety culture promoting non-punitive reporting and consistent self-evaluation to help identify top-priority risks, taking steps to reduce these risks in an effort to prevent incidents from occurring. PSMS manages pipeline safety through continuous monitoring and improvement and its “Plan-Do-Check-Act” cycle. PSMS requires operators to determine the steps to be taken to evaluate and enact changes/improvements within 10 specific elements.

Some elements of PSMS include:

- Leadership and Management Commitment
- Management of Change processes for asset, compliance, procedure and organizational changes
- A Corrective Action Program that logs, tracks and follows up on hazards submitted by employees and contractors

AGA has created a PSMS Discussion Group, will continue to hold an annual PSMS workshop and has published “Guidelines for Understanding Pipeline Safety Management Systems.” AGA will continue to work with other industry stakeholders to develop a series of tools to help members implement PSMS and evaluate their current programs against the full requirements of PSMS.

Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shows that natural gas pipeline incidents have continued to decline over the past 20 years. Between 2014 and 2018, excavation damage and other outside forces were the leading causes of serious incidents on distribution systems. **IEF**

## Be Aware of Electrical Dangers During Flooding

**It** could be caused by heavy rains, rising river levels, or melt water—flooding. According to the Federal Emergency Disaster Agency (FEMA), floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Some floods happen very quickly and some slowly, but in either case they can pose electrical dangers for you and your family.

Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program says, “If flood waters have made it into your home, it is critical to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, as it can create a serious danger of electrocution.”

The prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind when you are dealing with flooding in your home, but it is the first thing you should think of before you step into a flooded area. Hall adds, “If there is any question the water could be energized, do not enter the area.”

Here are some additional suggestions from Safe Electricity to help keep you and your family safe during a flood:


- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

In addition to the dangers flooding presents in a home, there are many others to consider during a flood, like:

- Never drive into flood waters because it is very difficult to tell by sight how deep floodwaters are. It only takes 6 inches of water for your car to lose control and stall. Your car could be swept out of control and into electrical dangers.
- Also, do not enter flood waters on foot or in boat. Flood waters hold unknown dangers. The water could be energized or could sweep you into electrical equipment. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- If you see downed power lines or damaged equipment, stay away, warn others to stay away, and notify the authorities. **IEF**

## MARC 2019 to Be Held In Des Moines


**The** annual meeting of the MidAmerican Regulatory Conference (MARC) will be held in Des Moines from August 11-14, 2019. The Illinois Commerce Commission is a member of MARC along with public utility commissions from several Midwestern states.

Detailed information concerning MARC 2019 and a registration form are available on the MARC website located at [www.marc-conference.org](http://www.marc-conference.org). 

## Philadelphia Hosts EEI Convention/Expo

**This** year's Annual Convention/Expo of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia from June 9-11.

More than 1,200 top decision-makers of domestic and international firms from energy-related fields will be on hand to discuss critical industry issues. In addition, attendees will be able to attend the Expo 2019 Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services.

Convention information is available from EEI at 202-508-5000. 

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