
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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ICC Orders \$1 Million Penalty on Retail Electric Supplier

On May 27, the Illinois Commerce Commission, on a vote of 3-2, ordered LifeEnergy, LLC, an alternative retail electric supplier, to pay \$1 million in penalties and over \$34,000 in customer refunds for admitted violations of state marketing and sales rules.

In its Final Order, the Commission found that LifeEnergy harmed Illinois residential consumers and the competitive retail electric market. Although LifeEnergy voluntarily forfeited its certificate of service authority to operate in Illinois and agreed to refund affected customers, the Commission chose to assess the penalty against the Company, because LifeEnergy allowed agents to market and sell to Illinois customers on its behalf without having received proper training and did not file the necessary reports to the ICC to certify that its sales agents had been trained by the May 1, 2018 deadline. In addition, the ICC identified multiple instances of sales agents approaching customers repeatedly within a 24-hour period, a prohibited act, and found that

America's Electric Companies Speak Out Against Racial Intolerance

On behalf of our nation's investor-owned electric companies, Edison Electric Institute President Tom Kuhn recently issued the following statement:

"Recent events across our nation remind us, yet again, of how racial discrimination and intolerance continue to divide our nation. We are deeply saddened and dismayed by the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others. We also are watching the protests and civil unrest unfolding across our country with heavy hearts, and, while we do not condone the violence, we understand the anger.

"In this time of national division, we remain united in our commitment to foster a culture of diversity, respect, and inclusion in our companies and in the communities in

which we live and serve. This culture of diversity and inclusion demands that we reject racism, bigotry, and hatred in every form and at every turn, as they have no place in our society.

"We are an industry with a long-standing and strong commitment to serving our customers and supporting our communities. We believe that having a diverse and inclusive workforce that mirrors the communities we serve benefits our customers, our employees, and our businesses. We also believe that a diverse workforce and diversity of thought are critical to delivering the energy solutions our customers need and expect, today and for generations to come.

"While we have made great progress in advancing diversity and inclusion within our industry, we recognize that we can—and we must—do more. At the same time, we must come together as a nation to address the problems that have plagued our communities and our country for so long,

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FROM THE STAFF

We hope everyone is hanging in there and making the best of a most unusual situation. Legislators, staff and lobbyists are all trying to adjust to the new (hopefully temporary) normal and be as effective in their jobs and services as possible. It's certainly a challenge but Illinois seems to be faring better than most states in terms of forging this new path forward. In spite of everything, there are some remarkable people doing some amazing things to help all of us get through this crisis. Stay safe. [IEF](#)

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ICC

the Company failed to timely process customer requests to rescind enrollments.

From the bench, ICC Chairman Zalewski stated, "LifeEnergy not only harmed Illinois consumers by using methods contrary to Illinois rules and regulations, but also harmed the Illinois retail market. This is not what competition is supposed to be about." Chairman Zalewski also noted LifeEnergy's wanton disregard for Illinois' citizens.

A staff report, referencing at least three informal complaints from consumers to the Commission's Consumer Services ("CSD"), resulted in the initiation of Docket No. 18-1540 on September 24, 2018, to investigate whether LifeEnergy had complied with recent amendments to 83 Ill. Adm. Code 412 ("Part 412").

LifeEnergy stopped marketing to customers a week after the investigation was initiated by the Commission, and later surrendered its certificate to operate as an ARES in Illinois, after having entered into an asset purchase agreement with NRG for the sale of all customer contracts, including those in Illinois.

Alternative retail electric suppliers are obligated to comply with the Commission's Code Part 412, which sets forth compliance requirements for selling or marketing to residential and/or small commercial customers. These rules pertain to in-person solicitations, telemarketing, inbound enrollment calls, direct mail, and online marketing solicitations. Additionally, provisions of the rules relate to customer notice, training of RES agents, records retention, rescission of contracts, early termination fees, among others.

The Company will refund all customers enrolled with LifeEnergy between May 1, 2018 and July 2, 2018 in an amount which is equal to the difference between what the customer actually paid and the amount that they would have paid to the default service (ComEd), which is estimated to be approximately \$34,178. Under the Final Order, the Company must issue the refunds within 45 days of the Order taking effect, and to file proof of the distribution of refunds with the ICC within 30 days of the refund. [IEF](#)

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acknowledge the pain of the Black community, and work together to find solutions.

"We all have the power—individually and collectively—to effect change and to engage in the process of healing." [IEF](#)

Ameren Illinois Offers Hardship Grants to Small Businesses and NGOs

Ameren Illinois announced that funding is available for small businesses and non-profits that have fallen behind on their electric bills. Under the company's COVID-19 Economic Hardship Recovery Program, one-time grants of up to \$500 will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, or until the funds are exhausted.

"This has been a challenging time for many small businesses and non-profits that have experienced economic hardship due to COVID-19," said Richard J. Mark, chairman and president of Ameren Illinois. "As these organizations begin to re-establish their operations, it's my hope that this funding will help them along the road to recovery."

To be considered, businesses must have an active, non-residential account, 50 or fewer full-time employees, and a principal office in Illinois. Eligible businesses may include, but are not limited to: small commercial enterprises, restaurants, clothing stores, hair salons, flower shops, and fitness facilities. [IEF](#)

Exelon Taking Major Steps to Electrify 30 Percent of Utility Vehicle Fleet by 2025; 50 Percent by 2030

On June 3, Exelon Corporation announced that its six electric and gas utilities will continue advancing transportation electrification to benefit customers and communities by taking major steps to electrify its fleet of vehicles. Exelon's utilities, which serve approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries, will electrify 30 percent of their vehicle fleet by 2025, increasing to 50 percent by 2030. This transition will be achieved through a combination of fully electric vehicles, vehicles with plug-in idle mitigation units and plug-in hybrids.

"Exelon is committed to providing a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities while achieving excellent operational performance," said Calvin Butler, CEO of Exelon Utilities. "The transportation sector represents about a third of the total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation electrification holds the promise of helping the cities and states in which we operate meet their environmental goals, reduce their carbon footprint, bring cleaner air to all communities we serve and create economic opportunity through job creation and reduced energy costs. We are proud to lead by example as one of the first utility companies to take major steps to electrify our own fleet of vehicles."

Exelon's utilities have a combined fleet of more than 7,200 vehicles. Electrifying 30 percent of the fleet has the potential to annually eliminate 15 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions (7,000 mtCO₂e) by 2025 – potentially avoiding over 25,000 metric tons cumulatively and saving more than one million gallons of fuel from 2020-2025. Electrifying 50 percent of the fleet could reduce annual emissions by 12,000-15,000 metric tons by 2030, potentially avoiding more than 65,000 metric tons cumulatively from 2020-2030. That's the equivalent to the carbon removed by one million trees planted and grown for 10 years.

IEF

Vistra Announces Next Phase of Battery Energy Storage Systems at its Moss Landing Facility

Vistra recently announced that, subject to approval by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), it will expand the size of the battery energy storage systems at its Moss Landing Power Plant site in Moss Landing, California. The company has entered into a 10-year resource adequacy agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for a new 100-megawatt/400-megawatt hour battery to complement the 300-MW/1,200-MWh battery already under construction. On Monday, May 18, PG&E filed its application with the CPUC to approve the contract, with a decision expected within 120 days.

"Our Moss Landing site provides a unique opportunity for extensive battery development with its existing infrastructure and the physical space needed for even more potential growth. Utilizing our existing power plant sites allows us to cost-competitively develop renewable and battery storage assets as we rotate our power generation portfolio toward carbon-free technologies," said Curt Morgan, Vistra's president and CEO. "Vistra is appreciative of the opportunity to, once again, work with PG&E and the State of California to help integrate clean energy from renewable generation sources and ensure reliability of the electric system."


Today's announcement brings Vistra's total to 436.25 MW/1,745 MWh of battery energy storage under contract in California:

- Moss Landing – Phase I (300 MW / 1,200 MWh)
- Moss Landing – Phase II (100 MW / 400 MWh)
- Oakland (36.25 MW / 145 MWh)

Vistra is a market leader in utility-scale battery development: in addition to its California projects, the company's 10-MW/42-MWh Upton 2 Battery Storage Facility came online in December 2018 and is the largest solar-plus-storage system in Texas. IEF

Current Issues Seminar in New Mexico September 27-30


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 September 27-30, 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. 

Austin Hosts EEI Convention/Expo

This year's Annual Convention/Expo of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) has been cancelled. The event was scheduled to be held at the JW Marriott Downtown in Austin, Texas from June 7-9.

More than 1,200 top decision-makers of domestic and international firm from energy-related fields were scheduled to be on hand to discuss critical industry issues. In addition, attendees would have been able to attend the Expo 2020 Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services.

Convention 2021 information will be available from EEI later this year. 

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.

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