
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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Bills of Interest

The following bills of interest to the energy industry have been filed in the 101st Illinois General Assembly, which is now in its second Spring Session:

Senate Bill 135 (Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria) – proposed amendments have been filed (but not yet approved) that 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. On 3rd Reading in the Senate. Companion bill to **House Bill 125** (Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan).

Senate Bill 1781 (Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago) – would implement a plan designed to lead the state to a 100 per cent clean energy future, relying largely on solar energy development. Re-referred to Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee. Companion bill to **House Bill 2966** (Rep. Will Davis, D-East Hazel Crest).

Senate Bill 2132 (Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin) – companion bill to HB 3624. 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.

Lots of Hearings and Meetings on Energy Policy During Spring Session

While actual legislation on major energy policy issues has not yet progressed in the Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly, the number of legislative hearings and stakeholder meetings on key topics has certainly mushroomed.

In addition to hearings being held by key Senate and House committees, working group meetings organized by the Governor’s Office are also underway. The common thread of all this activity is an attempt to chart a path toward the state’s “clean energy future.”

In the State Senate, Chairman Michael Hastings (D-Frankfort) of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee is holding a series of subject matter hearings on various aspects of moving forward on clean energy policy issues. The first such hearing was held on March 5th and subsequent hearings are likely to be held on a weekly basis during the remainder of

the legislative session.

The first hearing in the House of Representatives was held by the House Public Utilities Committee and Chairman Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-Joliet) on February 21st and focused on the current debate over the future of the PJM Interconnection’s capacity market. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a controversial order for PJM to revamp its capacity market where energy companies bid to provide power supply in future years to ensure system reliability.

The PJM Interconnection operates the electricity grid in thirteen states, including the Commonwealth Edison Company service territory in Chicago and northern Illinois.

The House Energy & Environment Committee chaired by Rep. Ann Williams (D-Chicago) is the other key House committee holding hearings on energy policy issues. The Committee

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FROM THE STAFF

As you can tell from our front page, it's already been a busy Spring Session on the energy policy front. And, clearly, there is more to come as the legislative session moves forward. We will try to keep our readers up to date on all the important news as policymakers discuss and debate the state's energy future. Readers, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions in this regard. We're always ready to help. **IEF**

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Bills of Interest

Re-referred to Senate Assignments Committee. v

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

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. On 2nd Reading in the House.

House Bill 3987 (Rep. Mark Batnick, R-Plainfield) – would prohibit utility recovery of costs in purchasing zero emission credits from clean energy generation sources. Assigned to House Public Utilities Committee.

House Bill 5363 (Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr., D-Joliet) – would establish a formula rates ratemaking methodology for natural gas utilities. Assigned to House Rules Committee. Companion bill to **Senate Bill 3696** (Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora).

House Bill 5663 (Rep. Marcus Evans, Jr., D-Chicago) - - would establish a Illinois Coal to Solar and Energy Storage program to ease the transition for some of the state's coal-fired power plants to a clean energy future. Assigned to House Public Utilities Committee. Companion bill to **Senate Bill 3848** (Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort).

House Bill 5673 (Rep. Latoya Greenwood, D-East St. Louis) – would make several changes to the provision of electricity services in Central and Southern Illinois. Assigned to House Rules Committee. Companion bill to **Senate Bill 3977** (Sen. Christopher Belt, D-East St. Louis). **IEF**

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Energy Policy

Held an initial subject matter hearing on “Equity: Jobs and Environmental Justice, and Workforce and Supplier Diversity” on March 6th in Chicago. More hearings will follow.

On top of the above-described legislative hearings, the Governor's Office has put together some stakeholder working groups centered on key aspects of the state's future energy policy. Those working groups have also begun to meet on a regular basis.

There is no shortage of energy policy legislative proposals this Spring. Our front-page article on Bills of Interest identifies

the major energy bills that have been filed during the 101st General Assembly. **IEF**

Nicor Gas Makes Two-Year, \$100,000 Commitment to Habitat for Humanity

Nicor Gas has made a two-year, \$100,000 commitment to two local Habitat for Humanity affiliates to support construction of new homes for families in the DuPage and Fox Valley areas. Nicor Gas employees will also volunteer their personal time to aid building efforts at Habitat for Humanity locations across the state throughout the summer.

“At Nicor Gas, we understand how significant having a warm place to return to each day can be for families,” said Pat White-side, vice president of Business Support for Nicor Gas. “Our employees’ support for Habitat for Humanity is an extension of the hard work they put in every day to ensure our communities feel the comfort of home.”

This is the second, two-year commitment between Nicor Gas and Habitat for Humanity. In 2018, Nicor Gas donated \$60,000 and 850 volunteer hours by employees, family and friends, who together helped build 11 homes for families through the Fox Valley and DuPage Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

“Nicor Gas employees get up close and personal with our families, transforming their lives forever,” said Jeffrey J. Barrett, executive director at Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity. “Our four-year partnership extends beyond funds, they give their hands and feet and minds and hearts.” **IEF**

Byron Generating Station Celebrates 4,500 Consecutive Days of Carbon-Free Nuclear Power Production & 45th Anniversary

On Feb.24th, the Byron Generating Station in Northern Illinois celebrated an impressive 4,500 consecutive days producing carbon-free energy for Illinois and beyond, while also marking 45 years on site. Employees, retirees and local leaders were on hand for a cake cutting to mark the occasion. Oregon's own O's Bakery designed an incredible edible replica of the plant for the occasion.

Construction work started at the Exelon Generation location in Byron in 1975, with the Unit 1 reactor coming online in 1985 and Unit 2 in 1987. Nuclear reactors like the ones at the dual-unit Byron Station are very reliable, running around the clock. Every 18 months, operators shut down a reactor for only few weeks to support refueling and maintenance. Over the past 13 years, when one reactor shut down for maintenance, the other unit stayed online allowing the facility to continuously provide electricity to the region. The nuclear plant's 700-plus workforce prides itself on precision monitoring and maintenance programs, which help the plant sustain its status as a model of reliability.

The plant generates enough carbon-free electricity to power more than 2.3 million homes and businesses while preventing the release of nearly 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. Over the lifetime of both units' operation, that's the equivalent of taking approximately 2.5 million cars off of the road every year.

"Clean power-generating facilities like Byron Station are on the front lines of combatting climate change," said Byron Station Site Vice President Mark Kanavos. "Americans want carbon-free electricity, which our nuclear plants deliver to millions every day. They also want reliability, and nuclear plants are the unquestioned champion of reliable electricity production in this country."

The average nuclear plant in the United States operated at full power about 92 percent of the time of 2019. On average, Exelon's nuclear plants ran at full power more than 95 percent of the year. Byron Station topped the company's and country's average run time by operating at full power more than 96.9 percent of the time in 2019. The always-on aspect of nuclear power isn't lost on its residents. **IEF**

Diane Leopold Will Be New AGA Chair

Diane Leopold, executive vice president and co-chief operating officer of Dominion Energy will be the Chair of the American Gas Association (AGA) Board of Directors.

"America's natural gas utilities are working every day to build a safe, clean energy future for the people and communities we serve," said Leopold. "While the move from coal to natural gas has dramatically lowered emissions from the power sector, we know there is much more to do. We are using advanced technologies to reduce methane emissions across the natural gas delivery system. We are increasing our energy efficiency programs, so our customers can use less. We are helping other industries reduce their reliance on higher-carbon fuels, so they can lower their carbon footprints too. I am incredibly proud to take the helm of the American Gas Association at this exciting time, and I look forward to working with AGA member companies in every corner of the country as we build momentum for a cleaner future together."

At Dominion Energy, Leopold oversees three operating segments: Gas Transmission & Storage, consisting of 15,900 miles of natural gas transmission, gathering and storage pipelines, gas storage operations and the Cove Point LNG facility; Gas Distribution, which has four gas local distribution companies serving nearly 3 million customer accounts in Idaho, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming; and Dominion Energy South Carolina, a natural gas and electric utility serving 1.1 million customer accounts.

"Diane Leopold is a strong voice for our industry, leading by example through her steadfast vision for how our industry can continue to be clean energy leaders in the coming decades. We are incredibly fortunate to have her stepping into this role at this time as we focus on pathways to achieve our shared goal of reducing emissions while maintaining the quality of life that Americans enjoy," said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert.

Harbert pointed to Dominion Energy's renewable natural gas (RNG) initiative as an example of utility efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through smart innovation, new and modernized infrastructure, and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers. A recent study by the American Gas Foundation estimates that by 2040 approximately 4,513 trillion Btu of RNG could be produced annually leading to a 95 percent reduction in emissions from the natural gas residential sector. **IEF**

Current Issues Seminar in New Mexico April 5-8

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 April 5-8, 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. **IEF**

Austin Hosts EEI Convention/Expo

This year's Annual Convention/Expo of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) will 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 firms from energy-related fields will be on hand to discuss critical industry issues. In addition, attendees will be able to attend the Expo 2020 Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services.

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

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