
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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Bills of Interest

The following bills of interest to the energy industry are under consideration in the 100th Illinois General Assembly during its Spring 2018 session:

Senate Bill 2213 (Sen. Daniel Biss, D-Skokie and Rep. Juliana Stratton, D-Chicago) – would require state agencies to adopt, maintain and enforce environmental rules that are at least as stringent as various previous regulatory baselines under federal law. Passed the Senate on a vote of 32-21-1. Arrived in the House.

Senate Bill 3005 (Sen. Kwame Raoul, D-Chicago) – would allow any “person” to appeal or intervene in lawsuits challenging decisions of state agencies, a legal status which is currently reserved for “parties” to the decision. Referred to the Senate Assignments Committee.

Senate Bill 3549 (Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet and Rep. Arthur Turner, D-Chicago) – would require certain inspections of underground natural gas storage facilities. Passed the Senate on a vote of 52-0. Referred to the House Rules Committee.

New Retail Electricity Sales and Marketing Rules Now in Effect

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) wants consumers to be aware that effective May 1, any Retail Electric Supplier (RES) seeking to solicit customers in Illinois must abide by stringent new sales and marketing rules. The rules were changed and adopted by the ICC to ensure consumers have the tools they need to make an informed decision when choosing a retail electric supplier (RES).

“The ICC is committed to protecting consumers in our competitive energy marketplace. Whether it is door-to-door or a phone solicitation, RES companies and their agents must now adhere to strict new guidelines to ensure potential customers understand that they are engaging in a sales transaction and have all the information they need to make a well-educated decision,” said ICC Executive Director Cholly Smith.

Some of the key rule changes

include:

- RES agents must clearly use their own company name and not represent themselves as the utility or a government agency when approaching customers about their services. Identification badges must be visible to the consumer.
- Agents must provide shoppers with a single-page disclosure statement that clearly explains prices and fees for electric service, the length of contract, whether the rate is fixed or variable, the customer’s right to rescind/cancel, and any applicable termination fee. The document must also alert consumers that they are being solicited.
- Door-to-door agents must receive training, pass a criminal background check, and be adequately monitored. The company must take corrective action if necessary.
- Solicitation phone calls that last longer than two-minutes and every sales call that leads

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FROM THE STAFF

We're heading into the home stretch of the 2018 Spring legislative session for the Illinois General Assembly and, as usual, the activity is getting more and more intense. Bills that have cleared the chamber of origin are now being considered by the other chamber and the deadline for action on those bills is rapidly approaching. The legislature will be in session most days between now and the official session deadline of May 31st. The big question is whether a budget agreement will be reached, but there are lots of other bills still in play (including some of those listed in our front page article). We will try to wrap up the action in our June edition. Thanks for reading. **IEF**

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Bills

House Bill 4081 (Rep. Mike Halpin, D-Rock Island and Sen. Emil Jones III, D-Chicago) – would impose sanctions and penalties on any company that relocates a call center, or large portion of a call center, out of state. Passed the House on a vote of 61-49. Referred to the Senate Assignments Committee.

House Bill 4898 (Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago) – would prohibit a utility in a specific geographic area from using a previously approved rider mechanism to recover costs of its infrastructure modernization program. Re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

House Bill 5101 (Rep. Marcus Evans, D-Chicago) – would limit electricity customer choice to using municipal aggregation programs to obtain power from alternative retail electric suppliers (ARES). Re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

House Bill 5564 (Rep. Anna Moeller, D-Elgin) – would require that parties have the option of trial by jury in property condemnation proceedings associated with use of eminent domain authority. Tabled in the House Judiciary – Civil Committee.

House Bill 5626 (Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago) – would make several statutory changes regarding alternative retail electric suppliers (ARES), including not allowing ARES to charge certain customers more for electricity than the rate charged by the default electricity supplier. Re-referred to the House Rules Committee. **IEF**

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ICC

To an enrollment must be recorded and saved by the company. These recordings will help the ICC investigate consumer complaints.

□ Information about the company must be available online; and customers must be notified about upcoming rate changes or if a contract is nearing expiration or renewal.

Consumers with questions or complaints following an encounter with an RES agent are urged to contact the ICC's Consumer Services Division at 1-800-524-0795. **IEF**

Vistra Energy Completes Merger with Dynegy

Vistra Energy Corp. the parent company for TXU Energy and Luminant, announced on April 9, that it has completed its previously announced merger with Dynegy Inc. The closing of the transaction follows the approval from stockholders of both Vistra Energy Corp. and Dynegy Inc. in March, and the receipt of all required regulatory approvals. Vistra Energy Corp. will be the name of the combined company moving forward, and the combined company's stock will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the current ticker symbol for Vistra Energy.

The combination of Dynegy's generation capacity and existing retail footprint with Vistra Energy's integrated ERCOT model creates the lowest-cost integrated power company in the industry and positions the combined company as the leading integrated retail and generation platform throughout key competitive power markets in the United States.

With the transaction complete, Vistra Energy now:

- Employs about 6,000 people across 12 states.
- Serves approximately 2.7 million residential customers in five top retail states.
- Serves approximately 240,000 commercial and industrial retail customers.
- Owns approximately 40,000 megawatts of installed generation capacity.
- Has power generation capacity that is more than 60 percent natural gas-fueled, with 84 percent located within the ERCOT, PJM, and ISO-NE competitive power markets. **IEF**

Ameren Awards Ivy League Scholarships to Diverse Business Suppliers

The executive officers of two St. Louis metropolitan area companies have been awarded business-development scholarships from Ameren Corporation to attend the Minority Business Executive Program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

The recipients were selected based on their strategic relationship with Ameren and the supplier's success in providing service to a range of companies in Ameren's 64,000-square-mile service territory.

The 2018 scholarship recipients are:

William Mason, Jr., president of Mason's Landscaping & Construction Services, a commercial landscaping and restoration company headquartered in St. Louis. The company restores yards after Ameren crews finish repair work. Mason's Landscaping & Construction Services is a Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE).

"Ameren has given us the opportunity to work and to provide work to others in search of a better life," said Mason. "Through the Tuck scholarship opportunity, I'll be able to continue to grow and shape my business for the future. This is a tremendous opportunity for me, personally, and for all those who rely on our business for employment."

Dana Howard, CEO and president of Zoie, LLC., a site preparation company based in East St. Louis, Illinois. Zoie, LLC., performs excavation and grading services for Ameren. The company is a Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE).

"Ameren's supplier diversity program has helped Zoie compete for and win construction contracts across our region," said Howard. "Being awarded a scholarship to improve my business acumen is just one more way Ameren supports minority-owned companies and helps them succeed."

Ameren began offering scholarships to local suppliers in 2009.

"Zoie and Mason's Landscaping & Construction Services are valued Ameren partners, as are all of our diverse suppliers," said Dennis Weisenborn, vice president corporate safety, supply services and chief procurement officer at Ameren. "By recognizing and investing in the development of diverse businesses, Ameren is able to develop powerful long-term partnerships that are necessary for our success and the economic success of our region." **IEF**

Exelon and ComEd Named Corporation of the Year by Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc.

The Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council Inc. (ChicagoMSDC) recognized Exelon and ComEd as Corporation of the Year at their annual Chicago Business Opportunity Fair, the first time in the Council's 51-year history that two corporations received the award for empowering minority businesses.

The Corporation of the Year award is given to recognize companies who are champions of supplier diversity and empower minority business success throughout the entire organization. Exelon spent \$2 billion with diverse suppliers last year, representing 22 percent of the corporation's total supplier purchases, and ComEd was the largest contributor to that, with \$711 million spent with local and diverse suppliers, which is more than a third of the company's entire supplier purchasing portfolio.


"We value the partnerships we have with our diverse suppliers, our woman-owned and veteran-owned businesses," said Bridget Reidy, Exelon's Executive Vice President of Corporate Operations, who accepted the award on behalf of Exelon and ComEd. "These partnerships grow our business by helping to identify the best talent, bring innovative technologies to the forefront, and find new ways of doing business."

The ChicagoMSDC is a premier organization focused on increasing business opportunities between major buying organizations and minority-owned businesses. The mission of the ChicagoMSDC is to certify, develop, connect, and advocate for minority businesses while creating sustainable and profitable relationships between minority suppliers and major buying organizations.

"We are only as successful as the diverse cities and neighborhoods that we serve," said ComEd President and CEO Anne Pramaggiore. "That's why we invest in businesses owned and led by women and people of color who come from our communities. We know that forming deep partnerships with these firms makes us a better, stronger, and smarter company, and has a positive impact that ripples through our communities." **IEF**

MARC 2018 To Be Held In Kansas City


The annual meeting of the MidAmerican Regulatory Conference (MARC) will be held in Kansas City from June 3-6, 2018. The Illinois Commerce Commission is a member of MARC along with public utility commissions from several Midwestern states. Illinois Commissioner John Rosales was last year's President of MARC.

Detailed information concerning MARC 2018 and a registration form are available on the MARC website located at www.marc-conference.org. 

San Diego Hosts EEI Convention/Expo

This year's Annual Convention/Expo of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego from June 4-7.

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 2018 Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services.

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

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