
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 5

MAY, 2019

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) – 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. Approved by Senate by vote of 39-9-7.

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 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 3rd Reading in the Senate.

Senate Bill 2132 (Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin) – would

EPRI Analysis Identifies Potential Impacts and Solutions to Mitigate An Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Event on the Electric Grid

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has released findings from its three-year study of potential impacts of high-altitude electromagnetic pulses (EMP) on the electric transmission system, along with options to mitigate those impacts.

The report, High-Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse and the Bulk Power System—Potential Impacts and Mitigation Strategies, includes results from extensive laboratory testing and analysis of potential EMP impacts on the electric transmission system, with updated information that uses scenarios provided by Los Alamos National Laboratory. EPRI's research included extensive testing at its EMP laboratories in Charlotte, N.C. and Knoxville, Tenn.

An EMP event can be caused by a nuclear explosion above Earth's atmosphere that propels electromagnetic energy towards

the surface, generating an initial, short-duration pulse (E1); an intermediate pulse with characteristics similar to those caused by nearby lightning strikes (E2); followed by a late pulse (E3) which is similar to a severe geomagnetic disturbance caused by solar flares.

Key findings for the initial pulse include:

- Transmission electronic equipment damage or disruption can result from induced voltage surges in connecting cables, as well as by direct exposure to the initial pulse.
- Digital protective relays – devices that help detect faults in the electric system – were generally resilient to direct exposure to the initial pulse but were found to be vulnerable to the surges induced on control and communication cables.

The research indicated that

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FROM THE STAFF

The rubber has truly met the road in terms of the Spring Session of the 101st Illinois General Assembly. Deadlines are looming, as is the 31st of May scheduled adjournment date. Lots of major issues are still in play, including sports gambling, marijuana legalization, graduated income tax, and others. And, of course, the major focus of every Spring Session – the Budget. There are also numerous bills and issues involving energy policy that are in play between now and the end of the month. It's going to be a busy, busy time in Springfield. Best wishes to everyone. **IEF**

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Bills

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) – would require the Illinois Commerce Commission to issue biennial reports to the General Assembly concerning the decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the state. Approved as amended by House Energy & Environment Committee. On 2nd Reading in the House.

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.

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.

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.

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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EPRI

Initial pulse impacts could be mitigated through various options including:

- Shielded cables with proper grounding;
- Low-voltage surge protection devices and/or filters
- Use of fiber optics-based communications;
- Enhanced electromagnetic shielding of electric substation control houses; and

- Grounding and bonding enhancements. **IEF**

Carrie Zalewski Named ICC Chairman by Gov. Pritzker

Governor JB Pritzker has promoted Commissioner Carrie Zalewski as Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). Zalewski was recently appointed to a five-year term to the Commission and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

"It's an honor to have been chosen to lead the ICC by Governor Pritzker. Illinois is on the verge of a major energy transformation. I am very excited and thankful to Governor Pritzker for the opportunity to serve in this position during these very interesting and challenging times. The transition to the ICC has been very natural for me based on my education and experience as a regulator, attorney and engineer. I am ready to get to work on behalf of the people of Illinois in this new capacity," said Zalewski.

Chairman Zalewski is an accomplished, well-respected attorney with extensive public service as a state regulator. Since 2009, she served on the Illinois Pollution Control Board, where she helped decide complex environmental cases under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, shaped critical rulemaking and worked to properly balance the interests of Illinois businesses and residents while protecting Illinois' land, air, and water. She was appointed under Democratic and Republican governors and earned the respect of her peers and stakeholders directly involved in Board decisions. **IEF**

Ameren Awards Business Scholarships to Minority Suppliers

The top executive officers at three local 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 three minority-owned businesses selected are headquartered in St. Louis, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

"Ameren is proud to support the continued advancement of diverse-owned businesses, not only by partnering with them on direct opportunities, but by truly helping them develop into successful businesses with a strong business Acumen foundation," said **Pardeep Gill**, vice president of supply chain and chief procurement officer at Ameren. "This unique and special opportunity with Dartmouth is an opportunity for Ameren to invest in minority suppliers through education which can be more powerful than any other investment."

The 2019 scholarship recipients are:

- **Cory Elliott, president, CMT LLC**
- **Kevin Edwards, president, Edwards-Kamadulski**
- **Lus Haberberger, president, LUZCO Technologies, LLC**

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

Since 2009, Ameren has awarded 20 business scholarships to diverse-owned businesses. In addition, each year the company invites hundreds of entrepreneurs and diverse businesses to attend symposiums and summits where participants can network and learn about Ameren's procurement opportunities. The company finished 2018 with \$624 million in total spending with diverse suppliers.

St. Louis-based Ameren Corporation powers the quality of life for 2.4 million electric customers and more than 900,000 natural gas customers in a 64,000-square-mile area through its Ameren Missouri and Ameren Illinois rate-regulated utility subsidiaries. Ameren Illinois provides electric delivery and transmission service as well as natural gas delivery service while Ameren Missouri provides vertically integrated electric service, with generating capacity of over 10,300 megawatts, and natural gas delivery service. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois develops regional electric transmission projects. **IEF**

NRG Energy's 2018 Sustainability Report Showcases 37% Reduction in Carbon Emissions

NRG Energy Inc. has released its 2018 Sustainability Report, providing an update on the Company's comprehensive sustainability strategy. NRG demonstrated advancement across all of its previously announced sustainability initiatives, including a 37% reduction in carbon emissions, marking significant progress towards its science-based target of reducing emissions 50% by 2030 from a 2014 baseline.

Other notable achievements included in the report:


- Best safety year on record
- Launching an innovative renewable purchasing product, Renewable Select
- More than 16,000 Employee Volunteer Hours
- Reached leadership level of "A-" in CDP climate scoring

"Addressing climate change is the biggest challenge of this generation," said Mauricio Gutierrez, President and CEO, NRG Energy. "By making significant progress across our sustainability priorities and providing our customers with solutions to achieve their goals, we're delivering a more sustainable energy future."

This report continues NRG's commitment to leading in transparency by using the best available standards and frameworks, including the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and the Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD.) **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. 

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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