
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER, 2019

General Assembly Wraps Up Fall Veto Session

On November 14, the Illinois General Assembly wrapped up its Fall Veto Session after dealing with a myriad of issues in the six-day session. However, major energy policy issues were not among those taken up.

As is often the case in short Veto Sessions, major legislation surfaced. Included among the issues discussed were a wide variety of topics ranging from local pension reform to legislation designed to tweak the state's new recreational cannabis law.

The only significant energy-related legislation to move in either chamber of the legislature was Senate Bill 671 (Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign), which was a so-called "trailer" bill to address issues that had arisen during implementation of the underlying Senate Bill 9 that was passed during the Spring and signed into law by Governor Pritzker.

SB 671 as amended was approved by the Senate on a vote of 39-12 with 1 voting Present. The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for further consideration during the 2020 Spring Session which begins in January. In the meantime, proponents and opponents continue

Illinois' Six Nuclear Energy Facilities at Full Power During Record Cold Snap

While temperatures plunged to record-breaking lows during an unusual November cold snap early this week, Exelon Generation's six Illinois nuclear plants operated at full power, producing enough power to keep 11 million homes and businesses safe and warm. Ten of the fleet's 11 reactors ran at nearly 100 percent output levels throughout the week, providing schools, hospitals, businesses and residences the reliable, carbon-free electricity needed to keep heaters running. Dresden Station Unit 2 is currently shut down for a refueling outage.

"Even during this unseasonably cold weather, our Illinois fleet's performance further demonstrates the reliability and resiliency of nuclear power in any kind of weather," said Exelon's Chief Nu

clear Officer Bryan Hanson. "We are dedicated to being online when customers need us most, no matter what Mother Nature throws at us at any time of year."

Exelon Generation's Illinois nuclear fleet has proven its mettle time and again during Midwest deep freezes. Throughout record deep freezes earlier this year, the Illinois nuclear fleet operated at 100 percent around the clock. A year prior, the fleet recorded a near-perfect reliability rate, operating 97.6 percent of the time. And during the 2014 Polar Vortex, the plants were critical to meeting electricity demand, as coal piles froze and natural gas supplies were re-routed for home heating.

Winter resiliency and reliability requires year-long planning, preparation and maintenance. Exelon Generation workers

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FROM THE STAFF

The Fall Veto Session ended on November 14th, so now comes a little break before the Second Session of the 101st Illinois General Assembly begins in January, 2020. Like this year, it should be a very full Session with lots of follow up to some of the major bills passed in the Spring. There might also be action on some of the big energy policy bills held over from 2019. So, enjoy the Holiday Season and come back refreshed and ready to go in 2020. **IEF**

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Fall Veto Session

To discuss possible further changes to the bill.

Among other topics debated during the late October and early November Session were: changes to the recently passed gaming law that authorized a significant expansion of casinos and other gaming in the state; a cap on out-of-pocket expenses by patients with insulin prescriptions; limitations on electronic smoking devices (vaping); and attempts to strengthen the state's ethics laws in light of recent federal investigations.

The General Assembly will return to action in January but the schedule for the period leading up to the mid-March Primary Election is expected to be relatively light. **IEF**

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Nuclear Energy Facilities at Full Power During Cold Snap

Spend months ensuring that backup generators and spare equipment is ready for inclement weather. This fall, operators and maintenance personnel inspected freeze protection systems, tested electrical equipment, and properly aligned plant systems to prepare all Exelon Generation facilities for sub-zero temperatures, icy conditions and heavy snowfall. These efforts are in addition to the many equipment upgrades and "winter readiness" maintenance activities performed during refueling outages. **IEF**

ICC Announces Jeanine Robinson As Director Of Diversity and Community Affairs

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) recently announced Jeanine Robinson as its new Director of Diversity and Community Affairs.

"Encouraging and assisting Illinois utilities, energy suppliers and Class 1 railroads to improve their supplier diversity is a priority for the ICC. I am very pleased Jeanine Robinson is filling the position as Director of Diversity and Community Affairs. She comes to the ICC with vast experience in both the public and private sectors. I'm confident she will do a fantastic job," said ICC Chairman Carrie Zalewski.

Robinson comes to the ICC with a background rich in project management, organizing events, developing relationships and maintaining communication with companies and organizations, facilitating meetings, and managing staff.

IEF

Ameren Releases New Data On Environmental Stewardship Programs

Ameren Corporation recently extended its commitment to customers, electric and natural gas industry investors, and other stakeholders by voluntarily participating in the second iteration of the environmental, social, governance and sustainability-related (ESG/sustainability) reporting template spearheaded by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the American Gas Association (AGA). This template includes additional topics in the qualitative section related to cybersecurity governance and natural gas sustainability. Ameren's report using the Version 2 template is now available under the Environmental, Social and Governance section at AmerenInvestors.com.

"This is the only industry-focused and investor-driven ESG reporting framework providing a complete look at how we operate in a sustainable manner," said Gwen Mizell, vice president of sustainability and electrification for Ameren. "We continuously work to improve our operating infrastructure and processes for our customers, stakeholders and shareholders. From making investments in our energy generation and delivery systems to creating a values-based safety culture, Ameren is dedicated to keeping stewardship in the forefront."

Ameren has been involved with the EEI-AGA ESG/sustainability reporting structure since its inception in 2017. The template framework was developed as a direct result of investors requesting more uniform and consistent ESG/sustainability metrics. The version 2 template, just released, incorporates 2018 data giving investors and others the most up-to-date information available.

For decades, Ameren has recognized the importance of being a strong corporate citizen, which includes providing extensive information about our operations. This spring, Ameren published a climate risk report, *Building a Cleaner Energy Future*, which is a comprehensive look at the steps Ameren is taking to meet its obligation to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy in an environmentally responsible manner to its customers and the communities it serves while effectively balancing climate-related risks. Another newer, voluntary report focuses on water resiliency and assesses future availability of water resources in Ameren's region and also in the Powder River Basin, a key portion of our supply chain. The report summarizes water resource availability trends under various climate assumptions.

IEF

AGA Expects Lower bills For Winter

On October 24, the American Gas Association (AGA) said that customers across the nation may see residential gas bills that are two to four percent lower than the previous winter.

"Americans are fortunate to be able to rely on natural gas knowing that the cost of heating their home will not break the family budget," said Karen Harbert, AGA President and CEO.

During the 2019-2020 Winter Outlook event held today, AGA Managing Director of Energy Analysis Richard Meyer, and AGA Senior Analyst Brendan O'Brien presented the findings and methodology for the annual survey of AGA member utilities. The results highlighted a twenty-four percent drop in the price of natural gas compared to one year ago, an expected warmer-than-normal winter and 1.3 percent improvement in customer efficiency driven by utility energy efficiency programs and other measures.

Meyer commented at the event, "Our winter outlook shows that customers continue to benefit from the access and use of natural gas. We see record levels of natural gas production amid a low-price environment, which has been beneficial to homes and businesses. What is also evident is how America's natural gas utilities plan and prepare for the winter heating season to ensure their customers have affordable and reliable energy supplies on the coldest days of the year when consumers need it most."

"Based on a survey of AGA member natural gas utilities, sixty-two percent of respondents said that bills this winter will be the same or lower than last year," said O'Brien. His presentation also noted:

- Natural gas will continue to be the lowest-cost energy option for home heating.
- EIA's winter forecast for Henry Hub price of gas is 24 percent lower now compared to one year ago and 12 percent lower than the average winter price over past five years.
- Expectations are for a warmer-than-normal winter based on National Weather Service 2019-2020 Winter forecast (3,635 heating degree days vs 3,816). **IEF**

Energy Association Coordinates Illinois Night Reception

The Illinois Energy Association will coordinate the Illinois Night Cocktail Reception at the 131st Annual Convention of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in San Antonio, Texas. The reception will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, at Hotel Palacio del Rio.

Illinois Night provides an opportunity for all convention attendees from the state to get together for a social hour during the four-day convention.

Reservations to attend the Illinois Night event can be made until November 14 by contacting the Jim Monk at 217-341-1775. **IEF**

NARUC Annual Convention in San Antonio

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will hold its Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, from November 17-20, 2019. State Commissioners and staff members from around the country will meet in various committees and subcommittees with an eye toward developing NARUC policy on several important issues of interest to the regulatory community.

Members of the Illinois Commerce Commission serve on key NARUC policy committees. An Illinois Night Reception will be held on Monday, November 18. **IEF**

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