
ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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Citizens' Guide To The Illinois Commerce Commission Now Available On Website

Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Chairman Carrie Zalewski recently announced the release of a Citizens' Guide on the ICC website to help the public gain a greater understanding of the work that the ICC performs, and how members of the public may request information or assistance from the state agency.

"I am pleased the Citizens' Guide to the Illinois Commerce Commission is ready and available on the website. The ICC is a complicated state agency with many different facets. The guide will improve transparency by making it easier to navigate the agency, and better inform the public about how we can assist them," said Zalewski.

The ICC is a quasi-judicial body made up of 5 Commissioners. The Commission is responsible for regulating large public utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, telecommunications) and administering consumer protection programs with regards to intra-state commercial motor carriers of general freight,

Gas Transmission Pipeline Safety Rule Is A Consensus Approach

The American Gas Association (AGA) welcomes the gas transmission pipeline safety rule from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) which represents a consensus approach to enhancing the safety of transporting America's abundance of natural gas. PHMSA released a trio of rules intended to continue to improve the safety and resiliency of our vast energy delivery infrastructure to keep pace with increased supply and demand.

"This significant update to pipeline safety regulations is the culmination of years of work by government, industry and pipeline safety advocates," said AGA President

and CEO Karen Harbert. "We applaud PHMSA and everyone who participated in the process for a final rule that brings certainty to our industry and everyone that works to deliver natural gas to customers throughout the country that want it."

The Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee provided PHMSA with recommendations on the technical feasibility, reasonableness, cost-effectiveness and practicability of the proposed rule and recommendations to support finalizing the rule.

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FROM THE STAFF

The annual Convention of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is upon us. This year's convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas and, as usual, the Illinois Energy Association will be coordinating an Illinois Night Reception. Readers will find more information about the event and how to make reservations on page 4 of this publication. If you are planning to attend the NARUC Convention, why don't you also plan to join your friends and colleagues from Illinois at this annual reception? The Hotel Palacio del Rio is the venue and it's right on the famous Riverwalk in San Antonio. Stop on by. **IEF**

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ICC

Household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses, repossession agencies and personnel, and general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

"Whether you are interested in filing a consumer complaint against a utility or alternative retail energy supplier, looking for tips to follow before hiring a household goods mover, or information on rail safety, you will find it all in the guide," said Zaleski. "I encourage all Illinois-

ans to take a few minutes to visit our website and download a copy."

The 32-page Citizens' Guide to the Illinois Commerce Commission can be found on the consumer page of the ICC website at <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/>. **IEF**

Illinois American Water Awards Over \$88,000 In Firefighter Grants

Over \$88,000 will be shared by 90 Illinois fire departments through Illinois American Water's 2019 Firefighter Grant Program. Since the program was created in 2010, over 590 grants totaling over \$582,000 have been awarded to fire and emergency organizations serving customers in Illinois American Water's service area.

"We know the critical role water plays in protecting homes and businesses; we also know resources for our local heroes often run short. The Illinois American Water firefighter grant program was created to help bridge the gap and support our local firefighters," said Bruce Hauk, Illinois American Water President.

Illinois American Water's Firefighter Grant Program awards grants to provide personal protective gear, communications equipment, firefighting tools, water handling equipment, training materials and classroom programs. To view the list of fire departments receiving grants across the state, please visit the News & Community section of Illinois American Water's website at www.illinoisamwater.com.

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IRPS Conference To Be Held on October 22-23

The Institute for Regulatory Policy studies at Illinois State University is sponsoring a conference entitled "*Increasing Renewables and Competition in a Digital Age*" on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 22-23, 2019 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

For more information and registration, please visit the IRPS website at www.irps.ilstu.edu **IEF**

FERC Initiates Rulemaking To Revisit PURPA Rules

On Sept.19, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) voted to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) to revisit its rules and regulations implementing the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). Issuance of the NOPR opens a public comment window.

“We applaud FERC Chairman Chatterjee for his leadership and for prioritizing PURPA reform,” said Edison Electric Institute (EEI) President Tom Kuhn. “By initiating this important NOPR, Chairman Chatterjee has reaffirmed that there are concrete steps FERC can take to better protect electricity customers from unnecessary energy costs and drive additional investments in renewable energy, all while meeting the commission’s responsibilities under the Act.

“PURPA was enacted during a national oil crisis to promote increased energy conservation, efficiency, and the growth of renewable energy. Forty years later, and thanks in part to the influence of the original PURPA, renewable energy has grown dramatically, and the costs of those renewables continue to fall.

“The energy industry has undergone significant changes since PURPA was enacted,” said American Public Power Association (APPA) President and CEO Sue Kelly. “There has been a meaningful evolution in the electricity generation resource mix, including significant growth in renewable resources and the use of new and improved technologies. We applaud FERC for recognizing the need to ensure that PURPA’s implementation is aligned with today’s energy landscape.”

The 1978 law requires investor-owned electric companies, public power utilities, and electric cooperatives to purchase energy from qualifying facilities (QFs) at prices that often exceed the market.

“Today’s vote was a much-needed first step in the process of modernizing PURPA,” said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jim Matheson. “FERC’s rules implementing PURPA today promote the uneven, unplanned, and uneconomic development of facilities and provide subsidies that promote these facilities at the expense of our members, system reliability and other more affordable resources.”

“The bottom line is that non-competitively priced PURPA projects continue to be built today, forcing electric companies to buy power they often don’t need at above-market prices and raising electricity prices for customers,” added Kuhn. **IEF**

Exelon Foundation and Exelon Corp. Launch \$20 million Climate Change Investment Initiative

The Exelon Foundation and Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC), the nation’s largest generator of carbon-free energy and the only electric and gas utility in the Fortune 100, recently launched a new \$20 million Climate Change Investment Initiative (2c2i) to cultivate startups working on new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. The initiative marks the Exelon Foundation’s latest effort to support programs that benefit the environment and adds to Exelon Corp.’s continuing goal to create a clean, next-generation energy grid, utilizing the innovative approach of impact investing to generate a measurable, beneficial impact on climate change.

The Exelon Foundation will contribute \$10 million over the next 10 years to fund the initiative, which will focus on clean energy and environmental technologies with potential for wide-scale commercialization. Exelon Corp. will match that grant with up to a \$10 million in-kind investment of pro-bono services, including mentoring entrepreneurs on ways to access other sources of capital, structure business plans, allocate financial resources and meet regulatory requirements. The start-ups also will be able to tap the company’s internal innovation programs – Exelorate Growth, Constellation Technology Ventures and Partnership R&D – for counsel.

“Exelon stands with the majority of our customers who want cleaner air and affordable, reliable energy,” said Chris Crane, Exelon CEO and Chairman, Exelon Foundation. “With recent advances in technology, these are no longer mutually exclusive objectives. The Exelon Foundation Climate Change Investment Initiative will put us a step closer to a clean energy future by helping entrepreneurs translate their ideas for reversing climate change into practical solutions.”

The initiative was formally announced at a clean-energy forum hosted by The Climate Group as part of Climate Week NYC. Held annually in conjunction with the UN General Assembly, Climate Week NYC is a joint initiative of the UN and the city of New York that brings together business, government and institutional leaders to discuss climate-change actions.

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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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