



For Immediate Release
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Lead Facilitator Chosen for NextGrid: Illinois' Utility of the Future Study

CHICAGO: In consultation with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), Ameren Illinois Company (Ameren) and Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) have selected the Power and Energy System Area of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC/ECE) as lead facilitator for "NextGrid," Illinois' Utility of the Future Study.

Home to internationally renowned faculty and research groups, the Power and Energy Systems Area of UIUC/ECE has been actively involved in national research projects with organizations such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and numerous electric power industries. As part of the initiative, UIUC/ECE will also work with subject matter experts to formulate goals and guiding principles for the collaborative study.

"The lead facilitator must seek input from energy stakeholders to develop a shared base of information and to identify the opportunities and challenges of Illinois' rapidly evolving electric grid," said ICC Chairman, Brien J. Sheahan. "We look forward to a robust process and a high-level of collaboration within the Illinois energy community."

"This study will culminate in a final report offering a range of recommendations to create a 21st Century utility regulatory model supporting innovation, driving economic development, and maximizing benefits to consumers," added Cholly Smith, ICC Executive Director.

Faculty participants for the UIUC/ECE team include:

George Gross, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

George Gross is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering with an appointment as professor in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. His major research activities are in power system analysis, economics and control and electric utility regulatory policy. He has a keen interest in the interdisciplinary aspects of these areas.

William H. Sanders, Head of ECE

William H. Sanders is a Donald Biggar Willett Professor of Engineering and the Head of the UIUC/ECE. He is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and in the Department of Computer Science. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, the ACM, and the AAAS. Dr. Sanders' research interests include secure and dependable computing and security and dependability metrics and evaluation, with a focus on critical infrastructures.

Peter W. Sauer, Grainger Chair Professor of ECE

Peter Sauer has been on the faculty at UIUC since 1977 where he teaches courses and directs research on power systems and electric machines. He has authored/coauthored over 200 technical papers and the book with M. A. Pai, "Power System Dynamics and Stability." He is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia and Illinois, a Fellow of the IEEE, and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. He is currently the Grainger Chair Professor of Electrical Engineering at Illinois.

Alejandro Dominguez-Garcia, Associate Professor of ECE

Alejandro Dominguez-Garcia is Associate Professor at the UIUC/ECE, and a William L. Everitt Scholar. His research lies at the interface of system reliability theory and control theory, with special emphasis on applications to power electronics, electric power systems, and safety-critical/fault-tolerant aircraft, aerospace and automotive systems.

Subhonmesh Bose, Assistant Professor of ECE

Subhonmesh Bose is Assistant Professor at UIUC/ECE. His research lies in electricity market design under uncertainty and large-scale grid optimization problems.

Rizwan Uddin, Head (designate) of Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering

Rizwan Uddin is professor of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering at UIUC. His primary research area is nuclear power.

NextGrid is an approximately 18-month consumer-focused study to address critical issues facing Illinois' electric utility industry in the coming decade and beyond. Managed by the ICC, the study will examine the use of new technologies to improve the state's electric grid while minimizing energy costs to consumers. The study will focus on innovation, technological advancements, economic development, environmental considerations and education.

Consistent with the announcement at the ICC's June 28, 2017 Regular Open Meeting, Ameren and ComEd released an informal Request for Information (RFI) on June 30 regarding the selection of a qualified individual or organization to act as the NextGrid lead facilitator. Proposals, which were limited to five pages, were submitted through July 14.

To access the RFI, please visit the news sections of Ameren or ComEd's websites [here](#) or [here](#). To view the submitted proposals and for more information on NextGrid, visit icc.illinois.gov/NextGrid/.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of

railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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