



For Immediate Release
May 12, 2017

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ICC Hosts Summer Preparedness Policy Session

CHICAGO – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) hosted representatives from Illinois utility companies and the state’s two regional transmission organizations (RTOs) for a policy session on summer preparedness this week. Moderated by ICC Commissioner John R. Rosales, the session featured presentations focused on readiness for the summer’s anticipated high electricity demands.

“This was more than just an opportunity to review our preparations to meet distribution and weather related challenges,” said Commissioner Rosales. “This was an opportunity to examine our recent grid infrastructure improvements, our ability to respond to threats and our communications strategies to swiftly convey vital information during disruptions.”

PJM Interconnection, the wholesale electricity operator for the northern region of Illinois, predicts hot weather this summer will increase demand relative to 2016, but additional resources result in a higher forecasted reserve margin. PJM panelists discussed how transmission upgrades and more efficient technology ensure in advance that power suppliers can meet the region’s needs. MISO, the wholesale electricity provider for central and southern Illinois, also discussed the resiliency of electric service during peak demand, detailing preparedness through inclement weather and extreme system conditions.

Five full years after implementation of the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA), Illinois utilities have worked to modernize and strengthen the grid. Representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd), the largest electricity supplier in Illinois serving approximately 3.8 million customers in the greater Chicago area and northern portions of the state, discussed preparations pre and post EIMA to achieve and maintain a 99.98 percent reliability rate.

Ameren Illinois Company, which serves 1.2 million electric customers in central and southern Illinois, is preparing for an 8.2 percent increase in summer peak demand over 2016, but anticipates it will be closer to a 2.1 percent increase. MidAmerican Energy Company, electricity service provider to approximately 85,000 customers in northwestern Illinois, detailed the significant transmission expansion underway in

the MISO footprint to accommodate future increased renewable generation and energy transfers from Iowa to Illinois.

Click [here](#) to view the Summer Preparedness Policy Session presentations on the ICC website.

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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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