



For Immediate Release

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ICC to Hold Supplier Diversity Policy Session

CHICAGO – On Tuesday, June 13, from 10:30 am - 4:00 pm, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will hold its fourth annual Policy Session focusing on Supplier Diversity.

Under state law, in addition to filing an annual report on the amount spent with diverse businesses, each utility must present to the Commission the goals and results of its programs designed to encourage greater participation by women-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and small-owned businesses in the utilities' procurement opportunities.

Specifically, Section 5-117 of the Public Utilities Act requires regulated gas, electric and water companies with 100,000 customers or more to report to the ICC annually regarding procurement goals and actual spending with minority, women, veteran and small businesses.

During the morning Session, Commissioners, officials, supplier diversity advocates and business executives will share remarks and perspectives on the state of supplier diversity within Illinois utilities. The Commission will also hear a presentation from the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council (IUBDC), formed in June 2015 as a forum for best practice sharing and information exchange among Illinois' utilities with a focus on advancing the growth and utilization of diverse businesses within the state.

During the afternoon Session, a neutral, third-party expert will discuss utilities' overall compliance with Section 5-117 and opportunities for improving supplier diversity reporting methods and format. Leaders from Illinois utilities will then present an overview of their individual company's procurement goals and actual spending with diverse businesses during 2016. The overview will include details such as each utility's internal and external outreach efforts, economic impact within diverse communities, and challenges faced. The Session will close with a roundtable discussion among utility leaders and the third-party expert to highlight current trends in supplier diversity, procurement challenges and triumphs, and solutions for sustaining and improving the pool of qualified vendors.

For more details, view the session agenda [here](#). The 2016 reports filed by Ameren Illinois, Commonwealth Edison, Illinois American Water, Nicor Gas and Peoples Gas on April 15, 2017, may be viewed on the ICC's website [here](#).

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission consists of three bureaus: the Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.

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