BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

BENCH SESSION

Chicago, Illinois
January 6th, 2010

Met pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. in
the Main Hearing Room, Eighth Floor, 160 North
LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

PRESENT:

MR. CHARLES E. BOX, Chairman
MS. LULA M. FORD, Commissioner
MS. ERIN O'CONNELL-DIAZ, Commissioner
MR. SHERMAN J. ELLIOTT, Commissioner
MR. JOHN T. COLGAN, Commissioner

SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by
Barbara A. Perkovich, CSR
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CHAIRMAN BOX: Pursuant to the provisions of Illinois Open Meetings Act, I now convene a regularly scheduled bench session of the Illinois Commerce Commission. With me in Chicago are Commissioners Ford, O'Connell-Diaz, Elliott and Colgan. We do have a quorum.

Before moving into the agenda, this is the time we allow the members of the public to address the Commission. Members of the public wishing to address the Commission must notify the Chief Clerk's office at least 24 hours prior to the bench session. According to the Chief Clerk's office, there is one request to speak and the speakers are permitted 5 minutes to address the Commission.

Ms. Phillips. Just speak directly into it, about chest level.

MS. PHILLIPS: Can you hear me?

CHAIRMAN BOX: Oh, yeah.

MS. PHILLIPS: I call upon the Illinois Commerce Commission to hear my objections to the Peoples Gas Company's proposed rate hikes. The crux of my
argument is as follows: The rate hike cuts equally across a number of social categories, age, gender, social status or economic class and race or ethnicity. However, although all groups in the end must pay the same fee, the rate hike impacts them in various ways, namely, it negatively affects all but the upper middle and wealthy classes.

Senior citizens live on fixed incomes consisting of Social Security or Social Security supplemented by savings and investments. The recent economic recession and its aftermath has decimated their savings and the return on their investments, while the decision not to give a Social Security cost of living increase in 2010 has kept fixed income at a 2009 level.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, a recent study reveals a high unemployment figure for our young, especially between the ages of 18 and 24, a growing number of whom cannot afford to live apart from their elderly parents. Thus, our seniors are triply burdened, while their children cannot supplement their parents' meager incomes,
yet Peoples Gas proposes to increase the cost of living for the elderly in 2010.

More than one study shows that women earn less than men employed in comparable jobs. As a result, single women, whether parents or not, shoulder a greater economic burden than single employed men, yet Peoples Gas asks single women, many of whom are single moms, to pay as much as men for heat and gas for cooking.

The working poor and those who subsist beneath the poverty level in Chicago, many of whom are currently unemployed, due to adverse economic conditions and many of whom compromise racial or ethnic minorities, cannot afford to pay for food, clothing and shelter, let alone absorb higher rates for heat, yet Peoples Gas proposes to raise the price of gas.

It defies all logic and reason to increase the economic burdens of senior citizens, single women and the unemployed and working poor at a time when economic conditions have been close to depression levels, when the economic outlook is
shaky and when Chicago suffers a brutally cold winter. Yet Peoples Gas asks a rate increase of those least able to afford it at the most unpropitious time.

The Bible at Deuteronomy 15:11 teaches the following: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land. Let us pray that the ICC will heed the Lord's commandment, thereby fulfilling its promise to be a consumer advocate.

THE COURT: Thank you very much.

We begin with the transportation agenda. We have minutes to approve from the December 2nd, 2009 bench meeting. Is there a motion to approve the minutes.

COMMISSIONER FORD: So moved.

THE COURT: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Second.

CHAIRMAN BOX: It's been moved and seconded.

All in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)
CHAIRMAN BOX: Opposed? The vote if 5-0 approving the minutes.

Starting with the railroad agenda, Items are RR-1 through RR-5 will be taken together. These are stipulated agreements for safety improvements to railroad crossing. Approximately $1.2 million in grade crossing protection funds will be used. Staff recommends entering the orders approving the stipulated agreements.

Is there a motion to enter the orders?

COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: So moved.

CHAIRMAN BOX: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Second.

CHAIRMAN BOX: Moved and seconded.

All in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN BOX: Opposed? The vote is 5-0. The orders are entered.

We will use this 5-0 roll call vote for remainder of the transportation agenda, unless otherwise noted. And that concludes the railroad portion of today's agenda.
Turning to Motor Carriers, Items MC-1 through MC-2 will be taken together. These are applications for a commercial relocator's license. Administrative Law Judge Kirkland-Montague recommends entering the orders granting the application for the commercial relocator's license.

Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the orders are entered.

Items MC-3 through MC-5 will be taken together. These are applications for renewal of commercial relocation towing licenses. Staff recommends approving the applications for renewal of the relocator licenses.

Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none the orders are entered.

Ms. Kirkland-Montague, anything else to come before the Commission today?

JUDGE KIRKLAND-MONTAGUE: No.

MR. MATRISCH: Nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

THE COURT: Thank you. That concludes the Transportation agenda.

COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: I have a question, do we
have an MC-5?

CHAIRMAN BOX: I have an MC-4.

MR. ELLIOTT: That's what I have too.

MR. MATRISCH: Mr. Chairman, there was just an MC-4, there wasn't an MC-5.

THE COURT: We will have to redo those evaluations this morning, you're right.

(Whereupon those were all the proceedings had in the above-entitled matter on this date.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )
COUNTY OF DU PAGE )

CASE NO. Bench Session

TITLE: Bench Session

I, Barbara A. Perkovich do hereby certify that I am a court reporter contracted by SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, of Chicago, Illinois; that I reported in shorthand the evidence taken and the proceedings had in the hearing on the above-entitled case on January 6th A.D. 2010; that the foregoing 10 pages are a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings directed by the Commission or other person authorized by it to conduct the said hearing to be stenographically reported.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois, this day January 18th A.D. 2010.

_________________________________
REPORTER