BEFORE THE

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

BENCH SESSION

(PUBLIC UTILITIES)

Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

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

PRESENT:

MR. DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, Chairman

MR. JOHN T. COLGAN, Commissioner (by videoconference)

MS. ANN McCABE, Commissioner (by phone)

MR. MIGUEL del VALLE, Acting Commissioner

MS. SHERINA E. MAYE, Acting Commissioner

L.A. COURT REPORTERS by

Kari Wiedenhaupt, Reporter

CSR# 084-004725
CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is everything ready in Springfield?

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I believe we are ready to go.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thanks. Very good. Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, I now convene a regularly scheduled Bench Session of the Illinois Commerce Commission. With me in Chicago are Acting Commissioner del Valle and Acting Commissioner Maye. With us in Springfield is Commissioner Colgan. I am Chairman Scott. We have a quorum.

We should also have Commissioner McCabe available on the phone. Are you there, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Yes, I am.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Very good. Under the Commission's rules we will have to vote to allow Commissioner McCabe to participate by phone. I move to allow Commissioner McCabe's participation by phone. Is there a second?

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The vote is four to nothing and Commissioner McCabe may participate in today's meeting by phone.

Before moving into the agenda, according to Section 1700.10 of Title 2 of the Administrative Code, this is the time we allow 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 Commission meetings. According to the Chief Clerk's office, we have no requests to speak at today's Bench Session.

(whereupon, the Commission proceeded with the Transportation Agenda, the proceedings of which are enclosed in a separate transcript.)
CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Moving on to the Public Utility agenda, we will begin with the approval of minutes from our March 20th Bench Session. I understand amendments have been forwarded.

Is there a motion to amend the minutes?

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The vote is five to nothing, and the amendments are adopted.

Is there now a motion to approve the minutes as amended?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The vote is five to nothing, and the minutes from our March 20th Bench Session as amended are approved.

On to the Public Utility agenda. We will begin with the Electric portion. Item E-1 concerns a filing by Ameren to amend its Riders HSS, RTP and Customer Terms and Conditions to accommodate recent changes in MISO capacity procurement administration. Staff recommends granting the company's request by not suspending the filing.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a motion to not suspend the filing?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a second?

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.
All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The vote is five to nothing and the filing will not be suspended. We will use this five to nothing vote for the remainder of the Public Utility Agenda unless otherwise noted.

Item E-2 is Docket No. 12-0211. This concerns a reconciliation of revenues collected under Ameren's Hazardous Materials Adjustment Clause Rider in 2011 with actual and prudent associated costs. ALJ Von Qualen recommends entry of an Order approving the reconciliation.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.

Items E-3 and E-4 can be taken together. These are customer complaints against
ComEd. In each case ALJ Benn recommends the entry of an Order dismissing the proceeding for want of prosecution without prejudice.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item E-5 is Docket No. 12-0343. This is a customer complaint by Heartland Recycling, LLC. ALJ Riley recommends entry of an Order granting ComEd's motion and dismissing the proceeding without prejudice.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.

Items E-6 through E-8 can be taken together. These are customer complaints against
ComEd. In each case, the parties have apparently settled their differences and have brought a Joint Motion to Dismiss, which the ALJ in each case recommends we grant.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Joint Motions to Dismiss are granted.

Item E-9 is AEP Energy's petition for the confidential treatment of its 2012 annual answer time/abandon call report, which it later requested to withdraw. ALJ Von Qualen recommends entry of an Order granting petitioner's request and dismissing the petition.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.
Items E-10 and E-11 can be taken together. These are citations for a failure to file a Compliance Recertification Report as is required for an agent, broker and consultant pursuant to Part 454 of the Illinois Administrative Code. In each case ALJ Von Qualen recommends entering an Order revoking the certificate of service to operate as an ABC.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item E-12 is Docket No. 13-0160. This is Ameren and MJM Electric Cooperative's Joint Petition for Approval of an Agreement Amending the Service Area Agreement between the parties pursuant to Sections 2 and 6 of the Electric Supplier Act. ALJ Von Qualen recommends entry of an Order granting the requested relief.

Is there any discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.

Items E-13 and E-14 can be taken together. These items are petitions for the confidential and/or proprietary treatment of petitioners' reports. In each case, ALJ Riley recommends entry of an Order granting the requested protective treatment.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Turning now to Natural Gas. Item G-1 Docket No. 13-0144. This is Peoples Gas' petition seeking authority to issue long-term debt, pursuant to Section 6-102(b) of the Public Utilities Act. ALJ Jorgenson recommends entry of an Order granting the
requested authority.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.

Moving on to telecommunication. Item T-1 is Docket No. 12-0644. This is NMG Telecom LLC's application for certificates of service authority to provide facilities based and resold interexchange telecommunication services in Illinois. The Commission entered an Order granting the certificates of authority on February 21st, 2013. ALJ Benn recommends entering an Amendatory Order to correct a scrivener's error in the February 21st Order.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Amendatory Order is entered. Items T-2 through T-4 can be taken
together. These items are applications for certificates of service authority to provide telecommunication services in Illinois. In each case, the ALJ recommends entry of an Order granting the requested authority.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item T-5 is Docket No. 13-0195. This is XO Communications' petition to cancel and reissue certificates of service authority previously granted to reflect a change in its corporate form. ALJ Riley recommends entry of an Order granting the requested relief.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is
Items T-6 and T-7 can be taken together. These items are citation proceedings for a company's failure to maintain its corporate status. In each case, ALJ Von Qualen recommends entry of an Order revoking the company's certificate of service authority.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Are there any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item T-8 is Docket No. 13-0167. This is the City of Marseilles' petition to modify its existing 9-1-1 emergency telephone number system. ALJ Haynes recommends entry of an Order approving the modification.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Order is entered.

Items T-9 and T-10 can be taken together. These items are Joint Petitions for the approval of an interconnection agreement between telecommunication carriers. In each case, the ALJ recommends entry of an Order approving the agreement.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item T-11 through T-17 can be taken together. These items are Joint Petitions for the approval of amendments to interconnection agreements between telecommunication carriers. In each case, the ALJ recommends entry of an Order approving the amendment.

Is there any discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Item T-18 is Docket No. 11-0361. This is Nexus Communication's Motion to Withdraw its application to increase its eligible telecommunication carrier service area. ALJ Riley recommends granting the company's Motion to Withdraw the application without prejudice.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is granted.

Items T-19 through T-22 can be taken together. These items are petitions for the confidential and/or proprietary treatment of the petitioners' annual reports. In each case, the ALJ recommends entry of an Order granting the requested
protective treatment.

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none, the Orders are entered.

Last, but certainly not least, we have one other matter before us today, which is a Resolution honoring Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz. I have the Resolution here. The fancy one will be mailed to your home. So you will get that there. I would like to read this. It's a little bit lengthy, but Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz served the Commission for a very long time, so we tried to capture as much as we possibly could in the Resolution.

Resolution

By the Commission:

Whereas, Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz dutifully served with vigor and passion as Commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission from 2003 until 2013; and
Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz worked diligently throughout her life and was appointed as Administrative Law Judge at the Commission and later as Assistant Director of Administrative Law Division; and

Whereas, prior to joining the ICC Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz served as an Assistant Attorney General; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has represented the interests of Illinois while being an active member of NARUC. She has served as a member on its Board of Directors, Utility Marketplace Access, Critical Infrastructure, International Relations, Water and most notably as Chairperson of the Electric Committee; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has additionally lent her talents to the EPRI Advisory Council, New Mexico Rate School Faculty and Harvard Electric Policy Group; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has championed competitive electric markets in our state to the benefit of many and co-chaired the ICC's
Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has earned the respect of many colleagues by always examining every issue before her position is made known and is also known for not being a "shrinking violet" and for "taking it to the mattresses" on occasion; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has served as a chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Public Utility Division; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz is a lifetime member of the Naval Reserve Association; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz has always made room in her heart and in her life for dogs and animals in need; and

Whereas, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz earned a bachelor's degree Cum Laude from the College of St. Mary Notre Dame and a law degree from Loyola University of Chicago.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Illinois Commerce Commission hereby gratefully acknowledges Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz's years of exemplary public service during her employment with
the Illinois Commerce Commission and expresses its
deep appreciation for her public service and
dedication on the occasion of her departure.
Congratulations.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I guess I should
go up there.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: You can sit. You can stand.
Whatever you would like to do.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I have my script.

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Before she makes her
comments, I had a couple of comments.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Sure.

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: A couple of times,
Chairman, I was tempted to interrupt and ask if the
two ladies in the back row there wanted to share with
everybody the little whispering that was going on.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Ford voted on 17
different items today.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Yes, she tried to
vote, and I told her she was going to get us kicked
out.

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I am sure it was a very
good use of sarcasm back and forth.

But I feel we would like to take a
moment to acknowledge, Erin, your service and your
exemplary public service and to express my
appreciation for the service that you have done and
how it's been good to serve with you for the last
three years. You have been a hard worker and very
dedicated, and that is very much appreciated.

I am reminded today that we didn't
always agree on everything, but I'm also reminded
that we did agree on many more things than we
disagreed on. And I will always appreciate how you
welcomed me when I first came to the Commission and
helped me to learn the ropes. And that also goes for
Lula and Sherman and Charles who were all very good
and welcoming to me.

So today as you are moving on -- and I
say moving on much more than leaving, because I know
that you are moving on to good things. You are --
you will be missed here. As the Resolution says, you
will not be remembered as a "shrinking violet," and
one thing I will miss, and there are many more of
them that we can share with each other back and forth
over a friendly cocktail at some point, but one thing
that I am going to be -- miss is being able to look
down -- lean forward and look down to my left to the
end of the bench and watch your body gestures and
facial expressions. I could always tell when the
discussions were about to leave the track.

So while I think you have a great
future -- I know that you have a great future in
front of you, it's probably not as a poker player,
because you have way too many tells. But as you move
on, you know, the one thing that I think you and I
held in common is a joyful sense of pride in our
Irish heritage and the use of sarcasm, sense of humor
and the gift of gab.

So I have a couple Irish blessings for
you. One, which I think you will probably
appreciate: May those who love us, love us and those
who don't love us, may God turn their hearts, and if
he doesn't turn their hearts, may he turn their
ankles so we will know them by their limping.

And then probably the more appropriate
one is that:  May the road rise up to meet you, and
may the wind always be at your back.  May the sun
shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft
upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God
hold you in the palm of his hand.

So I wish you the very best as you
move forward in your career, and I'm sorry I couldn't
be there today.  I didn't know we were going to do
this, and I made plans that -- so I couldn't be there
today, but I did send you a card to your home
address, and eat some cake and drink some punch for
me.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT:  Thank you very much,
Commissioner Colgan.

COMMISSIONER COLGAN:  You're welcome.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ:  It's very, very
nice, and I have a list for those that should be
limping as they go through life.  I will share that
with you privately.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT:  Yeah.  Let me go around the
room.  Let me ask first Commissioner McCabe who is on
the phone if you had anything to add.
COMMISSIONER MccABE: Yes. I just want to second other comments and thank Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz for her vigor, passion and dedication, and I, too, am sorry I couldn't be there. And I don't have quite the Irish gift of gab as Commissioner Colgan, but I did give her an Irish necklace of sorts in commemoration of that shared heritage and look forward to crossing paths in the future.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you, Commissioner McCabe, and I did wear that on St. Patrick's Day.

COMMISSIONER MccABE: Very good.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner del Valle?

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: Yeah. I want to tell John, now I understand why I keep running into people who are limping. I just didn't know that.

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: That's where my limp comes from.

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: In reading the Resolution, Erin, I thought of the many resolutions I
have seen over the years, and the thing about
resolutions is that as hard as Staff and those who
write resolutions try, you just can't capture
everything, and that is definitely the case for you.

I -- the first thing that impressed me
about this, and the first thing I thought of was all
this institutional knowledge that we are losing.
It's just an incredible amount, but I agree with
John, and the reason you just can't hide what you are
feeling and what you are thinking at times is because
you are passionate.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: And I'm a bad
poker player.

ACTING COMMISSIONER DEL VALLE: You are
definitely passionate. Stay away from poker.

But I want to say as one of the new
guys on the block here, thank you for your service to
the People of the State of Illinois, not just as a
Commissioner, but before that as an Administrative
Law Judge and with the Attorney General's office, and
I know you are going to be doing a whole lot of other
things, but man, that is a really long, impressive
list of accomplishments, and I am sure your husband
is very proud of you.

. COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you very
much.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Commissioner Maye?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: Commissioner
O'Connell-Diaz, I wanted to congratulate you on your
service at the Illinois Commerce Commission. I,
unlike my colleagues, did not have the opportunity to
work with you. But I should thank you for leaving
very large shoes for me to fill, and I hope that at
the end of my term you will be as proud of me and the
job that I did in your seat as everyone is of you.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you very
much. And are you in my old office?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: Yes, I am.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Good. That's a
good office, good karma. And it's got the 4 O'clock
chairs.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Well, and, Erin, everybody has
said everything so far. So I don't have too much to
add, but I just -- I was thinking back on all the
changes that you have seen in all of the things that
we do during the time that you have been working on
these issues, tremendous changes, and you were right
in the middle of all of them and everything that we
are dealing with now from pipeline replacement to
smart grid to electric vehicles, all of the different
things that you not just worked on, but were
instrumental here at the Commission in helping to
move forward.

And I certainly appreciate that, and I
know that the citizens of Illinois do as well, and as
Commissioner del Valle said, the great many years of
public service is something that I appreciate. I
know the commitment that that takes and the other
things that you forego to continue a career of public
service, and so I very much appreciate that.

I had written down poker player, but
I'm not going to say it now. But obviously, your
passion for the issues -- not just passion for the
issues and the things that we do here and working
with and around the folks that we are here with, but
your passion for the institution, too. You believe
in the ICC and what the ICC is designed to do, and I
certainly appreciated that.

And again, I know as folks say --
actually, vous revoir is probably better, because we
know we will see you again, and we look forward to
seeing you in the future and all of the things that
you will be working on going forward. I know I will
see you around NARUC and other places as well.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you very
much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Congratulations and we look
forward to seeing you in the future.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I appreciate
that. Thank you very, very much.

I have this big, long script. I think
I was writing it at 2:00 in the morning. But first
of all, thanks everyone for this. I know there were
a lot of people that worked on this Resolution. I
probably ran out of toner, because it's a really
small script, and -- but it captures so much of my
life and my time here that I believe has been well
spent and something that I have been very fortunate
to experience in my lifetime.

I just want to thank you for such a thoughtful resolution. It will have a place of prominence on my office wall at home or wherever else that might be. When I gaze at it, I will scan through the kaleidoscope of memories of my 22 years at this Commission. When I started here, there were seven Commissioners. Imagine that. We were across the street. There was this big bank of chairs. They were just winding up on some of the large cases regarding nuclear power plants that had been built in Illinois; contentious to say the least.

I do recall hearing about people in chicken costumes charging the Bench, all sorts of fun goings on. Then we went down to five Commissioners and the telecom boom hit us, and Illinois was a leader in the development of telecommunications marketplace. MCI, Quest, Sage -- I was trying to remember the names of the big companies that came in at that time. They were the giants. None of them are here today. I mean, they don't exist as companies, not here physically.
Alternative regulation for Illinois

Bell was the order of the day. I think that case went on for four years. Then we had the issue, really big issue, 11-digit dialing. That held us in consternation for years. Oh, and don't let me forget the dreaded area code cases. Were we going to run out? Were we going to exhaust? They were in 10,000 blocks. There is probably vaults of numbers someplace that still exist with regard to those certain area codes. The North American Numbering Plan, I don't know how many sessions I sat through on that.

In those days the ALJs sat for days, morning and afternoon, in the very chairs in the main hearing room responding to questions from Commissioners. We would go in the morning. We would start at the Bench Session. We would go into the -- take a lunch break. We'd go into the afternoon. Maybe you'd get out of there about 3:30, start up the next day. It was a very different type of a situation than what we have today. I'm not suggesting it's better or worse, but it was just --
it was different. Many challenging cases, but at that time the politicians let the Commission do its important work and understood the need for an independent decision-maker.

In fact, the Commission was just such a different state agency than I had ever encountered. It operated in its own sphere, and the notion that influence, be it political or by a regulated entity, would be part of any of our process was a foreign concept to me. In my years of being an ALJ, I never had anybody come to me, tell me to decide a case a certain way, and if they had, I probably would have given them a black eye.

But how times have changed in the first years of this 21st Century. In 2003 or 2004 particular folks found that the utility sector allowed them the opportunity to comment on five or six essential services that served a voter's home base. The Commission was an easy mark due to the fact that once a case was started, we could not talk to the public.

So various interest groups grabbed
certain headlines that were easy, suggesting that the
Commission was a hotbed of corruption and had turned
a deaf ear to the needs of the consumers. The course
was set. These individuals collaborated with our
advocacy groups and the war escalated. Throughout it
all, the Commission was just doing what our law
prescribes; balancing the interests of the consumers,
shareholders and the companies we regulate, as well
as implementing the laws that those very politicians
had put in place.

The witch hunt was on and we were the
targets. Letters from a now disgraced and imprisoned
ex-governor threatened to fire us if we did not vote
the way he wanted. It was headline news. Commentary
from the lieutenant governor and others maligning the
Commissioners as anti-consumer, labels are such an
easy thing. Unenforceable and illegal subpoenas from
our state's top legal officers, specious
investigations by the state's inspector general who
worked for the disgraced governor. Philanderous and
false stories in the press that sought to impugn our
professional reputations, not to mention our family
names. Those were the orders of the day.

Shame on all who were part of that nonsense, and shame on all those who made our state look like a circus on the national and international stage. Most importantly, I knew that Illinois could do better when we go to the voting booth to select our leaders. We can do better. We should do better, and we must do better. But as I look back on those times of trouble as I call it, I am thankful to have been tested in that manner. It allowed me to understand the base level that people can sink to in order to advance their own agendas.

More importantly, I had to face the situation head on and to dig deep into my soul and call upon reserves of courage I did not know I possessed and informed bad actors to go pound sand. And that if I -- and if need be, I and my lawyer, which I paid for, unlike a short-term Commissioner that had the taxpayers finance his quest for legal counsel, would be talking to a certain man down the street by the name of Fitzgerald in the federal building.
I was lucky to have a good family and friends, a strong colleague in Commissioner Ford and Chairman Box, as the support network that I depended on during those -- that very rough stretch of time. Most importantly, we were all just doing these tough jobs of making these unpopular decisions in cases that are brought before our Commission. That's what we do. That's what our job is.

I do hope that none of my successors have to go through any of that kind of experience. It does cause strife in your home life and in your -- just your whole being, but hopefully those days are behind us. But despite all those attempted political incursions, the ICC staunchly maintained an independence and blazed the trail in the development of successful gas, electric and as mentioned earlier, telecom competitive markets with appropriate consumer protections.

Launching the first ever consumer outreach programs with Commissioner Ford; broadband deployment came to many unserved Illinoisans who were on the wrong side of the digital divide.
Launching the electric vehicle initiative, implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, and least we forget, the PEERS stellar safety programs that our transportation sector runs. It is the envy of the nation. We should be so very proud, and keep safe on the tracks.

And last, but not least, the smart grid collaborative working group, the first ever in the country to tackle the -- head-on the issues involved with grid modernization planning. I among many and am waiting for the realization of the Energy Modernization Act passed by our General Assembly two years ago. It is time for Illinois to regain its footing as a leader instead of lagging behind 47 other states.

So as you can see, there is enough history that I have experienced at the Commission to write four screenplays. I have even left out some of the more juicier tidbits. But seriously, it's great to be moving on to a new chapter. I look forward to continuing my national and international work in the regulatory sector as long as I don't violate any
rules that my experience in the leadership column of
NARUC has afforded me. I am very grateful for those
opportunities that the Commission has given me to be
able to be in that leadership column at NARUC.

So I thank many of you for being part of my career life, and some that have even become friends through the years. Thanks to OGC, Mary Stephenson, Nora Naughton and that group upstairs that continues to give the Commission sound legal advice.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my assistants through the years; Shauna Kelly, Torsten Clausen, Ambika Dalal, our new mother down here. She didn't bring the baby today. And certainly our very, very special gal, Brandy Bush-Brown.

To all the Commissioners, to all the Staff, to my ALJ area, with whom I have served, I want to thank you and I want to wish you the best of success and progress in the future, especially to my good friend, my sister that I didn't meet until many years later in my life, Commissioner Ford. I know
she is going to go on to do --

COMMISSIONER FORD: Nothing.

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: -- a lot more things. She is going to go on to do a lot more things -- she is lying -- because we need her type of expertise. We need her to be able to go to the mattresses, if necessary, on pivotal issues, and I think she is going to be looking to do more things in her area of expertise in the educational sector, and our state needs it, our city needs it, and she needs to be part of that dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Colgan, Commissioner del Valle, Commissioner Maye, I wish you great success. Maintain your independence. Strike that correct balance where you balance all the stakeholders' interests, and don't let anybody tell you to do anything else but that.

I always use the loaf of bread analogy. If you give everybody a little piece of the loaf of bread, then you have probably done a good job balancing those interests. If you make everybody a little unhappy, you have done your job.
Coming from a family where public service was expected, I know what public service — that public service is the rent we pay for being and a role that is expected of all of us. It allows us to share in the great gifts that this great country gives us. It is the purpose of life, not something you do in your spare time. The Commission has fulfilled that space for me, and I am a lucky gal to have been able to be a part of such a vital state agency for so many years.

Good luck. God speed, and God bless our state, its people and this great country we call home. As my mother always said, ever the optimist, upward and onward. There is much work to be done. So thank you everybody. I look forward to seeing you in this new chapter of my life. I had to go through the security this morning. I have never done that before, but thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I look forward to working and collaborating with you in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I move the adoption of the Resolution honoring Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz.
Is there a second?

ACTING COMMISSIONER MAYE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded.

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Any opposed?

COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Commissioner Ford might be. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: She is abstaining. The vote is five to nothing, and the Resolution honoring Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz is adopted. Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz mentioned Ambika Dalal who is with us.

And we wanted to thank her for her service to the Commission as well.

MS. DALAL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: And also congratulate her on being a new mother. I saw a great picture today.

MS. DALAL: Thank you. Thanks everybody.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: We appreciate your service here to the Commission.

Judge Wallace, are there any other
matters to come before the Commission today?

JUDGE WALLACE: No. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, sir. Hearing none, this meeting stands adjourned.

(END OF PROCEEDINGS.)