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ICC to explore process for setting solar and wind rebate values for customers within Ameren Illinois Territory

Chicago, IL...On Wednesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) voted unanimously to initiate an investigation into an annual process and formula for calculating rebate values for customers with solar, wind or other renewable energy systems on their property within Ameren Illinois' territory. A provision of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), which became effective in 2017, requires the ICC to determine compensation for retail customers for the benefits distributed energy resources provide to the grid. The compensation must reflect the value of the distributed generation and consider geographic, time-based, and performance-based benefits, for present and future grid needs.

"One of the primary goals of FEJA is to encourage the growth of renewable energy in Illinois. A program that fairly compensates consumers who own or operate solar, wind or other renewable energy sources to power their homes, transmitting excess capacity onto the grid is one way to stimulate private investment into renewable energy resources," said ICC Public Utilities Bureau Chief Jim Zolnierek.

Under the Public Utilities Act, the Commission is required to initiate an investigation 'when the total generating capacity of the electricity provider's net metering customers is equal to 3% of the total peak demand supplied by the electricity provider.' Earlier this month, Ameren Illinois notified the ICC that the company's total generating capacity for net metering customers has reached the 3% level and is expected to exceed 5% by the end of 2020, triggering the need for the investigation.

By state statute, the investigation in Docket No. 20-3089 must include diverse sets of stakeholders, calculations for valuing distributed energy resource benefits to the grid based on best practices, and assessments of present and future technological capabilities of distributed energy resources.

In 2018, the ICC hosted a series of workshops to facilitate an initial discussion around determining the value of distributed generation to the distribution grid. The effort was supported through a grant by the U.S. Department of Energy and, working in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a white paper was prepared on the topic which can be accessed here:

<https://www.icc.illinois.gov/downloads/public/IL%20DG%20Rebate%20Calculation%20Considerations%20November%202018.pdf>

Interested parties can follow along with the proceeding by clicking [here](#).

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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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