

TO: Illinois Commerce Commission
Ameren Illinois Company
Commonwealth Edison Company
MidAmerican Energy Company
Interested Parties

FROM: Anthony Star, Director

RE: Draft 2021 Procurement Plan

DATE: August 14, 2020

In accordance with Section 16-111.5(d)(2) of the Public Utilities Act, the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”) hereby presents its Draft 2021 Electricity Procurement Plan for the period of June 2021 through May 2026 (“Draft Plan”) for review and comments. The Draft Plan sets forth a procurement approach to secure sufficient electricity, capacity and associated transmission services, plus any required demand response, to meet the supply needs of eligible retail customers served by Ameren Illinois, Commonwealth Edison, and MidAmerican.¹ The Draft Plan is designed “to ensure adequate, reliable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable electric service at the lowest total cost over time, taking into account any benefits of price stability.”²

Section 16-111.5(d) sets forth the process for commenting on the Draft Plan. Statutory deadlines include the following:

Monday, September 14, 2020: Affected utilities and other interested parties are given thirty days following the posting date (August 14³) to provide comments to the IPA on the Draft Procurement Plan. Because the thirtieth day is a Sunday, the comment period will close the following Monday.

Comments are required to be “specific, supported by data or other detailed analyses, and if objecting to all or a portion of the procurement plan, accompanied by specific alternative wording or proposals.” (220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(2) [emphasis added])

Monday, September 28, 2020: The IPA has fourteen days following the end of the 30-day review period to revise the Draft Procurement Plan, as necessary, based on the comments and to file the Plan with the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”). (See 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(2))

Monday, October 5, 2020: Following filing of the Plan, within five days, any person objecting to the Plan may file an objection with the Commission. (See 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(3).) Because the fifth day would be a Saturday, the objection period closes the following Monday.

¹ The 2020 Electricity Procurement Plan does not cover the procurement of renewable energy resources. That domain is left to the IPA’s Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan.

² 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(4).

³ Section 16-111.5(d)(2) requires this that the draft Plan be released “by August 15th of each year.” As August 15, 2020 is a Saturday, the Agency has elected to release the Draft Plan one day early on August 14, 2020.

Thursday, October 15, 2020: The Commission, within ten days, must determine whether a hearing is necessary.⁴ (See 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(3))

Monday, December 28, 2020: Deadline for the Commission to enter its order confirming or modifying the Procurement Plan. The Commission must enter an order confirming or modifying the Plan within 90 days after it is filed by the IPA. Because the ninetieth day would fall on a Sunday, the deadline for Commission to enter an order would fall on the following Monday. Please note that the current ICC calendar indicates the last scheduled meeting prior to that deadline is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2020. (See 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(d)(3))

While the above dates are the only statutorily-mandated deadlines, upon filing of the Final Procurement Plan, the Commission may determine the need for an additional comment or briefing period in addition to, or in lieu of, hearings.

In addition to the dates above, the IPA will hold three public hearings to receive public comment on this year's Procurement Plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency will hold virtual public hearings in lieu of in-person meetings in each utility's service area.⁵

The Public Hearings will be held on Friday, September 4, 2020:

Ameren Illinois: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m3dca7a3ddebee37412504970ed3a8566>

Meeting number: 133 123 0906; Password: 2021PlanAmeren

Join by phone: 312-535-8110; Access code: 133 123 0906

ComEd: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m1ed675e546f5395e404a7142a9314542>

Meeting number: 133 178 2033; Password: 2021PlanComEd

Join by phone: 312-535-8110; Access code: 133 178 2033

MidAmerican 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m8e30cc01ac129eb837b7aa3fb0b0ebf1>

Meeting number: 133 337 8942; Password: 2021PlanMidAm

Join by phone: 312-535-8110; Access code: 133 337 8942

Please note that each public hearing may be adjourned early if there are no comments remaining, although the meeting applicable to each utility service territory will commence at the scheduled time. Parties unable to attend the public hearings may submit written comments as described herein.

The IPA looks forward to parties' comments and suggestions. To expedite the review process, the IPA respectfully asks parties to make any suggested changes to the Draft Plan in redline format.

Comments on the Draft Plan should be submitted to Mario Bohorquez, Planning and Procurement Bureau Chief, at mario.bohorquez@illinois.gov by September 14, 2020.

Comments will then be formatted for posting to the IPA's website at: <http://www.illinois.gov/ipa>.

⁴ The Commission has interpreted Section 16-111.5(d)(3) as requiring a Commission determination 10 days after Objections are due (See Docket No. 12-0544, Notice of Administrative Law Judge dated October 10, 2012); if the Commission determines that 10 days after Objections is the appropriate deadline, it must rule on a hearing by Thursday, October 15, 2020.

⁵ Section 16-111.5(d)(2) requires that "[d]uring this 30-day comment period, the Agency shall hold at least one public hearing within each utility's service area for the purpose of receiving public comment on the procurement plan." These public hearings are being held to satisfy this requirement.