

**COMMENTS BY THE STAFF OF THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE
COMMISSION ON THE ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY'S DRAFT 2024
LONG-TERM RENEWABLE RESOURCES PROCUREMENT PLAN
RELEASED AUGUST 15, 2023**

September 29, 2023

JOHN C. FEELEY
Office of General Counsel
Illinois Commerce Commission
160 North LaSalle Street, Suite C-800
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 793-8824
john.feeley@illinois.gov

On August 15, 2023, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1-56(b) and 1-75(c) of the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”) Act and Section 16-111.5 of the Public Utilities Act (“PUA”) the IPA released for public comment the Draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (“Draft 2024 Long-Term Plan,” or “Draft Plan”). The IPA indicated that comments were due by September 29, 2023.

In response, the Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Staff”) hereby submits these comments to the IPA. Staff’s comments are in the nature of technical corrections to the Draft Plan. The comments identify the Draft Plan Section at issue with the respective page number of the Draft Plan shown in parenthesis. Where appropriate, suggested changes/edits are shown in hard underline/strike through as proposed modifications.

STAFF COMMENTS

Staff Comment 1 - Section 3.3.1 RPS Goals (Page 51)

The following paragraph appears on page 51:

illustrates how RECs already under contract (either from projects currently delivering RECs, or expected to deliver RECs once completed), RECs from activities underway pursuant to the 2022 Long-Term Plan, RECs from procurements and programs proposed in this draft 2024 Long-Term Plan, and estimates of RECs that could be procured from programs and procurements proposed in future Long-Term Plans can meet these goals.

Some words appear to be missing preceding the language above.

Staff Comment 2 – Integrate RECs from “hydropower projects” into charts and figures in “Chapter 3: REC Portfolio, RPS Goals, Targets, and Budgets.”

As mentioned, several times throughout the IPA’s Plan, P.A 103-0380 expanded the scope of the required procurement of RECs from new renewable energy sources to include RECs from *hydropower electric generation sources*. The REC targets found in Section 1-75(c)(1)(C) of the IPA Act now allow the IPA to attempt to procure “45% from wind and hydropower projects and 55% from photovoltaic projects.”

As the IPA begins to consider to how it can most effectively integrate RECs from hydropower projects into its procurements, perhaps the IPA could begin incorporating this change into some of its charts and figures found in **Chapter 3: “REC Portfolio, RPS Goals, Targets, and Budgets.”**

Staff recommends incorporating RECs from hydropower projects into its charts and figures in Chapter 3, or at least making mention that that the “*wind*” RECs could also include “*hydropower projects*.”

For example, in **Figure 3 1: Current Statewide REC Portfolio (By Expected Delivery Year)**

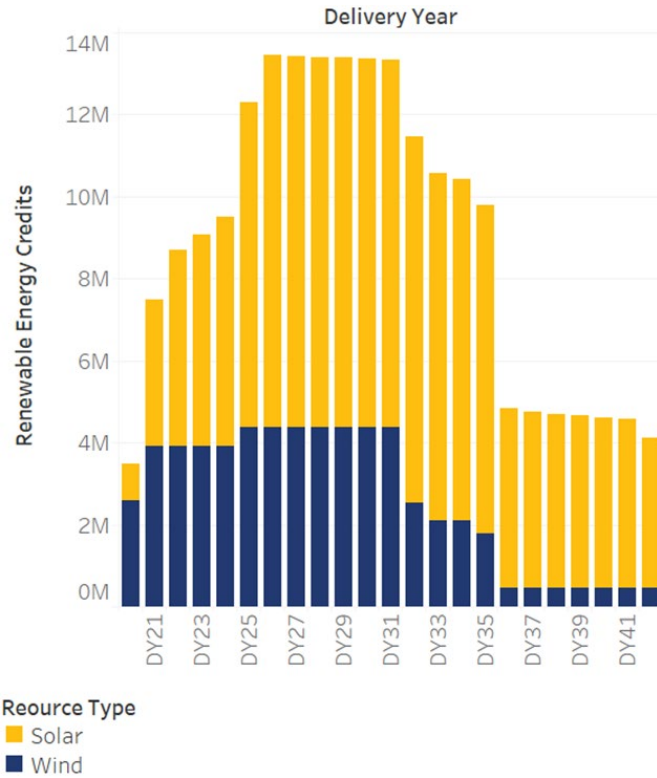


Table 3-3: New Wind and Solar Targets

Resource Category	2020-2021 Target	2030-2031 Target
New Wind	4,500,000	20,250,000
New Solar	5,500,000	24,750,000
<i>Illinois Shines Program</i>	<i>(2,750,000)</i>	<i>(12,375,000)</i>
<i>Utility-Scale Solar</i>	<i>(2,585,000)</i>	<i>(11,632,500)</i>
<i>Brownfield Site Solar</i>	<i>(165,000)</i>	<i>(742,500)</i>
Total	10,000,000	45,000,000

Table 3-7: Projected Deliveries of Statewide Wind and Solar RECs in the Current Portfolio

Delivery Year	Solar RECs	Wind RECs	Total RECs
2023-24	3,682,182	3,895,928	7,578,110
2024-25	4,099,254	3,895,928	7,995,182
2025-26	6,451,119	4,355,928	10,807,047
2026-27	7,578,870	4,355,928	11,934,798
2027-28	7,559,655	4,355,928	11,915,583
2028-29	7,540,594	4,355,928	11,896,522
2029-30	7,521,492	4,355,928	11,877,420
2030-31	7,502,511	4,355,928	11,858,439
2031-32	7,483,744	4,355,928	11,839,672
2032-33	7,433,409	2,525,519	9,958,928
2033-34	7,414,764	2,095,519	9,510,283
2034-35	7,256,064	2,095,519	9,351,583
2035-36	7,226,933	1,795,519	9,022,452
2036-37	4,377,344	460,000	4,837,344
2037-38	4,276,768	460,000	4,736,768
2038-39	4,228,049	460,000	4,688,049
2039-40	4,202,134	460,000	4,662,134
2040-41	4,158,013	460,000	4,618,013
2041-42	4,111,054	460,000	4,571,054
2042-43	3,658,702	460,000	4,118,702

Staff Comment 3 – Section 5.4.5 Indexed REC Settlement (Page 112)

This section of the Draft Plan discusses two scenarios for Indexed REC settlement—one in which money is owed to the seller, and the other in which money is owed to the Indexed REC Counterparty. Staff believes it would be helpful in Scenario 2 to reiterate that the counterparty is the *participating public utility*.

Staff recommends the following edits (shown in double underscore to the Scenario 2 caption).

Scenario 2 – Cash Settlement to Indexed REC Counterparty (participating public utility)

Staff Comment 4 – Section 5.5 Proposed Procurement Event (Page 114)

This section contains “Table 5-1: Utility-Scale REC Portfolio Status (Annual REC Volumes.” It appears that two and maybe three numbers are incorrect.

Status	Solar	Wind	Brownfield	Total
Delivering RECs	1,881,298	2,065,519	54,331	3,946,817
Under Development	3,503,351	400,000 - 500,000	128,509	4,031,860 - 4,131,860
Total Expected RECs	5,384,649	2,465,519	128,509	7,9786,77
Removed [1]	548,702	879,234	-	1,427,936

[1] “Removed” indicates RECs that were procured in the 2017 and 2018 procurements but will not be delivered because of the projects failing to meet energization deadlines and thus have been removed from the RPS REC Portfolio.

First the comma is in the wrong place for the figure of “7,9786,77” for Total Expected RECs in the Total column. The comma should follow the “8” not “6.” Second. For the Delivering RECs Total, the Total should be 4,001,148. The figures under Solar, Wind, and Brownfield in the first row (i.e. 1,881,298, 2,065,519 and 54,331) add up to 4,001,148 not “3,946,817.” Third, the brownfield total expected RECs, third row, add up to 182,840 not “128,509.”

Staff Comment 5 – Section 7.4.3.1 Traditional Community Solar Guidelines (Page 162)

For continuity and clarifying purposes, Staff recommends inserting a zero (0) before .25 points and .10 points in small roman “iv”, to be consistent with prior formats used in small roman “ii” and “iii.” Those edits are shown in underline and yellow highlight.

- a. ***
- b. ***

- c. Recency of project having obtained a valid interconnection agreement (Add up to 1 point)
- i. Should project applications received on the first day exceed category capacity, the project with the earliest interconnection agreement effective date will receive a full 1 point. If there are multiple projects that share the earliest interconnection agreement effective date, they will each receive 1 point.[footnote omitted]
 - ii. The project with the latest (i.e., most recent) interconnection agreement effective date will receive 0.25 points. If there are multiple projects that share the latest interconnection agreement effective date, they will each receive 0.25 points.
 - iii. Projects applying on the first day of the Program Year, with an interconnection agreement effective date between the earliest and latest dates as established in i. and ii. directly above, will be assigned points based on a sliding scale between 1 and 0.25 points based upon their rank-order from the earliest effective interconnection date to the latest effective interconnection date. Each independent effective interconnection date within this rank-order will be assigned an independent fractional score between 1 point and 0.25 points. As such, projects that have the same effective interconnection agreement date will receive the same number of points.
 - iv. If a project lacks an effective interconnection agreement, no points will be awarded to that project under this category for that project.
 - v. For projects submitted *after* the first day of the Program Year, will be assigned points based upon the recency of the agreement on a sliding scale based upon their rank-order from earliest effective interconnection date to the latest effective interconnection date in comparison to all projects submitted on the same day; the maximum available points for recency of interconnection agreement shall be 0.25 points (for the earliest interconnection date), and the minimum points available shall be 0.10 points (for the latest interconnection date)

CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests that the IPA revise its Draft Plan consistent with Staff's Comments.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. FEELEY
Office of General Counsel
Illinois Commerce Commission
160 North LaSalle Street, Suite C-800
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 793-2877
Fax: (312) 793-1556
john.feeley@illinois.gov
ryan.granholm@illinois.gov

September 29, 2023

*Counsel for the Staff of the
Illinois Commerce Commission*