Resource Adequacy Study
Post-Workshop Stakeholder Questions

Illinois Power Agency, Illinois Commerce Commission,
& Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Background & Introduction

The questions provided below have been crafted to solicit targeted stakeholder feedback on key topics and data that are pertinent at the commencement of the inter-Agency Resource Adequacy Study ("RA Study") process. These topics were discussed in general during the preceding Stakeholder Workshop (held June 16, 2025). A recording of the workshop can be found on the RA Study webpage, as can the presentation document used during the workshop.

Stakeholders are requested to review the questions and provide written responses as instructed below. Stakeholder input is critical to the RA Study process, providing the Agencies with valuable prospectives, considerations, and recommendations. The Agencies request that stakeholder responses are detailed, providing links or reference materials where appropriate in response to the questions.

Response Schedule

- Stakeholder Question Issuance: June 18, 2025
- Stakeholder Responses: Due to IPA by July 16, 2025 by 5p Central

Additional Stakeholder Response Instructions:

- All responses are to be submitted to the IPA at: IPA.ContactUS@illinois.gov
- Responses shall include the following header in the email "subject" line:
  - [*Stakeholder Name*] Response to RA Study Stakeholder Questions
- Confidentiality
  - Any written responses, data, attachments or other information submitted by stakeholders that is confidential must be labeled as such.
  - If any stakeholder response to a question is confidential, stakeholders shall provide two copies of the responses – 1) the original, confidential version to be reviewed by the Agencies (which shall not be posted) and 2) a redacted version of the responses which can be posted publicly on the RA Study webpage.
  - If confidential documents are included as attachments accompanying any responses to a questions, Stakeholders must clearly denote the confidentiality in the document name and in the reference to the document in the written response. Such documents will not be posted publicly.

TOPIC 1: Resource Adequacy Study goals and scenario analysis considerations.

Section 9.15(o) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Act (415 ILCS 5/) defines a series of goals and objectives for the Agencies to pursue, driving to a report that identifies prospective reliability shortfalls, defines and evaluates those shortfalls, and subsequently produces a plan to alleviate the shortfalls. Specifically, the Agencies shall develop and publicly issue a

> *"…report to the General Assembly that examines the State's current progress toward its renewable energy resource development goals, the current status of CO2e and copollutant emissions, reductions the current status and progress toward developing and implementing green hydrogen technologies, and the current and projected status of electric resource adequacy and reliability throughout the State…"*

Further, if a shortfall is identified during such examinations, the Agencies shall consider various options to alleviate the shortfall, including "*the use of renewable energy, energy storage, demand response, transmission development*", potential proposals to "reduce or delay CO2e and copollutant emissions reductions" to the limited extent necessary, or other strategies to resolve the shortfall or reliability violation.

While the statute is direct in its focus, there are likely additional goals and considerations the Agencies could evaluate beyond the objectives defined in the statute while also being supportive of the study's intent and aligned with Illinois values. These additional goals or expanded considerations may be woven into RA Study scenario development as policy considerations, important market drivers, evaluation metrics, or other similar variables. It is with this understanding that the Agencies are particularly interested in stakeholder feedback, answered through the questions provided below, surrounding goals that should be taken into consideration, key scenarios/drivers/policies that may be important when completing model development and ensuing analysis, or additional factors that are important to define at the start of the study process.

_____

Question 1: The Agencies recognize this study process is purposefully targeted in its nature, with Section 9.15(o) providing clear goals and expectations of the resource adequacy study and resulting report. What additional goals, objectives, or evaluation metrics should be considered, either as part of this study process or future resource adequacy study efforts?

Question 2: Which variables are the highest priority to explore? Further, are there important policies or drivers missing in addition to those outlined in the preceding stakeholder workshop that could help shape scenario development?

Question 3: Which of the following drivers are most critical to explore in the resource adequacy modeling scenarios and why?

a. Extreme weather

b. Demand growth
c. Thermal retirements
d. Transmission build and future needs
e. Generation resource diversity
f. Out-of-state reliance on generation resources
g. Some other driver not described above

Question 4: Are there known or expected developments in federal or state policy that should be integrated into scenario development? Please explain in detail and provide references where possible.

Question 5: How should cost implications or other findings beyond potential reliability shortfalls be presented or considered to support constructive policy decisions?

Question 6: What blind spots or gaps in the RA Study process do you worry might be overlooked or otherwise not addressed?

a. Are the identified blind spots or gaps unique to customer segments, modeling scenarios, market conditions or other targeted parameter?
b. How could the identified blind spots or gaps be addressed? (e.g. through additional scenarios, targeted data inputs, utilizing specific modeling, etc.)

Question 7: Have any peer jurisdictions developed scenario(s) through the completion of their own resource adequacy assessments or studies that should also be considered by the Agencies through this Resource Adequacy Study?

a. Provide details concerning the scenario(s), which jurisdiction developed the scenario, and provide a link to the supporting detail(s).
b. Is the assessment part of a broader resource adequacy assessment, or an more detailed integrated resource planning effort?
c. Are there any market conditions or policy considerations that are unique to the jurisdiction and/or the scenarios referenced?

TOPIC 2: Analytical approach to analysis and data assumptions.

The quality and accuracy of the data used, coupled with the assumptions incorporated to support the data's infusion into scenario design underpin the modeling and analysis of this RA Study process. To begin, these data and assumptions are used in base case development, drawing from historic trends and broadly accepted projections, incorporating established policies, expected developments, and largely conservative assumptions to represent a "business-as-usual" outlook against which alternative scenarios are compared. Due to the importance placed on data inputs, assumptions, drivers, and ultimately scenarios used to test alternative opportunities and impacts, it is paramount that these inputs are also fully developed and defined. This includes fleshing out current and future market conditions and constraints, generation project development forecasts and timing, transmission and distribution system enhancements, customer-driven distributed energy resources, and demand response adoption), policy and legislative initiatives that directly impact resource adequacy inputs and results, and other similar consideration that are critical to frame scenarios and completing sensitivities. The questions below are aimed at understanding Stakeholder feedback on what key inputs (date, assumptions, and other considerations) should be considered by the Agencies through the RA Study process.

_____

Question 8: Are there recommendations for specific data sources that could be utilized in this study?

a. Are there preferences for certain input assumptions that should be made?
b. What prior or concurrent studies could be referenced that might add value or ensure alignment with similar or adjacent work (e.g., queue assumptions, RTO projections)?

Question 9: Are there specific transmission constraints, expansions, or projects that should be considered and reflected in a model scenario? Further, Are these transmission considerations intended to target and/or solve specific challenges? Please explain, provide supporting documentation justifying inclusion, and provide pertinent reference materials including reports or studies.

Question 10: Are there specific assumptions that should be considered concerning generation resources, including buildout (queue, pace, technology availability) or retirements, both in-state and regionally in the RTO markets?

a. Which proposed assumptions should be considered as part of the base case and which are best considered as part of a prospective scenario? Provide any available references to RA studies, IRPs, or comparable assessments and reports to support your recommendations.
b. Which assumptions are contingent upon specific policy and/or legislative conditions being met or otherwise enacted? Please plain in detail.

Question 11: As a component of the RA Study, the Agencies will be seeking to obtain utility and RTO load forecast projections and the underlying assumptions behind the load forecasts. In addition to these utility forecast assumptions, what additional assumptions should also be considered, either embedded in a base case or considered in scenarios? Further, what data sources should be drawn upon, supporting any load forecast modifications? (i.e. large load / electrification growth)

a. Provide details on why these additional assumptions should be considered during the modeling process?
b. Are any proposed load forecast assumptions directly impacted and/or predicated upon specific to policy, legislative, or other conditions being met and/or otherwise enacted? Please explain in detail.

Question 12: Are there any additional considerations – data inputs, policy, drivers, or assumptions – that Stakeholders believe the Agencies should consider, not already explain in response to the preceding questions? Please explain in detail.