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RE: API response to RA Stakeholder Questions

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Resource Adequacy Study and more specifically "the current and projected status of electric resource adequacy and reliability throughout the state for the period 5 years ahead."

API represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports nearly 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our nearly 600 members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating safety and environmental progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

The results of the latest MISO capacity auction indicate an impending shortfall of generation capacity to meet surging demand. As Illinois competes for its share of the growing AI, data center and manufacturing market, it has never been clearer that some adjustments are necessary in our state's current energy policy to ensure optimal resource adequacy.

A hallmark of data centers and manufacturing facilities is their reliance on 24/7 baseload power. Natural gas is a proven, affordable, reliable and cleaner resource that remains the best near-term solution to provide both baseload and peaking power to meet rising demand. A pivot to include natural gas is not only imperative for Illinois' electricity adequacy and reliability, but it is equally imperative as a necessary tool for economic development.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit interested party testimony and look forward to working collaboratively as we develop a reliable grid ready to meet future demand.