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National
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Illinois Reliability Standards

Sherina Maye, Commissioner
Illinois Commerce Commission

Day 2 – 13:30



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Illinois' Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997

- Added Article 16 to the Public Utilities Act.
- Section 16-125 added new electric reliability requirements.
 - Required annual reliability reports from electric utilities in Illinois.
 - Required Illinois Commerce Commission assessment of electric utility reliability reports and evaluation of electric utility service reliability at least once every three years.
 - Required utilities to report large numbers of simultaneous electric service interruptions to customers immediately.



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Rulemaking In Illinois

- Commission staff and industry and consumer representatives discuss the need for rules and later draft proposed rules.
- Commission initiates rulemaking proceeding and authorizes the beginning of the 45-day "first notice" period.
- Illinois Secretary of State publishes the proposed rules, and the "first notice" period begins. Parties may comment on the proposed rules or amendments and suggest revisions to them.



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Rulemaking In Illinois (Continued)

- After 45 days, the Commission submits the draft rules to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), for the "second notice" period.
- JCAR must determine within 45 days whether to allow the Commission's proposed rules to take effect.
- If JCAR allows the rules to take effect, the rulemaking returns to the Commission for final adoption.
- Commission adopts the proposed rules, and the Secretary of State publishes them.



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Rulemaking In Illinois (Continued)

- If JCAR objects to the rules, the Commission may change and resubmit them.
- If JCAR is satisfied with the changes, the Commission may adopt the rules. Otherwise the rulemaking dies.
- The Commission must complete the entire rulemaking process within one year. Typically, rulemakings take 6 to 10 months to complete.



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Illinois Electric Reliability Rules

- Implemented requirements of Section 16-125 of the Public Utilities Act.
- Included these requirements for utilities.
 - Report customer surveys about electric service reliability.
 - Plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain electric facilities to prevent controllable interruptions of service.
 - Keep records sufficient to determine a history of electric service interruptions experienced by each customer.
 - Provide annual service reliability reports, immediate reports of large service interruptions, and report to a customer all of its service interruptions in the last five years, when asked.



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Illinois Electric Reliability Rules (Continued)

- Sets out the types of analyses the Commission will conduct every three years on each utility's reliability report and the standards against which the Commission would judge the utility's service reliability.



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Staff Assessment of Utility Reliability Reports

- Staff studies each utility's reliability report and sends additional information requests.
- Staff performs field inspections of a utility's electric distribution circuits.
 - Staff asks for maps of worst performing circuits and performs inspections.
 - Staff records its findings with field notes and photographs.



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Staff Assessment of Utility Reliability Reports

(Continued)

- When satisfied with its findings, Staff prepares a draft assessment report and presents it for Commission adoption. Staff includes details and photos of the equipment conditions it observed during circuit inspections.
- After adopting Staff's draft assessment reports, the Commission publishes the reports on its Internet Web site.



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Major Service Interruptions

- Every few years, a utility experiences either a major equipment outage or a large number of simultaneous equipment outages due to storms.
- If the outage lasts a few days, the utility is criticized in the new media, by customers and others.
- The Commission's evaluations of the utility's electric service reliability are placed on the website. The evaluations may contain information that suggests poor planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a utility's electric distribution system.
- The Commission may choose to employ a consulting firm to conduct an investigation.



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Recent Storm Outage Investigation

- An Illinois electric utility experienced two wind storms and one ice storm in the same year.
- The electric service interruptions were large in number and long in duration for each storm.
- The news media found the Commission's evaluations of the utility's service reliability on the Internet.
 - The evaluations criticized the utility's maintenance of its electric system and predicted that storms would cause undue numbers of equipment outages due to the poor conditions of the circuits.
 - Customers' criticisms followed.



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Recent Storm Outage Investigation (Continued)

- The Commission hired a consultant to perform a one-year long investigation.
- The investigation resulted in more an 150 recommendations for improvements in all aspects of the utility.
- The investigation was followed by a four-year engagement of the same consultant to verify that the utility implemented all the recommendations from the investigation.



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Recent Storm Outage Investigation (Continued)

- The utility implemented all the recommendations.
 - The utility's service reliability has improved.
 - Staff found little to criticize during its recent field inspections of this utility's distribution circuits.
 - Poles are replaced when needed.
 - Trees are trimmed.
 - Equipment is serviced or replaced when old or damaged.



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Related Commission Internet Web Sites

- The Illinois Public Utilities Act is available at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1277&ChapterID=23>
- The Illinois rulemaking processes are located at <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/001/001parts.html>
- The Commission's Electric Reliability Rules are available at <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/083/08300411sections.html>
- The Commissions' reliability assessments and the utilities' reliability reports are available at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/electricity/electricreliability.aspx>
- Liberty's Ameren Outage Investigation Report is available on the same page at the Commission's reliability assessments.