

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC ENERGY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the IPEA was held pursuant to proper notice at the IPEA headquarters building, 3400 Conifer Drive, Springfield, Illinois, on February 19, 2025. Vice Chairman Shannon Risley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken which showed a quorum was present.

Joe Fosdyck made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2024, seconded by Mike Kirk. The roll call vote showed all in favor.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Vice Chairman Risley stated that pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, anyone in attendance in person shall be permitted an opportunity to comment. He then asked if anyone would like to make a comment and hearing none, the meeting continued.

Treasurer's Report - The financials for December 2024 were presented by Katherine Parrish. She reported the cash balance was \$601,942 compared to \$652,708 last December. She stated that gas revenue for December had increased by 7% from the previous year, the price per Dth average had decreased by \$0.52 from the previous year and Dth sales had increased by 18% from the previous year. She explained that the City of Fairfield did not take gas supply after March of 2024. With there being no questions, Cory Sheehy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Joe Fosdyck. The roll call vote showed all in favor.

President & CEO Report – CEO Gaden announced that Charlie Robling had started last month as IMEA's new Manager of Energy Markets & Settlements. Gaden stated that Charlie has a degree in Economics from the University of Illinois-Chicago and has experience in data analytics and commodities trading. He reported that Bob Kosner is assisting with some MISO behind the meter generator rules that are being debated. Gaden stated that Operations is seeking an Electric Operations Analyst to assist with RTO/NERC data analysis, energy scheduling and optimization efforts with more intermittent resources. It is anticipated this hiring will happen before the end of FY24/25. IMEA Staff is reviewing future staffing needs in the Member Services area and will seek IMEA Board approval for any new position.

Regarding a national and regional update, CEO Gaden stated that Mark Christie had been appointed by President Trump as the Chair of FERC and former Chair Willie Phillips has decided to stay on as a Commissioner. He reported that the Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) had named Steve Stodden as their new CEO replacing John Twitty who retired earlier this month. Steve is the current MPUA Chief Energy Officer and long-time VP of Operations at Springfield, Missouri municipal system.

CEO Gaden stated that the recent adoption of the ICC study of the "Future of Natural Gas" will likely have significant impacts on members' systems and encouraged members to be prepared to address customers' and legislators' questions. Gaden then reviewed the IPEA goals for FY 2025/26.

Market Update – Brandon Fong from Constellation gave an overview of the natural gas market reporting that natural gas prices had recently increased to \$4.20/MMBtu primarily due to the sustained cold weather. He explained projections show that Canadian cold air will linger so pricing patterns won't shift until later in March. He reported that currently LNG terminals are exporting up to 16.5 BTU per day.

He discussed the impact of tariffs on Canadian imports by the Trump Administration and explained that steel and aluminum tariffs would have inflationary impacts on all levels of the energy infrastructure supply chain. He stated that this would result in higher costs of production for drills and wells for natural gas, pipeline expansion, electric transmission growth, wind generation as well as storage. Due to the current availability of natural gas by delivery points, he forecasts there will be limited impact to the Midwest. Fong discussed President Trump's Executive Order which includes the exploration and production of all domestic energy resources, the pause on LNG export approvals lifted, a stop on federal wind activity, agencies limiting environmental considerations and a pause in the disbursement of IRA funds. He reported that storage is 2.8% below last year and that last year the 5-year surplus peaked at 41% in mid-March following the warmest winter on record. He discussed natural gas term pricing and presented a graph of yearly comparisons of rolling 12-month natural gas.

Legislative & Regulatory Update – Staci Wilson reported that the Lame Duck Session had concluded with a condensed HB 587 Energy Omnibus bill. She stated that this legislation includes an Electric Transmission Systems Construction Standards Act which excludes municipal employees from the requirement, but includes the contractors that are utilized. She explained that an amendment to the Act requires utilities and construction contractors to demonstrate the competence of their employees who are performing the work of construction, installation, maintenance or repair of transmission systems consistent with the standards required by Illinois utilities as of 2007 or greater. These standards include completion in an accredited apprenticeship program or two years of direct employment in a specific work function. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) shall oversee compliance to ensure employees meet these standards. This IBEW initiative intends to ensure Illinois workers are utilized for the new transmission projects being built in Illinois as an alternative approach to the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) legislation.

Wilson further explained that this legislation requires the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) with the guidance of the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) to initiate a workshop for battery storage procurement and what the process would be for the State. This ICC workshop is scheduled from February 1 – April 1 upon which time the ICC will make a recommendation to the General Assembly. If the General Assembly authorizes the IPA to conduct a procurement, the IPA will have to complete the procurement by August 26, 2025. This legislation also amended the High Impact Business Act which provides for tax breaks to enable new battery storage facilities to apply for that designation. The bill also made changes regarding securing financing for renewable projects under the cost cap language in the statute to fund solar incentives that the IPA has been giving through the adjustable block program.

Wilson reported that there are ongoing stakeholder discussions regarding the specifics of HB 3779, HB 2902 and SB 2473 which include transparency components and Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. Stakeholder discussions are also ongoing regarding HB 3322 which includes net metering issues which could become part of a larger energy bill package. She explained that SB 2269/HB 3525 restricts natural gas capital projects and upgrades, although this only applies to IOUs. She reported that there is a potential for an energy bill omnibus. There have been multiple pieces of legislation introduced that address various energy topics to include storage, transmission access, DER interconnection and resource adequacy.

Wilson attended the APGA Legislative Rally last month and stated that the protection of tax-exempt financing was one of the main topics discussed. She stated that support for the Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution was also discussed which is the disapproval of the Department of Energy's gas-fired instantaneous water heater rule. She stated that continuation of LIHEAP funding and Section 5 reform were also topics of discussion.

Jonathon Wygant gave an update on the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) “Future of Natural Gas” hearings stating that Phase 2 of these workshops had begun in August of 2024. He explained that the ICC had expanded the timeline of these workshops due to increased interest. Last month, the ICC split the remainder of Phase 2 into three separate groups. Group 2A will examine issues identified in Phase 1 (ongoing through February); Group 2B establishes working groups to examine decarbonization pathways and pilot programs (March-June 2025) and Group 2C will review legislative and regulatory options (July-October 2025). Wygant reported that IPEA Staff is tracking the decarbonization pathways working group to have input on supply end use, market/technical feasibility, costs and equity and public health and adequacy.

Member Competitive Position – Wygant reported that two IPEA members are hedged into 2029, two members hedged into 2028, four members hedged through 2027, three members hedged into 2026 and one member is hedged into 2025 with one member on a Discount to Index program. IPEA/Constellation will be sending updates regularly with price quotes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m. by a motion from Joe Fosdyck. Shannon Risley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Assist. Secretary/Treasurer

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Bethany	Shannon Risley
Bushnell	Joe Fosdyck
Flora	Bob Coble (via webinar)
Marshall	Cory Sheehy
Martinsville	Todd Shaffner
Sullivan	Mike Kirk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Casey	Shelby Biggs
Edinburg	Mike Lebshier
Flora	Bob Coble
Greenup	Mike Ryder
Rantoul	Jake McCoy
Roodhouse	Terry Ross

OTHERS PRESENT

Constellation	John Jambois (via webinar)
Constellation	Brandon Fong (via webinar)
IPEA	Kevin Gaden
IPEA	Troy Fodor
IPEA	Staci Wilson
IPEA	Chris Wise
IPEA	Jonathon Wygant
IPEA	Katherine Parrish
IPEA	Adam Baker
IPEA	Danny Chung
IPEA	Tammy Hall
IPEA	Rodd Whelpley (via webinar)
IPEA	Ellen Woehrmann (via webinar)