

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Illinois Manufacturers' Association,	)	
Illinois Restaurant Association, Chemical	)	
Industry Council of Illinois, Illinois	)	
Industrial Energy Consumers, Illinois	)	Docket No. 26-XXXX
Chamber of Commerce, National	)	
Federation of Independent Businesses,	)	
Northern Illinois Home Builders	)	
Association, Home Builders and	)	
Remodelers Association of Illinois,	)	
National Association of Homebuilders,	)	
Construction & General Laborers' District	)	
Council of Chicago and Vicinity, Illinois	)	
Pipe Trades Association, Clean Energy	)	
Choice Coalition, United Allied Pipeline	)	
Trade, International Union of Operating	)	
Engineers Local 150, Local 18007 of the	)	
Utility Workers Union of America,	)	
Building Industry Association of Greater	)	
Chicago, Home Builders & Remodelers	)	
Metro East Association, Springfield Area	)	
Home Builders Association, Grain and	)	
Feed Association of Illinois, American	)	
Petroleum Institute	)	
	)	
Petition seeking to terminate or suspend the	)	
Future of Natural Gas proceeding and	)	
issues associated with decarbonization of	)	
the gas distribution system.	)	

**VERIFIED PETITION SEEKING TO  
TERMINATE OR SUSPEND THE FUTURE OF NATURAL GAS PROCEEDING**

Pursuant to Section 10-108 of the Public Utilities Act<sup>1</sup> (the “PUA” or the “Act”), the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association (“IMA”), Illinois Restaurant Association (“IRA”), Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (“CICIL”), the Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers (“IIEC”), the Illinois Chamber of Commerce (“ILCC”), National Federation of Independent Businesses

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<sup>1</sup> 220 ILCS 5/10-108.

(“NFIB”), Northern Illinois Home Builders Association (“NIHBA”), the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Illinois (“HBRAI”), the National Association of Homebuilders (“NAHB”) Construction & General Laborers’ District Council of Chicago and Vicinity (“the Laborers’ District Council”), Illinois Pipe Trade Association (“IPTA”), the Clean Energy Choice Coalition (“CECC”), United Allied Pipeline Trade (“UAPT”), International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 (“Local 150”), Local 18007 of the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO (“Local 18007), Building Industry Association of Greater Chicago (“BIAGC”), Home Builders & Remodelers Metro East Association (“HBRMEA”), Springfield Area Home Builders Association (“SAHBA”), Grain and Feed Association of Illinois (“GFAI”), and the American Petroleum Institute (“API”) (collectively, the “Petitioners”) respectfully petition the Illinois Commerce Commission (the “Commission”) to terminate or suspend the Future of Natural Gas proceeding, including all workshops and issues associated with decarbonization of the gas distribution system for the reasons set forth more fully herein. In support of this petition (the “Petition”), Petitioners state as follows:

1. The IMA is an Illinois association that represents over 4,000 companies and facilities in Illinois that collectively comprise the single largest share of the Illinois economy, employing over 650,000 women and men who produce \$580 billion to \$611 billion in economic output, with its principal place of business at 220 East Adams, Springfield, Illinois 62701. The leading manufacturing subsectors are food and agriculture, metal fabrication, heavy equipment, pharmaceuticals, and transportation equipment, along with other key sectors that include chemicals, electronics, plastics, and rubber.

2. The IRA is an Illinois association with over 9,000 member restaurants dedicated to promoting, protecting, educating, and improving the restaurant industry in Illinois with its principal place of business at 33 West Monroe, Suite 250, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

3. The CICIL is an Illinois association with its principal place of business at 400 West Monroe Street, Suite 205, Springfield, Illinois 62704, which has represented the Illinois chemical industry since 1951. CICIL represents 210 members, which jointly employ over 46,000 Illinois residents who comprise approximately 8.1% of Illinois' manufacturing workforce. The chemical industry in Illinois is the State's second largest industry, its largest exporter, and arguably the largest industrial sector using natural gas.

4. IIEC is a non-profit association of large energy consumers that operate manufacturing and/or educational facilities in Illinois. Specifically, IIEC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation formed to represent the interests of large, energy intensive industrial and institutional users of energy and water located in Illinois before regulatory commissions, including the Commission, courts of record and legislative bodies, and to promote the identification and discussion of energy related issues and events affecting large energy consumers.

5. The ILCC is an independent voice of Illinois businesses, advocating for policies that foster a competitive business climate for all sectors of Illinois' economy representing over 3,000 members from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies and with its principal place of business at 215 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

6. The NFIB is the nation's leading small business association and advocates on behalf of small and independent business owners in Illinois and across the country. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the rights of its members to own, operate, and grow their

businesses. NFIB has more than 10,000 small business members in Illinois. These businesses span the spectrum of business operations, ranging from sole proprietor enterprises to firms with hundreds of employees. Its principal place of business in Illinois is 600 South 2nd Street, Suite 403, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

7. The NIHBA is an Illinois association representing the home building industry and advocating on behalf of its members throughout Northern Illinois. NIHBA's membership includes builders, remodelers, developers, and related industry professionals of varying sizes. Collectively, NIHBA members generate more than \$1.1 billion in remodeling and new construction economic impact for the State of Illinois, demonstrating the significant contribution of the home building industry to the regional economy. NIHBA is committed to advancing accessible housing, promoting community development, and fostering economic growth. The association's principal place of business is 3695 Darlene Court, Suite 102, Aurora, Illinois 60504.

8. HBRAI is an Illinois association that represents over 1,000 home builders and remodelers in Illinois. HBRAI educates and advocates for the residential construction industry to protect and positively impact legislation, regulations and legal issues on behalf of members and consumers for the well-being of housing. With chapters all over the State of Illinois, its principal place of business is in Illinois.

9. NAHB is comprised of 130,000 members and strives to protect the American Dream of housing opportunities for all, while working to achieve professional success for its members who build communities, create jobs and strengthen our economy.

10. The Laborers' District Council is a regional labor organization representing local unions affiliated with the Laborers' International Union of North America ("LIUNA"). Through

these local unions, the Laborers' District Council represents the interests of LIUNA members throughout the following Illinois counties: Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, Boone, Grundy, and McHenry. Its principal place of business is located in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

11. The IPTA is a collaboration of 21 Local Unions representing over 26,000 pipefitters, plumbers, sprinkler fitters, welders, pipeliners, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration ("HVAC/R") mechanics with its principal place of business at 534 South 2nd Street, Suite 311, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

12. The CECC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) nonprofit Illinois coalition of trade associations, businesses, industry groups, and related stakeholders committed to promoting, affordable, and equitable energy policies, including continued access to natural gas as part of a diverse and reliable energy mix.

13. Local 150 is a labor organization representing nearly 24,000 working men and women primarily in northeastern Illinois. Local 150 was chartered on May 8, 1929, and its members operate heavy equipment in various industries, including utility installation and maintenance, road construction, building construction, and many others. Local 150 members receive specialized training on natural gas distribution and maintenance processes and perform this work regularly. Local 150's principal place of business is 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois 60525..

14. Local 18007 is a labor union that represents approximately 1,000 hourly employees of The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company ("PGL"). These employees operate, maintain, and repair the physical infrastructure necessary to deliver natural gas to customers of PGL and to staff PGL's customer care center.

15. The BIAGC is a trade association serving the greater Chicago region, representing the residential and light commercial building industry. BIAGC's members include builders, developers, remodelers, subcontractors, suppliers, and related industry professionals, and the

association advocates for housing affordability, responsible regulation, and policies that support safe, reliable, and cost-effective energy for homes and businesses.

16. The HBRMEA represents 237 members across 20 counties in southern Illinois, spanning from Litchfield to the state's southern border. Headquartered at 6100 West Main Street in Maryville, Illinois, our mission is to promote, educate, and advocate for the residential building and remodeling industry by providing resources that benefit both industry professionals and the consumers in the communities we serve.

17. SAHBA represents approximately 100 building and remodeling members across 10 counties in central Illinois. Headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, we are dedicated to improving the local housing industry through legislation, education and services for the benefit of the members and local communities. The goal is to be the voice of the building industry in our local community.

18. GFAI is the state-wide association for the grain handling and feed manufacturing industries. Representing more than 90% of Illinois' commercial grain storage capacity, the members include country and terminal grain elevators, grain brokers, feed dealers and manufacturers, ethanol production facilities, and processors of both corn and soybeans. The industry has an economic impact of over \$34 billion and provides over 94,000 jobs in Illinois according to a recent report.

19. 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. API's approximately 600 members produce, process, and distribute the majority of the nation's energy. Founded in 1919, API is a standards-setting organization that has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety,

efficiency, and sustainability. API principal place of business in Illinois is 400 West Monroe, Suite 205, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

20. On November 16, 2023, the Commission issued Orders in (1) Docket No. 23-0067, concerning proposals from Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois (“Ameren”) to increase its rates and revise other terms and conditions of service; (2) Docket No. 23-0066, concerning proposals from Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a Nicor Gas Company (“Nicor Gas”) to increase its rates and make revisions to other terms and conditions of service; (3) and Docket Nos. 23-0068 and 23-0069 (consolidated), concerning proposals from North Shore Gas Company (“North Shore” or “NS”) and PGL for a general increase in rates and revision to classifications, riders and terms and conditions of service. *Ameren Ill. Co., d/b/a Ameren Ill.*, Docket No. 23-0067, Order (Nov. 16, 2023); *N. Ill. Gas Co. d/b/a Nicor Gas Co.*, Docket No. 23-0066, Order (Nov. 16, 2023); *N. Shore Gas Co. and The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co.*, Docket Nos. 23-0068/23-0069 (Cons.), Order (Nov. 16, 2023) (collectively referred to as “Final Orders”).

21. In its Final Orders, the Commission directed Commission Staff (“Staff”) to develop a plan for a Future of Gas (“FOG”) proceeding, including a timeline for workshops and a formal proceeding.<sup>2</sup>

22. In a Staff report dated February 2, 2024, which was subsequently filed in Docket No. 24-0158 on March 7, 2024, Staff recommended initiating the FOG proceeding and proposed a workshop process to further explore issues identified by the Commission in its Final Orders and to seek stakeholder feedback on the same.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Ameren Ill. Co., d/b/a Ameren Ill.*, Docket No. 23-0067, Order (Nov. 16, 2023) (“Ameren Final Order”), 95-96; *N. Ill. Gas Co. d/b/a Nicor Gas Co.*, Docket No. 23-0066, Order (Nov. 16, 2023) (“Nicor Gas Final Order”), 233-234; *N. Shore Gas Co. and The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co.*, Docket Nos. 23-0068/23-0069 (Cons.), Order (Nov. 16, 2023) (“NS-PGL Final Order”), 121-122.

23. On March 7, 2024, the Commission entered an Order in Docket No. 24-0158 adopting a multi-step FOG proceeding (“FOG Initiating Order”) to ensure Illinois’ natural gas distribution systems “appropriately adapt to the decarbonization goals of P.A 102-0662” (aka the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act or “CEJA”).<sup>3</sup> Although the Commission acknowledged CEJA was “silent on authority to pursue decarbonization in the gas sector,” the Commission nonetheless concluded, on its own accord, that “the gas distribution system must change” to reach Illinois’ clean energy goals as set forth in CEJA.<sup>4</sup> To that end, the Commission commenced the FOG proceeding to “initiate discussions to identify the technologies, data, legislation, regulation, and investments necessary” as Illinois “transitions its energy systems” in response to CEJA.<sup>5</sup> The Commission has asserted authority of vast economic significance, yet can point to no clear textual grant authorizing this expansive exercise of regulatory powers that aims to drastically change Illinois’ gas distribution system. Against this backdrop, the Commission’s FOG Initiating Order demands close and continuous scrutiny, for the Commission itself acknowledges that no statutory provision in CEJA or the Act authorizes the action it has undertaken or course it has chosen.

24. The FOG Initiating Order stated that the Commission would host two series of workshops to initiate the FOG process.<sup>6</sup> The first series of workshops, which were to be commenced within thirty days of the FOG Initiating Order, was intended to identify the universe of issues related to decarbonization and the natural gas sector while the second series of

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<sup>3</sup> See *Ill. Comm. Comm’n.*, Docket No. 24-0158, Order (Mar. 7, 2024) (“FOG Initiating Order”).

<sup>4</sup> FOG Initiating Order at 3, 4.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1, 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 4.

workshops, which were supposed to start no later than September 1, 2024, was intended to identify recommendations, potential solutions, and/or necessary action to address such issues.<sup>7</sup>

25. The FOG Initiating Order obligated a third-party facilitator chosen by the Commission to moderate the workshops (“Facilitator”) to develop a separate public report that summarizes the findings, perspectives, key information, relevant data, and recommendations provided by participating stakeholders in the FOG workshops (“Facilitator Report”), which was due to the Commission no later than July 1, 2025.<sup>8</sup>

26. With the Commission expressing its intent in the FOG Initiating Order that “each workshop series is inclusive and accessible to all interested stakeholders,”<sup>9</sup> the Petitioners have been active and contributing participants throughout the first and second series of FOG workshops, along with hundreds of other interested participants.

27. Indeed, with more than 800 participants signed up and with attendance at the workshops often exceeding 300 participants, Staff filed a Staff report in Docket No. 24-0158 on September 26, 2024, seeking an expanded timeframe due to (i) “robust and diverse” participation in the first series of workshops and (ii) the “large number of topics and the desire by participants to obtain better information and education on these topics.”<sup>10</sup> To accommodate widespread interest, Staff sought to extend the FOG proceeding through February 2026.

28. On September 26, 2024, citing the “substantial stakeholder interest and participation, and the breadth and number of issues” elicited in the first series of FOG

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 4, 5.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>10</sup> *Ill. Comm. Comm’n. Staff*, Docket No. 24-0158, Staff Report (Sept. 26, 2024), 2.

workshops, the Commission issued an order reopening the FOG proceeding and adopted the extended schedule proposed by Staff.<sup>11</sup>

29. On January 21, 2026, in response to Staff’s request for yet another extension of the FOG proceeding, the Commission issued a second order on reopening, which extended the FOG proceeding through December 31, 2026.<sup>12</sup>

30. However, in light of the grim conclusions reached in the recently released Resource Adequacy Study (defined and discussed below), the Commission should terminate the FOG proceeding, or, at a minimum, suspend it.

31. On December 15, 2025, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“IEPA”), the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”), and the Commission released a Resource Adequacy Study, which assessed the current and projected status of electric resource adequacy and reliability throughout Illinois, as required by CEJA (the “Study”).

32. The 200+ page Study contained troubling and alarming conclusions regarding the current and future state of electric resource adequacy and electric grid reliability in Illinois.

33. Specifically, the Study concluded that Illinois is expected to experience serious electric resource adequacy deficits in the near future due to a growing imbalance in supply and demand on the regional electric grid: “Illinois faces a tightening reliability environment driven by accelerated load growth, regional capacity shortages, and scheduled retirements under CEJA.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> *Ill. Comm. Comm’n.*, Docket No. 24-0158, Order (Sept. 26, 2024), 3 (“First Order on Reopening”).

<sup>12</sup> *Ill. Comm. Comm’n.*, Docket No. 24-0158, Order (Jan. 21, 2026), 3 (“Second Order on Reopening”).

<sup>13</sup> Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Power Agency & Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2025 Resource Adequacy Study, 182 (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://ipa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/ipa/documents/20251215-illinois-ra-study-2025-final.pdf>.

34. Even more troubling, the Study concluded that even “[b]efore considering Illinois state policy and potential retirements, neither the ComEd zone nor MISO LRZ4 currently has sufficient in-state and planned resources to reliably meet 2030 requirements under several potential scenarios.”<sup>14</sup>

35. As such, the Study forewarned stakeholders that “resource adequacy in Illinois is fundamentally constrained by the availability or scarcity of surplus capacity in PJM and MISO.”<sup>15</sup>

36. Given these serious electric resource adequacy constraints, the Study emphasized the importance of maintaining and strategically managing resource retirements in Illinois, particularly “thermal generation” resources (describing them as “an important source of resource adequacy” in Illinois).<sup>16</sup>

37. The Study also revealed that natural gas generation – the most common thermal generation resource – comprises the largest power generation resource in both PJM Interconnection, LLC (“PJM”) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”).<sup>17</sup>

38. Thus, the Study underscores the reality that, for the foreseeable future, electric grid reliability and resource adequacy in Illinois are critically dependent on the availability and adequacy of natural gas infrastructure and natural gas generating resources.

39. In light of those distressing conclusions, and the absence of express statutory authority over such a major question of economic significance, the Commission should not continue the FOG proceeding under the current and foreseeable energy landscape in Illinois as described in the Study.

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<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 180.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at x.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 171.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 87-88.

40. At a time when Illinois must shore up electric resource adequacy and preserve electric grid reliability, both of which are critically dependent on the availability and adequacy of robust natural gas infrastructure and natural generation resources, continuing discussions about phasing out natural gas and analyzing the potential impacts of electrification on the gas system (as the Commission contemplated in its Final Orders<sup>18</sup> and in the FOG Initiating Order<sup>19</sup>) is unreasonable and ill-advised. Given the facts known today, it makes no sense to pursue the elimination of a source of energy for Illinois residents that is abundant and affordable (compared to electricity), and which remains critical to support their well-being, as well as future economic development in the state.

41. Against the backdrop of the distressing and sobering data contained in the Study, in late January 2026 Winter Storm Fern underscored with unmistakable clarity that ensuring the availability and reliability of natural gas resources is vital. Illinois residents, businesses, and communities' well-being and economic vitality depend on a reliable electric grid and safe, affordable, resilient, and reliable natural gas during severe weather events. Careful, deliberate evaluation of any policy that contemplates degasifying Illinois' energy market or mandating widespread electrification is essential given the current state of electric grid-capacity and generation constraints. Indeed, the severity of Winter Storm Fern was such that PJM sought – and the U.S. Department of Energy granted and later extended – an emergency order authorizing all electric generation units in the PJM region to operate at maximum output levels.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> See, e.g., Ameren Final Order at 93-94; NS-PGL Final Order at 121; Nicor Gas Final Order at 24 (“It is also noteworthy that PIO expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts of electrification on Nicor Gas’ system and the risks that Nicor Gas’ capital investments create for its remaining customers. The Commission agrees that these are issues that gas utilities should further incorporate into planning. As such, the Commission adopts PIOs’ recommendation to initiate a “Future of Gas” proceeding discussed below in Section X.A.6.”).

<sup>19</sup> FOG Initiating Order at 2-6.

<sup>20</sup> United States Department of Energy, Federal Power Act Section 202(c): PJM Interconnection (PJM) Order No. 202-26-02 (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/federal-power-act-section-202c-pjm-interconnection-pjm-order-no-202-26-02>.

42. When the Commission first directed Staff to develop a plan for a FOG proceeding in its Final Orders over two years ago, the energy landscape in Illinois was not the same as it is today. At that time, there was no Commission-sanctioned Study outlining grave concerns regarding a pending electric resource adequacy crisis in Illinois, and Illinois consumers at that time were not experiencing skyrocketing electricity prices like they are today.

43. But, as the Study undoubtedly confirms, the energy landscape in Illinois is far more dire today than it was over two years ago. Indeed, the Study itself underscores how electric generation capacity costs have recently skyrocketed to unprecedented levels due to resource adequacy constraints.<sup>21</sup> As such, the Commission should not continue pursuing the FOG proceeding as any policies or recommendations emanating from it must necessarily presume the existence of adequate electric resource capacity and electric grid reliability in Illinois.

44. Requiring more than 800 participants in the FOG proceeding to continue expending time, energy, and resources on addressing the potential impacts of electrification and the risk of stranded gas system investments (among other FOG topics) while the regional electric grid in Illinois is starring down the barrel of an electric resource adequacy crisis defies logic and is shortsighted.

45. Considering the alarming conclusions outlined in the Study, the Commission must either terminate it entirely, or, at a minimum, suspend it.

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<sup>21</sup> Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Power Agency & Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2025 Resource Adequacy Study, vi, 26-27, 127, (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://ipa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/ipa/documents/20251215-illinois-ra-study-2025-final.pdf>. As the Study itself confirmed, the 2026/2027 PJM capacity auction set a new price record at \$329.17 per MW-day, which was the highest regional transmission organization-wide capacity price since the auctions first started nearly twenty years ago. *Id.* at 77. And prices would have been even higher (*i.e.*, \$388.57 per MW-day) but for a price cap of \$329.17 implemented by PJM in response to a FERC complaint filed by the Governor of Pennsylvania. For comparison purposes, the 2024/2025 PJM capacity auction resulted in \$28.92 per MW-day, which is **11 times less** than artificially capped, record 2026/2027 PJM auction price. *Id.* Record high capacity prices were not just confined to PJM, as the latest capacity auction in MISO resulted in record high capacity prices too. *Id.* at 80.

46. Not only that, continuing the FOG proceeding is duplicative and unnecessarily exhausts the resources of the Commission, Staff, and over 800 participants.

47. CEJA already requires the development, evaluation, and approval of a mitigation plan, which is intended to assess the options available to address (and mitigate) the projected resource adequacy shortfall identified in the Study (“Mitigation Plan”).

48. The statutory process prescribed in CEJA to develop, modify, approve, and implement the Mitigation Plan is comprehensive and provides numerous opportunities for meaningful stakeholder participation and input, which effectively renders the FOG proceeding redundant.

49. Specifically, as part of the Mitigation Plan development process, the IPA and IEPA are required under CEJA to hold at least one publicly accessible and convenient stakeholder workshop where stakeholder and public comments are considered to inform Mitigation Plan activities.<sup>22</sup>

50. Next, CEJA requires the Mitigation Plan to be posted to the websites of the Commission, IPA, and IEPA for further public review. After it is posted, there is a sixty-day public comment period whereby “[a]ll interested parties” may submit comments regarding the draft Mitigation Plan, with all such comments posted on the websites of the IPA, IEPA, and the Commission.<sup>23</sup>

51. The IPA and the IEPA are then allotted an additional thirty days following the sixty-day public comment period to (i) revise the Mitigation Plan as necessary based on

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<sup>22</sup> See 415 ILCS 5/9.15(o)(1).

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

comments received from interested parties, and (ii) file the revised Mitigation Plan with the Commission for approval.<sup>24</sup>

52. Within sixty days following the filing of the revised Mitigation Plan, interested parties are afforded yet another opportunity to file comments at the Commission objecting to the Mitigation Plan.<sup>25</sup>

53. Within thirty days after the expiration of the foregoing comment period, the Commission must then determine whether an evidentiary hearing is necessary.<sup>26</sup>

54. Meanwhile, whether an evidentiary hearing is required or not, the Commission must also host three additional public hearings within ninety days after the filing of the revised Mitigation Plan.<sup>27</sup>

55. Within one-hundred and eighty days following the evidentiary hearing and the three public hearings, the Commission must then enter an order approving (or approving with modifications) the Mitigation Plan; provided, however, that the Commission may only approve the Mitigation Plan if the Commission determines that it will resolve the resource adequacy or reliability deficiency identified in the Study “at the least amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e and copollutant emissions, taking into consideration the emissions impacts on environmental justice communities, and that it will ensure adequate, reliable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable electric service at the lowest total cost over time, taking into account the impact of increases in emissions.”<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> *See* 415 ILCS 5/9.15(o)(2).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> 415 ILCS 5/9.15(o)(3).

56. Given the robust procedural mechanisms and ample opportunities for stakeholder input available under CEJA (*i.e.*, multiple comment periods, workshops, public hearings, and an evidentiary hearing), there is simply no need for Staff and stakeholders to continue exhausting resources to pursue a parallel and duplicative procedural process (through the FOG proceeding) that will inexorably address overlapping issues.

57. This is especially true considering the other statutorily required planning initiatives ongoing at the Commission that would also subsume FOG-related discussions such as (1) the formal Integrated Resource Planning (“IRP”) framework for Illinois as required by the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (“CRGA”), which is intended to provide a more comprehensive venue for addressing many of the foundational issues identified in the Study within a unified, multi-year planning framework, and (2) the Renewable Energy Access Plan (“REAP”) required under CEJA that was most recently opened in December 2025 (with a final REAP likely adopted by the Commission by the end of 2026<sup>29</sup>) to set forth a path forward to meet Illinois clean energy goals by 2050.

58. Given the significant overlap between the Commission-created FOG proceeding and the statutorily mandated procedural processes enshrined in CEJA and CRGA, the Commission should terminate, or at a minimum, suspend, the FOG proceeding.

59. In doing so, the Commission will allow the development of a Mitigation Plan, an IRP framework, and a REAP without risking the creation of inconsistent or conflicting decisions/plans as to how Illinois will meet these future challenges while also complying with state policies enshrined in CEJA and CRGA.

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<sup>29</sup> Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Power Agency & Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2025 Resource Adequacy Study, 73 (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://ipa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/ipa/documents/20251215-illinois-ra-study-2025-final.pdf>.

60. Proceeding with parallel, duplicative proceedings forces Staff and hundreds of stakeholders to incur additional and unnecessary resources monitoring, participating, and contributing to time-intensive, multistep proceedings with significant overlap.<sup>30</sup>

61. Permanently ceasing or, at a minimum, temporarily suspending the FOG proceeding ensures efficiency, fairness, and preserves the integrity of the procedural mechanisms created by the General Assembly to meet the goals in CEJA and CRGA without undermining Illinoisans' access to "adequate, reliable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable electric service."<sup>31</sup>

62. Accordingly, Petitioners are filing this Petition and request the Commission terminate the FOG proceeding, or, at a minimum, suspend it. Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission issue an order granting this Petition as soon as practicable given the circumstances and to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of limited resources.

63. Specifically, Petitioners request that the Commission issue an Order that includes among the Ordering Paragraphs the following:

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Illinois Commerce Commission that the Future of Gas proceeding is terminated [or, in the alternative, suspended until further notice].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition by the Petitioners dated [insert date] be made a part of the record of the proceeding in Docket No. 24-0158.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order be served on all utilities engaged in the distribution of natural gas and electricity in Illinois.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subject to the provisions of Section 10-108 of the Public Utilities Act, this Order is final; it is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

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<sup>30</sup> Even the Study itself acknowledged that these parallel processes "substantially – if not entirely – overlap" and "that parallel processes addressing similar subject matter and requiring similar evaluations before the same forum is ripe for synergies." *Id.* at 183, 184.

<sup>31</sup> 415 ILCS 5/9.15(o)(3).

WHEREFORE, Petitioners respectfully request that the Illinois Commerce Commission enter an Order, pursuant to Section 10-108 of the Act, to terminate, or at a minimum, suspend, the FOG proceeding for the reasons set forth in this Petition.

Dated: [insert date], 2026

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
One of their attorneys

[insert attorney information]