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# ILLINOIS ENERGY FORUM

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## Bills of Interest

**The** following bills of interest to the energy industry have been introduced into the 100<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly for consideration during its Spring 2017 session:

**Senate Bill 71** (Sen. Don Harmon, D-Oak Park and Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie) – Amended in committee; would now clarify certification procedures for wind power installers. Passed by the Senate on a vote of 47-3. Sent to the House of Representatives.

**Senate Bill 611** (Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign and Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana) – would establish the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force to address the issue of maintaining clean drinking water for communities served by the Mahomet Aquifer. Passed by the Senate on a vote of 56-0. Sent to the House of Representatives.

**Senate Bill 1381** (Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago) – would make significant changes in the Telecommunications Act designed to modernize much of the state's telecommunications system, especially voice communications. Approved by the Senate Telecommunications and Information Technology Committee. On Second Reading in the Senate. Deadline for passage by the Senate extended to May 31, 2017.

## NERC, AGA Launch Security Information Sharing Effort to Leverage Gas-Electric Interdependency, Cooperation

**The** North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the American Gas Association have launched a new grid and energy delivery security partnership that takes advantage of the growing interdependency and collaboration of the natural gas and electricity industries.

Under the partnership, staff from the Downstream Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Center (DNG-ISAC) will join the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) in Washington, D.C., to improve coordination on potential security risks related to critical electricity and natural gas pipeline infrastructure.

The partnership between the E-ISAC and the DNG-ISAC builds on the long-standing efforts of the gas and electricity industries to address supply interdependencies by developing a robust information exchange on shared security risks.

Through a variety of tools, the E-ISAC and DNG-ISAC monitor and analyze potential physical and cyber security threats to their respective industries and use their secure portals to alert and advise members on mitigating real threats. The goals of the E-ISAC and the DNG-ISAC under the partnership include exchanging information on threats within their industries that have the potential to impact critical infrastructure in either or both industries. Currently, more than 45 percent of the gas utilities represented by the DNG-ISAC are also E-ISAC stakeholders.

The partnership has three primary objectives to better serve both industries' members:

- Improve security collaboration on common threat information and incident response.
- Provide more joint analysis of security concerns and events.
- Advance shared processes for information sharing and

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## FROM THE STAFF

**We're** headed into the home stretch for the first Spring Session of the 100<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly. Bills that passed their house of origin are now being examined by the other chamber and the May 31<sup>st</sup> regular session deadline is fast approaching. After a huge debate last year, it's been a relatively quiet session on the energy policy front. But the thing about legislative sessions is you just never know how it turns out until adjournment. We'll let you know how it all develops. **IEF**

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## Bills

**Senate Bill 1488** (Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris) —would eliminate the Radioactive Waste Task Force and related sections of law. Approved by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. On Third Reading in the Senate.

**House Bill 1848** (Rep. Reginald Phillips, R-Charleston)—would expand the state's clean coal technology portfolio standards law to incent construction of a electricity generating facility near Mattoon. Held in a subcommittee of the House Energy Committee. Re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

**House Bill 3042** (Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Collinsville) — would create a grant program to stimulate development of clean coal technology power generation. The grant program is subject to legislative appropriations. Approved by the House Energy

Committee. Re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

**House Bill 3396** (Rep. Mike Fortner, R-West Chicago and Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris)) — would facilitate the purchase of electricity for a municipal electric company by the Illinois Power Agency. Passed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 112-0. Sent to the Senate. **IEF**

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## NERC, AGA

**Situational** awareness.

Benefits of the partnership include the opportunity for E-ISAC members to participate in monthly DNG-ISAC security briefings, the opportunity for DNG-ISAC members to participate in monthly E-ISAC briefings, and the development of consistent information sharing protocols for both industries.

"Partnering with the DNG-ISAC helps strengthen E-ISAC products and services for all members and especially those with a significant amount of gas-fired generation," said Marcus Sachs, NERC senior vice president and chief security officer.

The operational and security interdependency of the industries include electric utilities' need for a steady supply of gas from pipelines and gas pipelines' use of electric pumps. Pipelines are able to operate with temporary supply disruptions, provided the gas pressures are maintained within acceptable limits. A prolonged supply disruption could result in a loss of generation that exceeds available electricity reserves. **IEF**

## Ameren Illinois To Invest in Modernizing East St. Louis Facility

**Ameren** Illinois recently announced plans to renovate its main East St. Louis operating center. The facility, located at 500 East Broadway, was originally constructed in 1959 and in need of updating. The \$9 million project will begin in May of 2017 and will be completed by the end of 2017.

"This facility will provide a more modern work space for our current employees and support our efforts to attract the next generation of workers to the region," said Richard J. Mark, president of Ameren Illinois. "We have had a strong presence in East St. Louis for many years and we're excited to make this investment and solidify the community as a key hub in our efforts to build a smarter, more reliable grid."

The 25,000 square-foot facility houses the company's regional electric and gas distribution operations. Fifty Ameren Illinois employees will work at the facility when completed, with room for additional expansion.

"This is an ideal location that provides us with easy access to major thoroughfares to reach our customers in a timely and safe manner," Mark said.

Renovations will include a complete overhaul of the exterior and re-building of the offices and crew areas to comply with current building code standards. The front parking lot will be re-configured and new fencing and security gate will be added. The current truck shelter will be repainted and will receive lighting and security upgrades. **IEF**

## Exelon Generation Employees Create Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries

**Exelon** Generation employees have been hard at work creating one of Illinois' largest Monarch butterfly habitats, right next door to one of the state's largest carbon-free energy facilities – Byron Nuclear Station in Ogle County. Employee volunteers from Byron's conservation club have spent the last two years planting milkweed on land outside the facility's fence line to create a habitat for the Monarch butterfly, the state's official insect. When an additional 15 acres are planted later this year, the butterfly sanctuary will stretch across 45 acres – and almost three miles – from the Byron plant to the Rock River.

This initiative is part of Exelon Generation's ongoing commitment to biodiversity and environmental conservation. In Illinois, employees at all six Exelon Generation nuclear facilities are actively identifying and protecting rare, threatened and endangered species, part of a long-standing partnership with the Wildlife Habitat Council to restore and enhance wildlife habitats. Exelon's commitment to the environment also includes green buildings, hybrid vehicles, natural habitat preservation, and ambitious reductions of carbon emissions and air pollutants.

At the Byron facility, "We're planting four different types of milkweed along with warm season grasses and summer flowers," said Jason Pitman, a work control manager at Byron Station and president of its conservation club. "This project restores the natural habitat and is creating a sanctuary with plantings, tall grasses, trees and food plots to benefit all wildlife on Exelon Generation property."

The Monarch population has declined by almost 90 percent during the past 20 years. Many scientists believe it is due in large part to disappearing milkweed plants – the sole source of food for the Monarch caterpillar. By planting milkweed on Exelon Generation properties, Byron volunteers are joining efforts across the country to support the butterflies on their 3,000-mile annual migration through the United States to Mexico.

"It is very encouraging and inspiring to see a great company and leader in our region take such an important role in the restoration of habitat for the Monarch butterfly," said Todd Tucker, executive director of the Byron Forest Preserve. **IEF**

## ICC Establishes Office of Cybersecurity and Risk Management

**The** Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has announced the establishment of a new Office of Cybersecurity and Risk Management, with Dominic Saebeler serving as director. The initiative complements Governor Bruce Rauner's commitment to building a more cyber secure Illinois.

Through the development of policy, strategy and best practice sharing, the Office of Cybersecurity and Risk Management is charged with prioritizing and supporting the ongoing efforts of regulated Illinois utilities to protect critical infrastructure from cybersecurity risk and unauthorized access to system and electronic data.

While cybersecurity has not traditionally been addressed by state public utility regulators, a December 2015 Ukrainian cyber-attack, which left more than 225,000 customers powerless for six hours, and other recent indications of cyber espionage targeting the United States has made it necessary for regulators to discern how to best protect the services, data and information valuable to customers and companies in the electricity, gas, water and telecommunications industries.

"The growing sophistication of utility-based cybersecurity preparation and ongoing efforts to drive comprehensive situational awareness makes the ICC uniquely positioned to partner with stakeholders and encourage further collaboration," said ICC Chairman Brien J. Sheahan. "The establishment of the Office of Cybersecurity and Risk Management allows us to do so on a consistent basis and maintain the most proactive infrastructure possible within Illinois."

"The Commission takes seriously its mission to ensure the provision of adequate, safe and reliable public utility services," said ICC Executive Director Cholly Smith. "Dominic's legal background and expertise in IT policy make him well equipped for the role and the creation of this office cements our commitment to making sure Illinois is doing everything it can to defend against the potential disruption that cyber intrusions can cause to vital utility services." **IEF**

## MARC 2017 To Be Held In Chicago

**The** annual meeting of the MidAmerican Regulatory Conference (MARC) will be held in Chicago from June 18-21, 2017. The Illinois Commerce Commission is a member of MARC along with public utility commissions from several Midwestern states. Illinois Commissioner John Rosales is this year's President of MARC.

Detailed information concerning MARC 2017 and a registration form are available on the MARC website located at [www.marc-conference.org](http://www.marc-conference.org). 

## Boston Hosts EEI Convention/Expo

**This** year's Annual Convention/Expo of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston from June 11-14.

More than 1,200 top decision-makers of domestic and international firms from energy-related fields will be on hand to discuss critical industry issues. In addition, attendees will be able to attend the Expo 2017 Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services.

Convention information is available from EEI at 202-508-5000. 

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