



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

## State of Illinois Energy Transition Workforce Commission February 22, 2023 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Minutes

### **Location:**

*Virtual*

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 876 8819 1906

Access Code: 713826

Video Link: <https://uis.zoom.us/j/87088191906?pwd=RkxOZ3p3VVNUR2Q1TW94b2FYc2JYUT09>

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### **Minutes:**

- I. Call to Order at 11:05 am by Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission
  - a. Roll was called by Tonda Reece (UIS), the following were present via Zoom:
    - Angela Morrison, Chicago Jobs Council
    - Sameer Doshi
    - Pat Devaney, AFL-CIO
    - Paul Noble
    - Lis Jones
    - Director Kristin Richards
    - Jason Keller, IDOL, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission
  - Chair Keller mentioned that Director Richards had to step away and when she rejoins the meeting, we would then have a quorum. When she rejoins, we would go back and adopt the minutes from the last meeting. He also reminded members of the public that we will be taking public comments at the end of the meeting. Each person seeking public comment has three minutes to speak. Went on to say all of us are using Webex (Zoom) for this meeting, so please use the chat function in Webex (Zoom) to inform us with your name, title, organization, email address and phone number. Again, we will come back to the minutes and adopting those and there were changes that I believe were distributed about an hour ago. I think, Commissioner Doshi had some technical changes to the minutes that were distributed before that and so we will come back to ask for adoption of those. You'll note that on our website the first phase of the report was posted and is up for the public to see. We included the cover letter that we discussed at our last meeting. So that is there for you to review. What it would like to do is to go ahead and turn it over to Dr. Kriz real quick and allow him some time to go through to outline the steps we will take in 2023.

II. First Phase of the Commission's Report has been posted

- Chair Keller mentioned this after roll was called.

III. Dr. Kriz outline of next steps in 2023

- Dr. Kriz thank you. Chair Keller and thank you for your time today members of the Commission. I just wanted to kind of run through the timeline or a game plan for how I'm going to address the very good comments which were given. In January, I wrote a memo to Chair Keller with a more kind of complete list of things we're going to do to address the comments and things that we knew we were left outstanding with the phase one report the things we'd be doing this year. So, the Commission or the Chair Keller's group kind of made change that so it didn't read kind of like a to-do list and attached it as part of the cover memo for the phase one report. So basically, what I'm working on now, and what I am planning to be done with in March is a new set of estimates for energy demand. One of the major concerns raised by the commissioners especially Commissioner Doshi and Devaney were that the estimates of energy demand were very gross. They did not include the effects of electrification efforts and energy demand conservation programs. They also did not address the effects by the RTO the regional transmission organization, as well as addressing off peak energy demand as well as peak energy demand. So, what I've been learning, and this is, I admit new ground for me is, I've been learning the Reads model that's put out by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and READS, I think-- I always get the name wrong. So don't hurt me if I'm wrong, I think it stands for Regional Energy and I forget what the d is always System. Deployment, Regional Energy and Deployment System, and it's a model that's been used in a lot of studies. And it does all of the things that were identified as lacking in the phase one report to develop a better model of energy demand which feeds into the economic and workforce estimates. So, I'm hoping to be done with that in March. The next step will be to implement the, I'm sorry along with that another thing that we'll be a modeling of coal plant closures there were some questions regarding my assumption that the coal plants (mine) would be closing as the coal generating facilities were closed. I already have the data for that because it's part of the CGE modeling and I'll have estimates of that in March or maybe early April after that.
- Commissioner Doshi said Dr. Kriz sorry to interrupt, do you mean the coal mine closures?
- Dr. Kriz said I'm sorry I shouldn't say coal plant, the coal mine closures. Thank you, so yeah, my assumption was as the generating plants closed that the coal mines would close. I now have data that in that models coal exports. So, I'm able to come up with better estimates of the coal mine closures. Along with that I'll be able to say something about coal lash impoundments, how much of that is going to be necessary?
- Patty Wentworth from Montgomery County interjected by saying our coal mine is still producing coal. But our output varies from month to month. So, would we be participating in that or included in that?
- Dr. Kriz replied by asking Chair Keller how do you want me to handle this?
- Chair Keller said I would prefer, I know Dr. Kriz has to step away after his presentation here I think I would prefer question from the public to maybe be sent to us via email. We can respond that way or you can put in into the chat. But right now, we thank you for your comment.
- Dr. Kriz continued by saying the next thing is to implement the statewide economic and workforce model some of the things, and I'm hoping to be done with that in kind of the June to July timeframe. Some of the things that we'll be doing in that is, first of all looking at supply chain effects which were something that we could not model without the data which we've since obtained for this model through the IMPLAN system. Then look at the construction job issue it was quite a comment in phase one report. So, we'll be

looking at that in depth in the phase two report. Also including effects of the rooftop solar industry. I believe Commissioner Doshi this was one of your specific comments we'll be looking at modeling that as part of this effort over the summer. Then next were going to work on the more localized effects, again responding to some of the comments by the Commissioners that we can't just look at statewide effects that there are obviously local effects which are very pronounced that some of the groups on here are representing the public are very concerned with and so we'll be modeling that again over the summer. I'm hoping to have those type of effects modeled by the end of the summer say August. Being a professor I have to admit that the majority of my effort is going to be focused in the summer, it's just the time that I have to really put full effort. I'm doing as much as I can during the semester but it's during the semester. And then also I'm going to be developing a model for the siting of wind and solar because if we're going to look at the local impacts of renewable generation. We have to have some idea and I came across the model through the National Renewable Energy lab that talked about some determinants of wind and solar siting. I haven't had time to read into it in too much detail right now, but I'll be doing that over the summer also. So again, you can look for those things toward the end of summer. Along with that also responding again to a comment from Commissioner Doshi, we'll be implementing the COBRA tool from the EPA to look at the modeling of air pollution effects. Then kind of during the early Fall we'll be working on things like developing or identifying developing industries that might be good targets for subsidies for in the regions that are affected by the fossil fuel plant closures. What are some you know promising industries? Again we have a lot of good data on industries and supply change from the IMPLAN system where we can look at for example, the industry that seems to be developing and shows strength and shows, you know, promise for the future. It seems to be this and so it's something that we could look at for targeted incentives for example. And then also to document in more detail kind of the effects in terms of the full-time workers affected by plant closures and looking at layoffs and versus other forms of separation from employment. And that will be kind of the early Fall kind of September, October. All of this should lead us to have a draft report in November, which would give the Commission plenty of time to consider it for the meeting our deadline of December for a final report. With that I'll take questions.

- Chair Keller asked are there any questions from commission members at this time on what Dr. Kriz has outlined?
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you Chair Keller. Dr. Kriz I'm very interested in a model for the siting of new wind and solar facilities. I'd be curious to learn more in the nearer rather the distant future about what goes into that? If you could share it with myself or the whole commissioners. You could also of course look at where new wind and solar has already been sited in Illinois via State sponsored programs as well as new facilities that have fully private off takers to help inform your projections.
- Dr. Kriz replied by saying yes, and that is what I plan to do, I plan to augment it. I found an article that had been or a paper that had been published from some folks at NREL talking about relative siting in state that are more amenable. It's the wrong... you don't want the.. with a lot of solar capacity or solar potential and wind potential. So your Oklahoma Kansas type corridor there was a paper that looked at that, and I'll forward that to you. I could send it to Chair Keller and you can send it out to the entire commission. That's where I'm starting, again a lot of that work I'm doing this summer just because it's the time I have to do it.
- Chair Keller said you're on mute Commissioner Doshi
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you. As you know the legislature last month the Illinois Legislature passed a law called Public Act 102-1123 which it was also known as Senate Bill 4412. Excuse me House Bill 4412 which standardizes zoning requirements for renewable facilities across counties and of course we don't

yet have actual experience what renewable development under this new regime will look like but that maybe something to consider.

- Dr. Kriz said yes, I definitely will consider that, there are some places that are much more amenable for siting beyond this kind of the economic or even electrical potential considerations and so yes, I'll certainly consider that.
- Commissioner Jones added that she had a quick comment we've been doing so much work on the workforce program side and standing those up and looking at the various occupations and then we'll be releasing the climate works pre apprenticeship NOFO and then the clean energy network hubs NOFO- the funding opportunities. So, I just want to make everyone is aware of that. And then looking at what we're doing with this and making sure that some of that gets infused in the report where it's appropriate.
- Dr. Kriz replied by saying yes, I certainly will reference that as appropriate. One of the things if I can editorialize, I do find a little bit interesting is that I would be very interested in where the data that was relied on to develop the incentive was taken from?
- Commissioner Jones said yeah I would have to check with our SEDAC folks on that where they got that or they got the data from? I think at least for the occupational projections I know they used BLS data from IDES, that I do know.
- Dr. Kriz said okay, so that's some of the data I use for the report for the phase one report was the occupational employment and wage statistics data from the BLS. So, it sounds like were on the same as far as that. The nice thing I found subsequent is IMPLAN has a nice cross walk of that between the industry and occupation. So they're actually able to come up with estimates of particular down to the skills and abilities type. I shared this with a couple Chambers of Commerce who've already asked for the data when they knew I was getting it. So, it can go down to if you're talking about a workforce education type program a listing of skills and things like that. That's all in OEWS it just isn't published.
- Commissioner Jones replied right gotcha, got it. Continued by saying well I think too, just referencing, you know we're going to be as part of the displaced energy workers Bill of Rights you now as these plants start to close there's going to be special, you know there's tool kits and things like that we have to develop which I know is more programmatic than what we're probably looking at here. But I think it's also good to reference in the report that these are some of the ways that we're addressing this.
- Dr. Kriz said exactly. And if I could say one more thing: when we are able to get at kind of the developing industries model, which unfortunately I have later in the summer or early fall, we may be able to inform some of that, so it might be cross training and things like that.
- Commissioner Jones said agree and thank you.
- Commissioner Doshi added that the statutory charge to report on as you just said emerging industries and economic development opportunities in regions that have historically been the site of fossil fuel power plants, nuclear power plants, or coal mining. I think that piece is not merely a strictly factual investigation but may entail some judgement by the commission of what to emphasize.
- Dr. Kriz said sure and I'm open to any guidance on that.
- Commissioner Doshi said: so if yourself and the leadership of our commission can try to engage us in that discussion sooner than later throughout this calendar year that would be helpful.
- Dr. Kriz said certainly.
- Chair Keller added that I think yeah we can do that as well and we can kind of get to a little bit of that after Dr. Kriz is done with his presentation and questions we can go into kind of future meeting dates and goals that we're going to set. Are there more questions for Dr. Kriz from commission members I should

state? I am not hearing any. I know Dr. Kriz does need to leave our meeting so I thank you for the presentation and we will look forward to working with you here in 2023.

- Dr. Kriz said excellent, thank you so much, and thank you for your comments.

IV. Approval of minutes

- Chair Keller said with that we'll go to the next agenda item I want to make sure is Director Kristen Richards on by any chance via phone? Just trying to establish a quorum so we can. It doesn't look like it.
- Tonda Reece (UIS) answered no she hasn't.
- Chair Keller said okay if she's back we'll quickly adopt the minutes hopefully. But in the meantime we'll move forward on the agenda and the next item is setting future commission meeting dates. (continued in section VII)

V. Setting Future Commission Meeting Dates: Upcoming Meetings – Discuss upcoming meeting tentative dates among membership to confirm: June 7th from 11 am – 1 pm

- Chair Keller continued by saying this is something we have to do subject to the open meetings Act so please push back on these dates. I know they're on the agenda for this meeting, I tried to push some of this out past the General Assembly session and then allowing for Dr. Kriz to get through the school year as well, so I set our next meeting for June 7th of this year at 11am. And I thought maybe that would be a good one to do in person to gather and really start playing earnest for accomplishing our goals. The next one I had set for July 25th, at 11 am. I can depending on that June 7th meeting, we could look at doing it virtually or in person. And then, October 11th, as we start to narrow down on the next phase of the report. Hopefully we'll either have a draft to look at, or be very close to one and then adopting that draft on December 6<sup>th</sup> at a meeting in person at 11am. Are there any thoughts or concerns with that schedule as outlined? Okay not hearing any we'll proceed to the we'll just kind of keep that schedule in place and push forward.

VI. The Commission will produce the following in 2023

- Chair Keller said I know Dr. Kriz set out some of the goals for 2023, I just want to kind reiterate them and take any questions for and I'll add to what he said. For 2023 we would like to develop a more robust model of electrical demand at the regional level. Analyze economic and labor market effects at the statewide and regional levels, using a fully specified economic model that allows for greater modeling of supply chain impacts. We do want to model environmental impacts more fully at the statewide and local levels, and then the one that he did not hit upon but is incumbent upon us as commission members is to develop recommendations regarding energy transition for the State. And that will be a more time consuming matter, and one that I would like to discuss more fully in June to see if we need to break up into subcommittees, or how the Commission would like to handle pushing those recommendations forward. Are there any questions on those goals or outline at all? Not hearing any.
- Commissioner Doshi said during 2022 you had mentioned the possibility of commissioners or the whole Commission visiting affected communities in to get a better understanding of circumstances on the ground. Is that something you may be considering?
- Chair Keller said yes, and I appreciate you bringing that up. We met internally between Director Flanagan here at the Department of Labor, and also Director Richards at DCEO and the determination we've made was that we would like to maybe issue those recommendations from the Commission and then go around the State and perhaps I'm going to pause real quick because Director Richard did just join us, which allows

us to establish a quorum. With that I would like to go back real quick and I'll come back to you point Commissioner Doshi. (continued in section VIII)

VII. Approval of minutes (continued)

- Chair Keller went on to say I would like to adopt the minutes from the last meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. Those minutes with some amendments from Commissioner Doshi were distributed to commission members; the changes Commissioner Doshi made I believe were technical nothing terribly substantive. Is there a motion to adopt the amendments or excuse the minutes as amended by Commissioner Doshi?
- Director Richards made the motion to adopt the minutes from December 8<sup>th</sup> with the amendments from Commissioner Doshi.
- Chair Keller stated that Director Richards, makes the motion to adopt the amendments. Is there a second?
- Commissioner Morrison second
- Chair Keller said thank you, there's a second all in favor of adopting the amended minutes say I.
- All voted I, no opposed
- Chair Keller said in the opinion of the Chair the I's have it. The minutes from December 8<sup>th</sup> are adopted with Commissioner Doshi's amendments
- Chair Keller said with that I will go back to Commissioner Doshi's question about holding meetings around the State

VIII. The Commission will produce the following in 2023 (continued)

- Chair Keeler went on to say again internally we met with the 2 directors. We would like to issue those recommendations and have something to meet on I think was the determination and go into those impacted communities with those recommendations. Are there questions on that? Okay hearing none.
- Commissioner Doshi said it sounds like you're envisioning potential site visit in 2024?
- Chair Keller replied saying that's possible. It depends on how quickly we can issue those recommendations. Again, I think, given Dr. Kriz' schedule. We are looking at going most of the bulk of the work happening in the summer, and again how quickly we can come up with those recommendations. Then it's likely in 2024, if I'm being honest yes. Any other questions on that?
- Commissioner Doshi asked somewhat relatedly back at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting I asked the prior DCEO Director if the department was contemplating any announcement or outreach or press strategy related to the phase one report and the DCEO Director at the time said, I think it would be fair to summarize her comment as they're considering it. So I'd ask now with the phase one report having been published on the DCEO's website, I think a few weeks ago February 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, is there any possibility of any outreach strategy other than emails or website announcements that the DCEO has already put out?
- Director Richards replied by saying nice to meet you, Sameer. I'm Kristen happy to work with you. I'll connect with Emily Bolton, our communications Director. I certainly wasn't aware of that history, but I'll connect with her and have her give that some consideration. I always trust her instincts. I think our inclination was likely to do a targeted outreach strategy, and that's what we will pursue. People lead the way for us.
- Chair Keller said very good. Thank you. Other questions from commission members? I'm not seeing any, so I will likely move to the next item of business.

- IX. New Business – Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission
- Chair Keller said I believe Commissioner Doshi, you wanted a little bit of time here to go over some changes you made to your documents that were distributed to commission members earlier this week.
  - Commissioner Doshi said thank you Chair Keller. So the document Chair Keller is referring to is the summary of State and Federal transition programs that was first distributed in December. And since then I made some updates based on new developments in terms of State and Federal agencies. Releasing new information about different programs. I discovered, I would put discovered in quotes because I should have found it before. But I discovered a couple of more Federal programs in some of the recent Federal legislation that I had not previously been aware of, so I added those. So, in the email that I believe Tonda sent out within the last couple of days. There's a clean version of the document and a red line showing what was added since the previous version at the December eighth meeting. And in terms of what I propose this commission do with it, I think at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting there was some discussion the document had not been circulated early enough to officially go on the agenda of that meeting. And I received a communication a few days ago or last Friday after I circulated it to the commission leadership last Friday morning, that I may have been too late again for this meeting to be officially considered for a vote. Is that correct?
  - Chair Keller said I don't know if there's necessarily a need to have a vote on it. I think we're putting it up on the website as a resource if you will.
  - Commissioner Doshi said great, yes! My request and hope was that it could be posted on the website.
  - Chair Keller said I believe somebody can correct me if I'm wrong, please do. I believe they were posted to the website. If no one speaks up, then it's true, so, I can verify that.
  - Commissioner Doshi said oh yes. I see it on the website now. Maybe that was posted within the last couple of days. Thank you.
  - Chair Keller said okay. Is that all you had?
  - Commissioner Doshi replied saying yes, that's all.
  - Chair Keller said I just wanted to make sure you were done with your comments. So, are there any other commission members wishing to speak under the new business agenda item? Hearing none I will move to public comment.
- X. Public Comment
- Chair Keller went on to say Before I ask Tonda if there's anyone seeking comment, I will state the individual who was trying to speak before, I apologize. If you do have questions of Dr. Kriz, you can certainly send them to me, and I will get them answered for you. I will put my email in the chat so you can send that. I again, I didn't get to identify that individual who was trying to speak. So, I do apologize. So, I do apologize. With that Tonda is there anyone seeking public comment?
  - Tonda Reece (UIS) answered no not from what I can see, no one has entered anything into the chat.
  - Chair Keller said okay, I'm just going to enter my email real quick in the chat so everyone has it including the public to send any questions to. I'm gonna go ahead and close out public comment on the agenda list. We've gone through upcoming meetings, obviously. The next one will be June 7<sup>th</sup>, hopefully in person and likely in Chicago. If we're working with UIS it will likely be at the, is it Discovery Partners Institute there? I believe this where we have traditionally met, so that would be the preliminary plan right now. Nothing left on the agenda. I would go ahead and entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - Commissioner Doshi said sorry I have an annoying question while we're still in this meeting regarding this, the State and Federal programs document that was posted on the website. Thank you for that. I

think the version that was posted was a slightly older version maybe from December. Do we need to do anything in our meeting here to approve an updated version, or can I just ask that the department would post the most recent version I sent last Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup>?

- Chair Keller said in my opinion and Rachel Powell can interrupt me here. But in my opinion, we can just go ahead and post it on the website without a vote. It's just a resource and so we can go ahead and post that. Apologies it's not the updated one.
- Rachel Powell said I agree.
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you.
- Chair Keller said thank you.

#### Adjournment

- Chair Keller said and again I'll entertain a motion to adjourn from a commission member.
- Commissioner Doshi motioned that the meeting be adjourned
- Commissioner Devaney seconded the motion
- Chair Keller went to vote on the motion and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am

Minutes submitted by: Tonda Reece, UIS on 2/28/2023

#### **Materials:**

- I. 12/8 revised minutes
- II. 2/22 meeting minutes
- III. 2/22 meeting audio  
[Energy Transition Workforce Commission meeting 2/22 - Zoom](#)

#### Upcoming meeting dates

- a. June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- b. July 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- c. October 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- d. December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am