



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

State of Illinois Energy Transition Workforce Commission October 5, 2022 11:00 pm – 1:00 pm Minutes

Locations:

In person

Discovery Partners Institute (DPI)
200 South Wacker Drive
Room 2032
Chicago, IL 60606

Please check-in at security desk on first floor. You may inform treec2@uis.edu that you plan to attend, and your name will be placed on the attendance list.

Virtual

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 890 6702 1839

Access Code: 377045

Video Link: <https://uis.zoom.us/j/89067021839?pwd=ZWVh4Njl2SEM0T2tINHZUR3RXWHVEUT09>

One Tap Mobile: +13092053325,89067021839# US

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Keller at 11:06 am
 - a. Roll was called by Tonda Reece (UIS), the following were present either in person or via Zoom:
 - Angela Morrison, Chicago Jobs Council (present via Zoom)
 - Sameer Doshi
 - Pat Devaney, AFL-CIO
 - Paul Noble, IBEW (Absent)
 - Director Sylvia Garcia, DCEO
 - Jason Keller, IDOL, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 16

- Chair Keller said: so currently, we have four of the six commission members present, as was stated in an email yesterday, we will not reach a quorum. Today, however, we have been advised that we can proceed with the meeting. With no votes taken so we will go ahead and proceed with informational purposes only today. As a reminder for any individuals from the public wishing to make public comment at the end of this meeting we will do so at the end. Each person seeking public comment will have three minutes to speak for those on the WebEx, please use the chat function in the WebEx to alert Tonda that you wish to speak and inform us with your name, title, organization, email, and phone number.
- Chair Keller stated because we do not have a quorum, we cannot adopt the minutes from the meeting, our last meeting. So, we will place a hold on that and come back to it at our next meeting.

II. Status report

- Chair Keller moved on to say that the next item on our agenda, then, would be a status update from Dr Ken Kriz. Is he on the WebEx.
- Dr. Kriz replied I am yes.
- Chair Keller said okay, very good. Continued by saying that he would just kind of do a quick introduction. The main purpose of gathering today was to bring the Commission back together to receive an update from Dr. Kriz on the data he and his team have gathered on their modeling project that we approved to move forward with at our last meeting. Commissioner Doshi had made a request at our last meeting to place on the agenda discussion of environmental variables to be added. Members of the DCEO and IDOL met earlier this week to discuss this issue. I would like to call on Dr. Kriz to give us an update on that.
- Dr. Kriz thanked Chair Keller and apologized for his camera quality. Dr. Kriz went on to say, the we've been gathering data from different sources to put into our model, and to complete the phase 2 or task, I always get confused as to whether it's task or phase, the kind of more the less modeling, intense type of data. We've gathered data from several publicly available sources of labor statistics, etcetera. We've also gathered data from a company that's called Lightcast. It used to be called Emsi. They have labor market data, very extensive labor market data on different things. Asked to have ability to screenshare.
- Tonda replied there you go.
- Dr. Kriz continued by showing document on screen and saying that we gather data on a number of different industries and then industry groups, so this would be for industries. This data is statewide and the nice thing about this particular data is it has a nice demographic breakdown, the variable that they have in the data set are in each race and ethnicity and gender. We can also refer to their job types that they have kind of the different types of occupations within the industries that we have. Then we can use Bureau of Labor statistics information to get at some if the more you know detailed breakdowns of this particular group. So, this is a major portion of what we've been doing since the last meeting on that front. The other thing that we were working on is our the environmental because it was expressed explicitly. Fortuitously, the data provider that we'll be using for building our economic model is called IMPLAN. The Minnesota Implan Group and they're the industry standard provider of data for these types of analyses. They've been doing for forty plus years, proving what the particular type of models called the input output model. Now we make changes to that to make it more of a kind of a working economic model, but a lot of their data is very good. And in discussing this with their staff, what I found out which this changed since the last time I used this data they now have environmental data. They worked with the EPA. The EPA has a different type of miles called environmentally extended input output model. The focus is really on the environmental, but they ported the data over to IMPLAN and then they have merged it through a

set of what are called satellite accounts. So it would be, for example, say if industry input goes up or down by X percent then the different environmental variables will change by X percent. And so, we can track these back through any type of results that we get out of these models. So, these are the different types of variables, I'm showing now, and I'll put a link to this page in the chat. But they track forty-four categories of criteria pollutants, things like nitrogen, oxide, chromium, they track greenhouse gas emissions through this process CO₂, nitrous oxide chlorine, things like that, and then also things like, if you go down further toxic chemical releases, so into water or the air. So, this is you know, since it's EPA provided we have fairly high confidence that this will give us the type of data that would be useful for a report and with that I will take questions.

- Chair Keller said I don't know if there's questions either in the room or via Webex. It looks like Commissioner Doshi does have a question, so I'll pass the mic to him here.
- Commissioner Sameer Doshi thanked Dr. Kriz, for his explanation of the IMPLAN approach. Then went on to identify himself. Do you have a way of capturing the direct air emissions changes from retirements of particular power plants. I know EPA has extensive data to that effect. Where did your model capture that?
- Dr. Kriz replied by saying Yes, it would because that'd be basically a reduction in that particular industry in terms of their output. And so, that would go along. That would be the way it's tracked through. And I the link I just posted in the chat goes to the IMPLAN page. But they actually link to the environmentally extended input output model that the EPA has, and this is what they're doing to kind of look at what might happen if an end in this particular industry changes, or in this case is shutter. Does this answer your question?
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you Dr. Kriz. I think what you're getting at is the model might recognize that fossil fuel powered electric generation could decrease by X percent, maybe up to one hundred, and that would have certain statewide emissions changes: is that the general idea?
- Dr. Kriz answered yes, and one of the things the EPA, and I'm glad you brought that up thank you for that question, Commissioner. Dr. Kriz continued to say that one of the things that they bring up is if we're going to do this on a smaller area, so this state is available down to basically the county level. Now one of the things you have to be aware is let's say that -- and I'm just doing a hypothetical. I don't know that this is the case-- But let's say that you know you decommission a power plant in one area and for some reason other activity in a neighboring county has to ramp up in order to provide some power or something like that would not necessarily be reflected. Those type of what you call an economic substitution. Effects and externalities wouldn't necessarily be tracked. But I really know of no model that you can use to kind of get at those type of... It's what we call an economics second order effect. So, you know, one thing changes, you can track those changes through pretty easily. But then if somebody responds in a much different way they you know they... and I don't know how common it is in Illinois. But in Kansas there was a lot of community power generation. So maybe a community starts their own power that obviously would not be captured. And so that's they, just they on IMPLAN. If you go to that link and lead it through. They offer that kind of a caveat to the results, which is, I think, what we kind of have to do.
- Commissioner Doshi says thank you Dr. Kriz, I understand what you're saying. I'd like to note that because ambient air pollution from power plants has localized effects in surrounding communities. Perhaps, in addition to statewide analyses, it could benefit the final report to look at local effects of closing particular power plants and EPA has particular data sources that provide facility level emissions data, including C-A-M-P, I can't remember what that stands for. campd.epa.gov. is the website. There's also the national emissions inventory on the EPA website, and there's a tool called Cobra on the EPA website that estimates the county level effects of air emissions and air quality changes.

- Dr. Kriz replied by saying and so that would be really good and thank you for that, and we'll use it to triangulate. I remember reading when I was reading through the EPA about their environmentally extended model. I think some of the some of the inputs to that model come from those two.
- Commissioner Doshi replied by saying thank you Dr. Kriz. So, in summary and I'll stop -- I would just like to offer that personally, I would like to see local based analysis of air quality changes in addition to the statewide analysis.
- Dr. Kriz answered with yes, that's definitely in the plans.
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you.
- Chair Keller replied with very good. Thank you very much. Any other discussion from commission members. Sorry I'm going to try to get on camera here. Yea, okay.
- Commissioner Pat Devaney commented by asking Dr. Kriz when you threw up the first slide in regards to the impact, to the workforce and you broke it down in percentages of what types of jobs would be impacted. The thirty percent in-house employees at the facility as well as contractual employees that regularly do maintenance and that type of work added, are they all lumped into that same category.
- Dr. Kriz replied by saying yes, they are. It would be at the kind of facility level. So, anybody who works within that facility.
- Commissioner Devaney said got you. Then asked how did you find that data to determine that that breakdown in those impacts?
- Dr. Kriz replied by saying the new name for this is Lightcast, it used to be known as Emsi. And Emsi is another data source I've used throughout the years for labor market data. They basically take a lot of public inputs but also private inputs in terms of employment and they just have these humongous databases that have all of this on hand. So it would be like if you know the CCW data, or what we call the old ES202 data. They start that, you know, with that. And then they kind of bridge out to include, like you said the contract employees and other employees. They're working in a given area, but maybe they're working for a company that's located in some other state.
- Commissioner Devaney replied with gotcha thank you.
- Chair Keller asked if there was other discussion form other commission members of anyone on the Webex? He also wanted to make sure to add Director Garcia to the roll as she was in the room she just stepped out for a call.
- Tonda Reece (UIS) replied by saying thank you and added that at this time there is no one seeking public comment in the comment section.
- Chair Keller continued to say if there's no further questions of Dr. Kriz, thank you for the update very much, and I appreciate, for those that don't know. He, I believe, is in Korea at this point, so I appreciate your time.

III. New Business and Public Comment

- Chair Keller moved on to the next item on the agenda which was new business and wanted to give a quick briefing, I attended the US Department of Energy public workshop on September 29th in Carbondale at Southern Illinois University. The main take away from that event is that there will be a lot of money from the federal government coming into Illinois for renewable energy projects. This does not even account for the state spending. Governor Pritzker announced last week \$54 million from the federal government for charging stations along interstates, with an additional \$100 million potentially coming over the next five years. In addition to the renewable energy money, there will be quite a lot of grant money for retraining workers and tax incentives for businesses to relocate to communities impacted by closures. To that end, earlier this week I did reach out to all commission members to speak about how you view the commission's role going forward. I did not get a chance to speak to everyone directly. However, I would

like to open up the discussion for your thoughts and whether this group would like to continue meeting beyond the report period? We basically have four or five meetings set in place at this point through December, I believe. You know the thought that I had was that the Commission could potentially highlight working families and communities and need a reinvestment in any other matters that the Commission members wish to highlight going forward. I would like to get some feedback or discussion, if possible, from commission members on that idea. And if there's planning for that there's only one. Okay. Mr. Devaney has a comment here. Commissioner Devaney said thank you Chair Keller. Continued to say that he was able to speak with Jason (Chair Keller) about that and as this study is really being built upon speculation and gathering data as to what we anticipate happening as a result of closures. There's going to be a period of time. We're actually going to see closures and the not too distant future. And I think this commission could serve a role in determining whether or not the investments that were just described. The programs that are contained in CEJA are actually having the intended impact that they were supposed to when the bill was negotiated and subsequently passed and signed. So, I think this Commission would have a role going forward and monitoring the impact to the workforce and the transition of it, as this Commission was intended to do.

- Chair Keller replied thank you very much and he appreciates that. Went on to say I guess I would put forward further conversations would have to happen internally and with the Governor's office on what I would put forward is maybe we look at a monthly meeting. If that gets to be too frequent, we can obviously change the cadence of that. And it doesn't have to be in person either to not interfere with peoples' schedules. So, that would be my proposal that I would put forward and then we'll do some internal planning and communicate via email to everyone if that works. Any other discussion on that?
- Tonda Reece (UIS) mentioned that Andrew Rehn and Valerie Belusko wanted to make comments regarding this topic. Stating that Andrew would go first then Valerie, she also informed them that they had three minutes each.
- Andrew Rehn (Prairie Rivers Network) stated that he just wanted to say that he supports the commission to continue to meet. I think that there are a lot of very helpful oversight sort of roles that this commission could take on. Additionally, the law requires you to produce another report in 2023 and another a few years out 2027. So, the work of the commission certainly does not end. I think saying if you were to move to, to not meet at all, it would, failing to meet its statutory application. So, meeting regularly and overseeing how this transition is going seems like a very good use of the time. No particular opinion on how often it should meet. But obviously, you know, use people's times effectively. So thank you for the opportunity to give comment.
- Chair Keller replied by saying thank you very much. Verified with Tonda about one other person seeking comment.
- Valerie Belusko started he public comment by saying Hi, My name is Valerie Belusko, and I am with the University of Illinois Extension here in Montgomery County. Our plant here has actually been closed for several years now, and so our workers have kind of moved on and are out of the area. I just wanted to note that so far the kinds of things that we're seeing that are coming from the State or through organizations like Prairie Rivers network. They have some definite hurdles; one hurdle is it seems like no one really knows what the ultimate plan and goal is. There're ideas of what we could apply for. How we could apply for it in a very, very short turnaround, and I'll be quite honest. We do not have the capacity to apply for things in such a short turnaround we have lost quite a bit of funding due to the plant being closed. So, those tax dollars are gone now. So, I'm just wondering if the Commission would take that into consideration. I know we're not the only community struggling with this. If this is supposed to help our

communities directly the communities who have had will the Commission take that into account to find ways to help us more directly?

- Chair Keller stated that it would be his goal to highlight that. Yes, and at the public workshop that the US Department of Energy put on last week. That was one of the key areas that they focused on was how to get those resources to those communities that were impacted. I know Director Flanagan who's on the meeting here as well, had a similar meetings that they bring in community colleges to work with, working families, with communities to find retraining for those workers. There's also a lot of money coming in that will help incentivize businesses locating in these communities, so that would be one of the primary goals. Yes, is to highlight these opportunities.
- Valerie Belusko added working with our local community colleges as well as colleges. They have been absolutely fantastic. But again, a lot of these people have moved on So for us it is really the transition of the economy not so much the transition of the workers. It is putting together and establishing a new
- Chair Keller replied by saying Valerie. Can you put your email on the chat? Just so we can communicate with you if there's any resources available.
- Commissioner Doshi added in the two major pieces of Federal legislation enacted within the past year. The Infrastructure Law last November, and the Inflation Reduction Act two months ago. There are multiple funding streams and training opportunities and construction incentives for communities undergoing transition. I agree with the commenter that our report would be improved if we could chart at a practical level, how individuals and communities can avail themselves of the different opportunities. I personally am willing to put in some time to write up a draft of some of that.
- Chair Keller replied by saying thank you very much. Continued by saying I don't know if we have to get into that just yet but we can certainly take advantage of that, if possible in the future. Went on to say are there other? Then said I know we kind of morphed into the public comment period. So, are there other individuals seeking public comment at this point?
- Tonda Reece (UIS) replied saying yes, Deonte Moore wants to.
- Deonte Moore (Illinois Environmental Council) commented by saying he had three points. One is in light of the impacted workers who will suffer as a result of the closing of these coal plants. I think it's important, you know, and I'm sorry I'm the Great Job Workforce Program Director for the Illinois Environmental Council. I think it's important for this commission to think of ways to capture demographic information as it relates to those workers, those displaced workers to ensure that. There's an easier way to capture an understanding of whether these individuals are transitioning to the green workforce with the green economy that Illinois is moving towards. That's the first point. So, there needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure that information is being gathered by the state or maybe there's some community-based organizations that are doing that work and propping that up is vital to capturing these displaced workers to ensure that they transition. The second point is to the tax loss of revenue that you know different districts and communities are suffering, I think that it's important to determine if you know, I think there should be some level of community input in the repurposing of these facilities. But I do believe that prioritizing certain facilities for energy, other energy sources, greener energy sources could be very, very important. As well as considering likewise the economic probably repurposing of some of these facilities for industry or private industry is also important as well and then the last point very quickly, is the RFI that was submitted. I believe there was like twenty-two of them submitted in regards to the Community Transition Grant, and reviewing those I think it would be really helpful for this commission to utilize that information as a foundation on moving these communities forward. Those are the three points I wanted to make.
- Chair Keller asked if Deonte would extrapolate on your last point about the RFI's?

- Deonte Moore went on to say yeah, so the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity recently submitted it out and I believe Andrew can correct me if I'm wrong. But it's the energy transition community grants and input from the public. It requested input from public to weigh in on specific questions in regards to these communities, just transition communities, and there is one submitted on behalf of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition that I think gets into a lot of details and there's others as well. But I think utilizing that as a foundation to be able to understand also what's happening in these communities is also provided because some of these some of the negative externalities as a result of the closing of these plants are highlighted in these RFI's by respect the communities throughout the state.
- Chair Keller said thank you and are there other individuals who are seeking public comment at this time?
- Tonda Reece (UIS) replied no.
- Chair Keller went on to give one last call for anyone seeking public comment.
- Director Garcia wanted to make a comment by saying I just wanted to respond to that last comment. I think the RFI is a first step in trying to gather information, but we'll definitely be compiling the information and thinking about how we can better reach communities that are impacted. So would love to kind of continue that conversation and dialogue about how we incorporate folks that are impacted.
- Chair Keller gave one last call on any further public comment. Noticed Andrew Rehn wanted to in the chat section on Zoom.
- Andrew Rehn said that that last comment just made me think. Does the DCEO have any ability to invite additional members onto the commission? Perhaps ones that live or work in displaced energy in power plant communities that have closed or mining communities that have closed. The number of seats are kind of limited and that's how the law ended up. But it'd be great to have, I don't know if you can have official seats that are non-voting as sort of a voluntary thing that's above and beyond the law, or some way to just elevate the voices of those communities that are actually impacted. Because I believe right now nobody on the Commission lives in a power plant community that has a closed power plant. Although, I can't speak for everybody on the Commission.
- Chair Keller added that i might be able to speak to that. I know Director Garcia and Director Flanagan spoke earlier this year and one of the ideas that came out of that conversation was to hold a commission meeting in a community that has been impacted by a closure. I think we would still like to proceed with that and that's part of the planning for additional meetings is that we do want to at least hold one meeting in a community that's been impacted so that those individuals can have a voice.
- Valerie Belusko added that she had a comment in regards to that. So, one meeting in one community that basically stating that all of the communities are like, and have the same exact means, the same exact population, the same exact issues. And that is not the case, although we have similarities. All of our communities are very different. So please keep that in mind and don't limit yourself to one meeting in one community.
- Chair Keller stated that, that was a fair point and I think you know perspective of everyone's time obviously. But if we can get maybe workers to attend via Webex or members of communities and we would certainly welcome their input. Added that he was making one last call for public comments.
- Commissioner Angela Morrison had a question regarding continuation of meetings. Is that something that the Commissioners would need to vote on? And then if we were to vote and approve the continuation of the work of this committee would that be an opportunity for us to expand the composition of the committee or the Commission to include those folks from transition communities, or to just think about opportunities for us to fill other seats?
- Chair Keller replied by saying so to answer your question about whether or not it would require a vote. I don't believe it would require a vote. However, if you wish to have get to proceed with a vote. As far as the expansion of appointments. I believe the membership of this commission is set in in statute and so in terms of appointing other members it is maybe a little difficult. Hopefully that answers your question.

- Commissioner Morrison asked so does the statute just cover the work for the meetings that are currently on the calendar and what we are being charged with right now.
- Chair Keller replied by saying the statute basically sets out the commission and seats out that we have to do a report. Beyond that it doesn't tell us how often we have to meet I believe so.
- Commissioner Morrison said thank you.
- Director Garcia added that her understanding of the statute is that it's just for the report. I think as I mentioned to the previous comment, I think we're looking for any and all ways to increase engagement, get feedback and all those pieces coming together. I think right now we're following the statute of putting together the report and meeting those meeting dates that are to get to that point. Then I think there's opportunity for additional discussion about what we can do, but what's required in the law is that we meet to create the report. So, I think we're trying to figure out what comes next. As the chairman said, I think we don't have a quorum, so we can't vote to make any changes today, anyway. But I think that's something we're all evaluating.
- Chair Keller said thank you.
- Tonda Reece (UIS) informed to Chair Keller that Deonte Moore would like to make one more comment please.
- Deonte Moore went on to say just one more comment in light of Director Garcia being present in the building. I think it's worth evaluating the Colorado model in light of the fact that they've created an office that's directly responsible for just transition communities, and it's within their Department of Labor. I believe that the DCEO is probably the Government agency as it relates to this particular issue, and in and so the reason I'm saying all of this is because I think it's important to be able to identify who that if tracking happens in some type of way of or demographic collection, I should say rather of transitional workers happened how would that happen? Where would that information be? What would be the central location within the DCEO? Who would be the point person for those things so identifying that is very, very important. And that was the only comment.
- Chair Keller said thank you very much. I don't necessarily have a response, but we'll meet internally and try to incorporate. Any other comments? I'm going to go ahead and closed out public comment.

IV. Upcoming Meetings – Discuss upcoming meeting tentative dates among membership to confirm

- Chair Keller moved on to upcoming meetings stating that the agenda should show that our next meeting date is November that will be here in person at DPI again and then the following meeting is December 8th with additional meetings hopefully being planned in the new year in the new year 2023.
- Commissioner Devaney speaking in the background about the November 16th meeting.
- Chair Keller states that Commissioner Devaney points out that the November 16th meeting falls in the middle of the General Assembly Veto session in Springfield. The issue we have, I believe we tried to position it appropriately. I know the week before there's a little bit of an event on Tuesday the eighth that we didn't want to get too involved with and then the week after the 16th is the week of thanksgiving. Obviously not a great week to schedule anything. So, I'm open to changing it.
- Someone speaking inaudible in the background. (possibly Commissioner Devaney)
- Chair Keller replied to the comments made by the inaudible Commissioner by saying I appreciate that. I will try it. We'll meet again internally and see if there's alternative days. But we struggle with that one, so I appreciate the comment.
- Commissioner Doshi added that if the Commission members are to give meaningful input to the draft which it seems we are to discuss at the November 16th meeting or if that's possibly rescheduled to an adjacent date-- If we are to give meaningful input, it would be very good to have a copy of this draft

report well in advance of the meeting, and I believe Dr. Kriz is not part of the Zoom anymore. But Chair Keller, if you could convey that to him, I would appreciate it.

- Chair Keller said we will certainly try to give you as much advance notice on that report, so that you can review it before any meeting so that's a good point. He went on to say that we will get back to you on the 16th and just confirm whether we're going to still hold it that day, or if we can move it.
 - a. November 16, 2022 from 11 am – 1 pm – Review of Draft Report
 - b. December 8, 2022 from 11 am – 1 pm – Approval of Final Report
- V. Reminders for Membership
 - Chair Keller went to the only other reminder have is just to make sure everyone's up to date on for commission members that you're up to date on completing your ethics, Training and Open Meetings Act training, if you have not already done so.
 - a. Ethics Training
 - b. Open Meeting Act Training

Adjournment

Chair Keller mentioned that I have been told we can vote on the motion to adjourn.

- Chair Keller asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Commissioner Devaney motioned that the meeting be adjourned
- Commissioner Doshi seconded the motion
- Chair Keller went to vote to pass the motion and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am

Minutes submitted by: Tonda Reece, UIS on 10/5/2022

Materials:

- I. 09/16/2022 Meeting Minutes
- II. Link shared by Dr. Kriz [Environmental Data – IMPLAN - Support](#)
- III. Meeting audio
https://uis.zoom.us/rec/share/PmsbflqDxJtge1TkRAWSLNk5ueyuxRKspF_lylmo3OMhr3JBqncxha_sisSG_f-F.stzs0MKWZqip9CzR