



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

## State of Illinois Energy Transition Workforce Commission September 13, 2023 6 pm Minutes

### **Location:**

#### *In-person*

Romeoville Village Hall (Board Room)  
1050 W. Romeo Road  
Romeoville, IL 60446

#### *Virtual*

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 834 8631 0797

Access Code: ST8EQG

Video Link: <https://uis.zoom.us/j/83486310797?pwd=ZlduMmM5SEVLVnpNTERNZ0Q0U1V2dz09>

### **Purpose**

The Energy Transition Workforce Commission was created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act “CEJA” (Public Act 102-0662). The Commission is charged with producing an Energy Transition Workforce Report that anticipates the impact of the energy transition on Illinois’ workforce and provides recommendations to address changes to Illinois’ workforce between 2020 - 2050. The Commission consists of CEJA Regional Administrators, leadership from multiple state agencies, and community leaders from Illinois’ business, labor, and environmental justice communities.

The commission wishes to receive public testimony from communities throughout Illinois to inform the recommendations we will make at the end of the year. The Commission would like to hear the economic impact that a closure or transition of a facility has had on businesses, schools, and families.

### **Agenda:**

- I. Call to Order at 6:01 pm by Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission
  - a. Roll Call of Membership – Tonda Reece (UIS), the following were present in person or via Zoom:  
Angela Morrison  
Sameer Doshi  
Pat Devaney

Lisa Jones (not present)

Larry Dawson (arrived after roll was called)

Nate Keener (not present)

Shad Etchason

Jason Keller (Chair)

Director Kristin Richards (not present)

- Chair Keller said, thank you very much. I'm going to go ahead and make sure everyone again is aware that any public comments will be taken at the end of the meeting. Each person seeking public comment will have 3 minutes to speak. So please send a message to Tonda, if you do wish to speak, and we will get you set up towards the end of the meeting.

b. Introduction of members present - Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission

- Chair Keller said I'm going to go ahead and ask that the Commission members that are present to briefly introduce themselves to the members of the public that are present this evening.
- Commissioners Doshi, Morrison, Devaney, and Etchason gave brief introductions.
- Chair Keller said thank you.

## II. Commission presentation on data analysis

- Chair Keller started his presentation at minute mark 00:03 on slide one.
- Chair Keller said I will go to the next slide real quick (slide two) at minute mark 00:10.
- Chair Keller moved to slide three at minute mark 02:05.
- Chair Keller moved to slide four at minute mark 03:02.
- Chair Keller moved to slide five at minute mark 03:38. Then said this one you probably going to have a hard time reading. I apologize. There was a lot of information to fit in, but I will present it.
- Chair Keller moved to slide six at minute mark 05:24 and said text here's a little bit bigger for you.
- Chair Keller moved on to slide seven at minute mark 07:02.
- Chair Keller moved to slide eight at minute mark 07:49.
- Chair Keller moved to slide nine at minute mark 08:02.
- Chair Keller moved to slide ten at minute mark 08:19.
- Chair Keller moved to slide eleven at minute mark 09:01.
- Chair Keller moved to slide twelve at minute mark 09:47.
- After finishing the slide someone in the audience asked if the slides will be made available to the public.
- Chair Keller replied yes, certainly we will post it to our website then apologized for the text being small.
- Chair Keller moved to slide thirteen at minute mark 12:05.
- Chair Keller moved to slide fourteen at minute mark 12:57.
- Chair Keller moved to slide fifteen (last slide of presentation with his contact information) at minute mark 13:28.
- Chair Keller said that is the end of the presentation with my phone number and email up, if you have any questions, or would like a copy of the PowerPoint. I can send that directly to you. If you want to jot that down or call me, I'll be happy to do so. With that I'm going to take a pause and ask if any commission members wish to add to the presentation or have any additional comments.
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you. Chair Keller. I just wanted to briefly say that I believe the Will County generating station produced power for consumers of Commonwealth Edison, for almost 70 years since the 1950s. Several generations of workers at Will County, I imagine, gave a whole lot of blood, sweat, and toil to make that happen. And I think it's very important that we listen to the perspectives and concerns of community members here tonight. I'm very glad that Commission leadership has made this event happen. Thank you.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much. Any other commission members wishing to speak or add to the presentation. Very good. As mentioned, I do want to just echo what Commissioner Doshi said is that we do appreciate everyone's attendance again, and we welcome the feedback. The reason we're here is to help inform our recommendations later in the year for our phase 2 report.
- III. Pekin and Marion Regional events
- Chair Keller mentioned the future regional visits in his presentation at minute mark 13:22 (slide fourteen).
- IV. Public Comment
- Chair Keller went on to say I will likely turn it over then, to the public comment period, I had two individuals reach out to me seeking public comment, and then I have one on the Webex (Zoom). That will go third. I would like to turn it over to Jeff Grosso. Okay, very good. If you don't mind presenting at the podium there and if you could state your full name, and who you're representing, please.
  - Jeff Grosso started to speak but the microphone was not on.
  - Tonda (UIS) said I can't hear him.
  - Jeff Grosso said oh, there we go! Sorry, that's better. I am the chief school business official and business manager for Channahon School District, 17 in nearby Channahon. Thank you to the Commission for allowing me to provide some testimony representing our school district. Channahon School District 17 is a public K-8 school district, serving approximately 1,200 students in southern Will County. We have 4 school buildings. It must be noted that Channahon School District is among the top 15% in the entire State of Illinois in terms of academic success based on academic annual academic growth and standardized test scores. Although this Commission is primarily focused on electrical generating stations. Channahon School District does have an oil refinery in our school district, and I think it's important to add some context that it is a fossil fuel industry, and it does have similar impact to other communities that may have fossil fuel power generating stations within their district. Channahon School District boundaries, of course, has Exxon Mobil Joliet Oil refinery. I am here today to briefly summarize the impact that Exxon Mobil refinery has on our school district. Exxon, Mobil, and CSD 17, as well as other neighboring school districts, are strong educational partners. Our schools' benefit from this partnership through stem related grants as well as organizing numerous educational affairs for students directly sponsored by Exxon Mobil for example, the secrets and science program brings in Exxon engineers to work with our students to promote stem related fields. Exxon Mobil has been a valued educational partner with our school district since its construction in 1974. It must be noted as well that many of Exxon Mobil's past and present employees reside in our school district, also Exxon Mobil has a strong taxing presence in our school district. Channahon schools is incredibly fortunate to be in this position, as the refinery makes up nearly 45% of the entire districts equalized assessed value. We're a very small geographical in size sized district, so that's a large portion of our value that the oil refiner represents. Exxon Mobil's property tax proceeds alone accounts for 36% of our district's total revenues. The resources generated from taxing proceeds from Exxon Mobil has an enormous positive impact on our schools. We are able to fund the academic programming, technology and staffing needed to be one of the top tier performing school districts in all of Illinois. If something were to happen to Exxon Mobil or were it to close, the tax implications in our district would be disastrous for homeowners and local businesses within the Channahon School District. To conclude my statement, Exxon Mobil has a far-reaching positive impact on our school district. So, hope that's Channahon School District 17, that the Commission considers our perspective. Thank you very much.
  - Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. The next individual that was seeking to speak is Randy Juris. You might need to turn, is the mic on?

- Randy Juris said no, it is now. There we go. Thank you. I live in Blackport, Illinois and I am a member of the Care Group, which is probably running counter to what the guy that was just to appear before me said we have no complaints with people that were getting money from the fossil fuel industry. But basic question is why are we transitioning in the first place? If that's the case, why don't we just keep rolling right along? Now, one of the reasons Care Group was created back in the 80s. Was when the Texaco plant decided to leave this area. They were doing what an awful lot of fossil fuel companies do. They wanted to walk away from it, they just want to abandon it. They didn't want to remediate anything, and it was a long battle, mostly court battles to get Texaco, and then eventually Chevron, who bought out Texaco to clean up that site so that it's now at least being able to develop in something else. So fast forward to where we're at basically right now, right here, where we're at, where all the signs were coming to this place. What is going to happen to NRG? What entity is going to walk? Watch over them as to when they walk from that outfit because there were meetings that are already being held in this past month. What to do with the coal ash pond in terms of NRG: cap it, walk away from it, very similar to the things we've seen all through Illinois. Company comes in, strip mines, and then walks away; they leave a mess. That is pretty much where you get to this point now where need to get off of fossil fuels? Now in my opinion the situation is perfect for that NRG site that you can in fact, do what they're doing right here in Massachusetts. They turned a plant basically as old, if not almost exactly as old as the NRG plant. It's going away. It's inefficient. It's an environmental hazard. They don't know what to do with the coal pond that they left behind. What they can do, though, is, take that property mediate it as much as they can and put energy storage on it. They're going to use it as what they call a pecker: in other words, those areas in the middle of summer, rather than have a gas-fire plant running just waiting to be used. You can have an energy storage facility there that will, in fact, kick in exactly when you need it. Now, the other side of the coin if you want to get, we'll say futuristic thinking. You're right next to a body of water here: the water moves; you can put turbines in there. In fact, not far from here the metropolitan district has one of the oldest turbines in a river that they're using that energy for. You could use that along with the energy storage that you've put here. You can also, if you really start to think you can take the water that you have there, use clean energy and turn it into hydrogen. You can then run fuel cells and then when they do, start to take the innovative district and put it together. You can, instead of using natural gas, you can run it off hydrogen. Gee! Now you also have the capabilities since you're connected to the grid here, in the first place put a micro grid in there. You would then have localized energy at a very fixed rate. You don't care what the cost is for gallon or however much coal you want to buy. Wind doesn't cost much. Water doesn't cost that much and neither does the sun. There's a whole bunch of options and in terms of labour. You also have to consider this, knowing what it took to remediate the old Texaco plant you're going to have an awful lot of labor that is not anybody's particular jurisdiction right now, that is going to be needed to turn that into something else. Now you got another real problem. Who's going to oversee that who actually is in charge. Once NRG walks away from it and they are. There have been, I can tell you, meetings that I was at where their manager was, there pleading and begging that they didn't have to do anything with that a coal ash pond and from what I understand meetings that were just this month. Their biggest idea of how to take care of it is to send it down to a quarry not too far from here that is not lined, and just dump it into there. So, what are you guys going to say at the end of the year? Because I believe your second site you hit up there was at Pekin correct? one of the few still running energy plants that are there. The question is you don't really have anybody that's interested in Springfield in terms of how are you going to make all this happen? If you're going to rely strictly in the commercial end of this good luck. A long time ago we created a gear again by necessity, NASA. It was a government private corporation that did an excellent job. They have a long history, but it takes proper management takes proper government. My biggest problem that I see right here knowing what I know about Springfield, knowing what I know about local government here, even in Lockport. You're going to be hard pressed to get a

handle on what all you really need to do now; from my perspective NRG is going to go away. That plant is going to just either be abandoned or hopefully, somebody that knows how to dismantle it will have it. Not too long ago last year when they took down a Crawford plant, the geniuses that took that off just blew up the smokestack. What you had in that stack is unbelievably polluting. Case in point was Care Group at one time had a guy by name of Marv Pickering and he taught in Blackport High School, and he did a simple experiment which was pretty good. He gave us all test tubes it said when it rained put the test tube out -- document the time, the wind, and the temperature. Collect some water in a test tube, use standard litmus paper, put it in. Did you, in fact, have sulfur oxide -- acid rain -- every time when the wind blew from the west or northwest? That's what you got. That number you had up there. 70%, probably even low. Well, how could that be? You had scrubbers on these things. There again look to what your legislation did. They legislated they had to put scrubbers in those places; there was no legislation that said you actually had to have them working. You actually had to maintain them. Nobody checked it, we for the longest time even at Homer Glen, when I was on the Environmental Committee there. We requested, begged, to have Illinois, EPA put a certified monitoring station. They're not that big. They were not that expensive. They refused. What are you going to do?

- Chair Keller said to the speaker can I have you wrap up your comments, please just out of respect for others.
- Randy Juris (community speaker) continued to say I would hope that what you guys do is support the need or remove getting off of the fossil fuel site. But by the same token, exactly what he said, you're going to have to consider what the ramifications are both economically and also environmentally, so that when his School District loses that particular amount of revenue. What is Plan B to pick that up? It can be done but it has to be put up front ahead of time and that's what I hope your Commission comes to. Thank you.
- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. To my knowledge I have two other people seeking to speak. I'm going to next. Go to someone on Webex (Zoom) Amanda Pankau and while she's and while she's preparing, I will just real quickly say, thank you, she was one of the individuals behind the scenes that helped set this meeting up and helped with other regional meetings. I just want to say publicly, thank her. Amanda, if you wish to speak.
- Amanda Pankau of Prairie Rivers Network said thank you so much. And I don't have much to say. I was mostly going to react to what I heard other local folks say, but since I'm the third speaker, I don't really have a great chance to do that. But I wanted to start by thanking, and I and I do plan to attend the event southern Illinois. So, we'll have more to say then. But for tonight I wanted to thank the Commission members wanted to thank all the folks from the community that came out in attendance. And then, secondly, I wanted to start by wishing the climate and Equitable Jobs Act an early, happy birthday. So, for I'm sure a lot of folks in the room realize that on Friday we'll celebrate the 2-year anniversary of the passage of CEJA, which is what we call the Climate Equitable Jobs Act, which is what create it...
- Chair Keller interrupted by asking her to introduce who you represent and a little bit about your organization?
- Amanda Pankau (Prairie Rivers Network) said no good call. I am the Director of Energy and Community Resiliency at Prairie Rivers network. I work closely with a lot of the Vistra coal communities that face the 2019 coal closures. And as I was just talking about CEJA; those vista plants close right at the height of negotiations for Illinois, big energy Bill. So, I worked really closely with those coal communities to help understand the impacts that they were facing; a lot of school superintendents involved in that conversation about the loss of tax revenue. So, they were able to help inform policies that went into CEJA to help communities that will experience the biggest impact of the energy transition. So, we've got a lot of great opportunity. But some of the challenges are disproportionately borne by traditional energy producing, energy extraction communities. So again, Friday will celebrate the 2-year anniversary of CEJA,

and thanks to a lot of the area legislators. In the Will County area. Many of folks in the room that I know worked to help pass that bill into those coal community leaders that helped inform and advocate for that legislation. And thanks to all that work, Illinois does have some of the strongest policies in the State to support transitioning workers and transitioning communities during this time of energy transition. So, I did want to -- I don't know if anybody from Waukegan is in the room tonight. But I did want to speak to some things that I know have been going on there just in case there is nobody from Waukegan attending at this northern Illinois event. So, we already heard a little bit from the previous speaker about communities' concerns for the coal ash that is going to be left behind in their communities. We didn't really start having this conversation about the future of coal ash until it became apparent that plants were closing likely, over a couple of decade period. Most of Illinois's coal plants will have closed. What will be of those companies? You've heard community concern about that, so luckily, Illinois does have some of the strongest legislation on coal ash cleanup. But that process that we pass through legislation has pretty much stalled at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Not a single permit decision has yet been proposed. So, this is leaving communities like Waukegan where multiple coal ash impoundments pollute the groundwater and, in that case, threaten Lake Michigan. It's leaving those communities without protection. So, in that case, grassroots and community leaders have turned to the legislative process for a solution and proposed legislation to require NRG to clean up the coal ash at the Waukegan coal plant. So that legislation has not advanced the last 2 legislation sessions. Likely will see it introduced in the spring, but just wanted to make sure that was on the Commission's radar, that that we, while we do have strong state coal ash legislation, the actual implementation of that legislation seems to be stalled. Engaging Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and conversations could be helpful for communities that like we just heard from the previous speaker are left wondering, what the future of that is in their community? That can definitely limit for further investment in the community, further economic development if there's these long-term problems about the future of that coal ash, the future of groundwater pollution and in some cases, surface water pollution. So, kind of on that same note I won't speak much to this. But you also heard the previous speaker talk about concerns about site deconstruction, demolition, in particular, when implosions are used. He mentioned the Little Village horror story where community members were not notified, and dust cloud hung over the community for quite some time. So, Illinois currently also doesn't have rules, guidelines on timelines and or public process on the site deconstruction, demolition process. In many cases it's going to go to like a local zoning regulation. A lot of our rural counties don't have rural zoning. In fact, the Duck Creek power station is planned to be imploded this weekend, I think. But then you also have, like the Vermillion power station on the banks of the Middle Fork that is still standing, having been shuttered for over a decade. So just kind of another like as you think about your recommendations on what Illinois needs to do to support transitioning communities' opportunity to create jobs, further, guidelines legislation to guide the timing public involvement of demolition of these sites. Luckily in Illinois we do have some legislation that NRG. And this is just taking advantage of to redevelop these sites into solar and battery storage and in those cases that's a great opportunity to see something happen pretty quickly. But it's not the case for some of our sights that closed prior to the passage of CEJA like Wood River, Vermillion, Meredosia, etc. So, with that I think I'll transition to -- I mentioned the Vistra. I mostly work downstate, so I often just say Vistra. But Vistra and NRG have incentives and grants to redevelop some of these sites into solar and battery storage. So, I did notice, like in the phase one report, where it contemplated more jobs and tax revenue from wind and solar and I do know that, like Vistra in particular, has promised these communities like quite a big tax revenue bump from the battery storage projects. So, I would encourage a similar analysis in the phase 2 report on the growth that we're going to expect in Illinois on battery storage as the prices of battery storage, large scale battery storage continues to fall. So, then what's that going to look like? What are the jobs going to look like with that? And similarly, what is the tax revenue



going to look like with that? And I think if you do entertain that idea as you get into the question of what does the tax revenue from battery storage look like? It will be a big question mark, because in Illinois we have a legislation that standardizes the valuation of wind and solar and energy systems for county tax assessment purposes; there is no similar standardization for the valuation of battery storage. So, I actually heard this from and talking with Will County area folks before this meeting. I've heard it from Massac County folks where the Joppa plant closed. I've heard it from Mason County and Fulton County folks, where the Havana and Duck Creek power stations closed from their tax assessors that there are discrepancies. It's kind of open to interpretation how these battery storage projects will be assessed and might vary from county to county. So, this is going to create uncertainty both for community leaders, often in rural under resourced counties, but also for industry, not knowing what the taxes are going to look like as they go across the state. So again, I heard this concern from multiple communities across the state. It seems that there is a need for similar legislation to standardize the valuation of battery -- utility scale battery storage systems and just would encourage maybe the phase 2 report to look at the growth of batteries and jobs and tax revenue and possibly recommend a standardization in the state. I guess, another bit of reaction on what I heard from the first speaker, I think I mentioned this and the regular commission meeting that y'all had, I think, just last week -- Again, I work a lot downstate; many folks don't realize Illinois is even an oil producing state. We have a few counties, especially where local school districts, communities have a lot of tax revenue coming in from oil production. Really interesting to hear the situation with the Channahon school district as well. So, you know this isn't, the oil and gas industry in Illinois is not something we've contemplated with policies like we have for coal and burning of natural gas. I mean gas production. So just another thought of, you know, where does Illinois need to go from here, as we completely decarbonize our economy? And we see, you know, school districts just completely devastated as the oil industry declines. How can Illinois similarly support those communities as well? I think I'll leave it at that for tonight and appreciate the opportunity.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments, Amanda. The next individual seeking public comment was someone from Senator Ventura's office, I think it might have been, John. Okay.
- John (from Senator Ventura's office) said I think I just wanted to, as I was watching the presentation first enter a question or challenge to the Commission to possibly look at is there a way for us to break out? Because Will County, as mentioned, is heavily fossil fuel here, and is home to nuclear plants and other industry that'll be impacted by this legislation. But is there any way to look at projections specific for some of the taxing bodies so they can see that along a timeline so they can plan ahead and see what those revenues are like. It was good to hear about the 209 million in replacement revenue from renewable energy, but it would be good to look at that timeline also, so they can start to see how they come online together. I know that the Senator's pleased to see Lion Electric move in, and I know that the focus as set out by CEJA was to make sure that the hardest hit communities received priority, and that transition, so as the fossil fuel jobs fade out, the renewable jobs come in. We are seeing some of this come to life with JJC having a robust training program for the workers at Lion Electric. Other than that, I did want to also go on record to address your concern that the Senator is fully aware of and supports a full removal and remediation of the coal ash in all three ponds in the 43rd Senate District, over a cap in place. She's been on the record and been working with IEPA to make sure that that does happen. And then the third and final point just to make sure that not only are there assurances in place for the people who currently have jobs within the fossil fuel industry to change over, but also, for some of the harder hit communities predominantly in the minority communities of the 43rd Senate district, which is also part of the legislation. We need to make sure that there's oversight so that actually happens and it becomes a reality. Those are the only real concerns as Mister Grosso mentioned. We've dialogued about Channahon and Exxon Mobil in the past. I'm actually an union carpenter, I've worked at all of these plants so I know the people that will be impacted personally, and I try and reassure them as an individual who fully

supports the transition to renewable energies and green technology is our part of our future. So that was, it mostly is just wanting to see the workforce take a look at some of these hardest hit communities and map that out in a more specific way. So those taxing bodies can prepare. Thank you.

- Chair Keller said before you step away. Can you state your name...
- John Lash said I'm with State Senator Rachel Ventura's office Center for the 43rd Senate district.
- Chair Keller said great thank you very good. I will next ask Tonda on the Webex (Zoom) call. Is there anyone that has sought public testimony via Webex?
- Tonda said Ann Baskerville. She would like to speak.
- Chair Keller said okay. And if you could please state your full name, and then, if you are here representing an entity.
- Ann Baskerville said yes, thank you, I'm from the Illinois Sierra Club. I also live in Will County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to add, this came to mind based on some other folks' comments. Also, in Will County, I think it could be useful if the Commission looks at the sources of diesel pollution. Will County has seen a tremendous growth in the warehousing industry, and I think that could be an interesting part of the report. Both in terms of the pollution that is generated from these facilities that often subcontract semis, many very old semis that are producing dangerous diesel pollution. Then also the work force impacts of that - many advocacy groups, warehouse workers for justice. There are reports online you can Google about the use of temporary labor in these warehouses. This is a huge industry in our area. So, I think that could be something that might be useful to the Commission to look into. I know it's not a fossil fuel generating facility at like a coal plant, as we have in Romeoville, but definitely generates a lot of pollution is becoming an increasing aspect of our economy. And then, just to the tax issue -- definitely a big issue was raised about how our school districts, oftentimes these plants are huge revenue drivers. I think it would be interesting to look at when the warehouses come in. How much tax breaks are they given? What is the tax abatement that they are given? And how does that impact a district? And how do all of these factors work together when there's a transition, whether it's from manufacturing to warehousing or from fossil fuels to green energy? But thank you for everyone who is here; really appreciate this dialogue, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.
- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. I'll ask again, Tonda are there any other individuals seeking public testimony on the Zoom call.
- Tonda said yes, William Koehl.
- Chair Keller said okay, William, if you could please state your full name, and if you are representing an entity.
- William Koehl said I can certainly do both of those. My entity is the League Woman Voters of the State of Illinois. I'm the Environmental Team Lead. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots, organizations. We work to protect and expand voting rights, and we also work to protect and expand environmental considerations and concerns. So, I hope that covers that part of my testimony. The rest of the - much probably more brief than that. But I do want to thank everybody, especially our Commissioners, for coming out to do this kind of work. This is the kind of thing that our societies depend on, and this is, might be kind of one of your less heralded occupations and participations, but as been evidenced by the folks that have come out to speak tonight. This is an a very, very important piece of work to be doing, you know, I want to second all of the testimony that had been given earlier. And thank everyone that did come out tonight to speak to this and hope that we can really move this ball along. This is very serious, very difficult work, and it's going to be hard to move. So excellent, that's all excellent. So, the only brief comment I had is, I noticed when you'd mentioned the environmental impacts on methane gas plants closing down that you counted the other emissions. But you did not count methane. The methane gas plant does not run without methane and methane leaks are quite an important concern in and of themselves. So, I did about a 10 second Google search to give an illustration of what it was I was



talking about. And it's from the Environmental Defense Fund. They've got a user guide for natural gas leakage rate modeling tool. I don't know what all that is, but I think it might be of some use somehow. If you can incorporate a little bit of that in there. When we stop using natural gas plants, we'll minimize the amount of natural gas that is being leaked. Methane, of course, is a much more potent greenhouse gas than most, so it will amount to something - may not amount to something you can measure directly at a specific gas plant, because gas pipes go all over the place. So, I'm sorry for making your work even harder, but if it could encourage, do they consider that if it's of any of any use, I think it might be worthwhile and I will cede my speaking at the moment. Thank you very much to everyone who came out. Thank you, Commissioners.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. Anyone else seeking testimony via Zoom. I'll ask Tonda. I should say.
- Tonda said no, there's no one else.
- Chair Keller said okay, thank you very much. Is there anyone in the room physically present that wishes to speak. Seeing none here, are there any comments from Commissioner members at all at this time.
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you. Chair Keller. I think in general; we are not responding to every substantive comment by the members of the public which were most welcome. But one thing I wanted to mention in response to a comment from the staff member of Senator Ventura regarding estimates of property tax revenue losses from fossil fuel plant closures. If you look at the phase one report that was published by the Commission in December 2022 on page 30. It contains estimates by county of the average annual property tax revenue loss from fossil fuel plant closures and you can find that report on the Commission web page within the DCEO website under the December 2022 meeting. Also, at last week's commission meeting the Commission's lead analyst, Dr. Ken Kriz discussed that he is intending to estimate new property tax revenues from new renewable power generating capacity by county, if I recall correctly, so while I don't want to speak for him, that might be in the Commission's next report.
- Chair Keller said very good. Thank you very much. Any other any other Commission members wishing to speak. I'm not hearing any at this time. Before we. Yes, yes, ma'am.
- Tonda said there's someone wishing to speak from the public here, Mary would like to make up on the comment.
- Chair Keller said okay, Mary, please state your full name and organization you represent, that applies.
- Mary Burnitz said I am a director and founder of CARE, Citizens Against Ruining the Environment. All grassroots nonprofit volunteer group, we've been doing this since the nineties, and I used to live under the smokestacks at the Romeoville plant. I lived on High Road. I've since moved; my daughter suffered from asthma. My neighbor suffered from asthma. In our group we have done a lot of work since 1995, you know, getting -- like Randy Juris had, commented Texaco -- getting them to clean up the mess that they left behind. My concern with NRG is that they're just going to walk away, it's a mess that they've created. Granted, they've been there a very, very long time. We all depend on electricity. Sometimes I'm just really ashamed of politicians, the things that they do. And what's going to be left for our grandchildren and our and our grandchildren's children? Everyone deserves clean water that is not bleached with coal ash, mercury, arsenic, the list goes on and on. When we started this group, I learned so much about science and politics and they really don't kind of mix. I just really hope that you do thank you all for coming, too. I really hope that something proactive is done for Mother Earth. We only have one earth; could you imagine if you got up tomorrow morning and you want to turn on your water and you didn't have any water? Or you went outside to take a breath of fresh air and you couldn't breathe fresh air? Or perhaps you couldn't breathe because you lived next to one of or near one of these heavily long standing, polluting entities that you know. So, I hear they give money to the school district, and they do this, and they're really good neighbors, they don't really care. So, I guess I'm off my soapbox. But

thanks for listening, and I really hope that something is done in the right direction for you, your wife's, your husband's, your children, and your children's children. Thank you.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments, Mary. Any other individuals wishing to speak publicly here either in the room or on the Zoom? Hearing no one further coming forward, I will move to my thank you and echo many of the things that have already been said. I do want to acknowledge Hilary Scott- Ogunrinde with the DCEO that is here, she's the Deputy Director of Energy and Utility there and she's been instrumental in putting this meeting together as well. I also wish to give a very hearty thank you to State Representative Dagmara Avalar and her community engagement Director Brianna Jackson Weber, I couldn't have done this without them. So, I really appreciate your help and securing this building, which is beautiful, should be very proud of this, this is a gorgeous building. And again, I want to thank the Commission members for coming in person and showing the critical importance of these matters in the communities. We specifically chose communities that have been impacted and we are going to two others as I stated in the presentation. We do welcome, after the close of this meeting, if you do have ideas about how we can further publicize our next two meetings. We spoke a little bit before this meeting, but we welcome any and all ideas.

#### V. Adjournment

- Chair Keller said with that I would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting from a commission member.
  - Commissioner Doshi motioned to adjourn.
  - Chari Keller asked is there a second?
  - Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion.
  - Chair Keller said all in favor please say aye.
  - All voted aye, the motion passed.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.
- Future meeting dates
- October 11th at 11 am
  - October 18th at 6 pm- Pekin
  - November 9th at 6 pm- Marion
  - December 6th at 11 am

Minutes submitted by: Tonda Reece, UIS on 9/22/2023

#### **Materials:**

- I. 9/13 meeting audio [Energy Transition Workforce Meeting 9/13-Zoom](#)
- II. Energy Transition Workforce Commission PowerPoint presentation