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Call for Working Group Member Applications ***NextGrid: Illinois' Utility of the Future Study***

Chicago, IL...The University of Illinois, in consultation with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) invites interested stakeholders to participate in the NextGrid: Illinois' Utility of the Future study. NextGrid is a consumer-focused study to transform Illinois' energy landscape and economy.

Applications are now being accepted for membership in the remaining NextGrid Working Groups.

In total, seven working groups have been identified to meet regularly, develop a shared base of information, and build consensus, where applicable, on critical issues currently facing the electric utility industry and as it continues to rapidly transform. While there may be some overlap in scheduling, these working groups will meet in sequential order to allow stakeholder participation. The work completed by these groups will culminate in a comprehensive final report compiled by the University of Illinois that will outline opportunities and challenges of grid modernization. The report will educate policy makers and energy stakeholders; identify options for modernizing grid infrastructure and the policies regulating it; and examine potential impacts for consumers, utilities, and the environment.

The Working Groups seeking participants include: Metering, Communications and Data; Reliability, Resiliency and Security; Customer and Community Participation; Regulatory and Environmental Policy Issues and Ratemaking.

Selection for NextGrid's first working group, New Technology and Grid Integration, has concluded and the group began meeting in December.

"We are seeking a diverse and representative group of stakeholders from the energy community to join these working groups. We've been quite intentional about keeping the working groups manageable in size to encourage productivity," said ICC Chairman Brien J. Sheahan. "It is critical for all stakeholders and interested parties to have a voice in the process. While it is not possible for everyone to serve on a working group, we are also soliciting feedback in multiple formats through the NextGrid website."

Stakeholders who remain interested, but are not selected for a working group will be encouraged to participate in the study by reviewing working group meeting agendas and offering feedback on the

topics. Individuals and organizations are also encouraged to offer their perspective and suggestions by sending comments to icc.NextGrid@illinois.gov.

The ICC, University of Illinois facilitators and Working Group Leaders will determine the participants for each working group. Selected participants will be notified via email of their membership opportunity.

Anyone who would like to participate in or recommend a working group member, such as an organization or individual, should complete an application form [here](#) or visit the [NextGrid website's](#) Working Group Application. Nominations must be submitted by January 26, 2018 at 5:00 pm EST.

To ensure effective meeting facilitation, working group meetings are limited to working group members. Please visit the NextGrid website, www.nextgrid.illinois.gov for pertinent information and study updates.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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