



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG



DuPAGE
MAYORS AND MANAGERS
CONFERENCE



August 13, 2018

Hon. Brien J. Sheahan, Chairman
Hon. John R. Rosales, Commissioner
Hon. Sadzi Martha Oliva, Commissioner
Hon. D. Ethan Kimbrel, Commissioner
Hon. Anastasia Palivos, Acting Commissioner
Illinois Commerce Commission
160 North LaSalle Street
Suite C-800
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: NextGrid

Dear Chairman Sheahan and Commissioners:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the communities of Roselle, Hanover Park, and Schaumburg, IL; DuPage County, IL; and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. These entities submitted initial written comments to the Commission in April 2017 at the beginning of the NextGrid process, and we thought it would be appropriate to provide updated comments at this time.

We appreciate the efforts of the Commission, its Staff, and all participants in the NextGrid process to this point. NextGrid discussions have revealed some interesting opportunities to use new technology to potentially reduce costs, improve service, and expand choice for customers. Some of that technology was merely theoretical just a short time ago, but is increasingly viewed as mainstream today.

Although energy issues are regulated primarily at a state and federal levels, the municipal and county levels are where the “rubber hits the road” from the customer perspective, and therefore it is imperative that municipal and county governments be accorded prominent consideration in the evaluation of energy issues. Although this is important for newer technologies such as Distributed Energy Resources and Microgrids, it continues to be just as vital for the nuts-and-bolts of traditional transmission and distribution system planning, siting, and operations.

In that context, we wish to reiterate our comments from last year emphasizing the need for public utility company cooperation and transparency when interacting with municipal and county governments. Access to information, collaboration, and community input should stand as key guiding values when public utility projects are planned, designed, reviewed, and constructed. We

encourage the Commission and the NextGrid stakeholders to integrate those concepts into the remaining NextGrid discussions and the NextGrid written report.

In addition, we hope that NextGrid will encourage new and prudent thinking about the implementation of technological advancements, where appropriate, as tools to address the needs of customers -- both individually and as collective community members -- while also addressing grid infrastructure challenges.

A concrete example that was raised in last year's comments highlights some of these issues. Commonwealth Edison Company ("ComEd") previously indicated a desire to build 9 miles of new transmission infrastructure, including very large, unsightly utility poles, along the Illinois Route 390 Tollway (the "Project"). The Project would directly impact multiple area communities. The purpose of the Project, as well as ComEd's timeline, remain unclear, but we presently understand that ComEd continues to actively plan to proceed with the Project. However, the Project raises many questions and faces significant opposition in and around the affected communities.

As indicated in our April 2017 comments, the Project exemplifies issues that could be creatively examined in NextGrid and addressed in the NextGrid Report:

- **Cooperation with Municipal/Regional Governments:** Municipal and county governments seek to provide timely and clear information to their residents and businesses. This requires transparent, updated information from the utilities. However, over the course of the last several years, the affected communities have at times been frustrated with the quality and timing of information provided by ComEd about the Project. Collaboration with, and empowerment of, municipal and county governments are key principles for electric grid modernization. Clear information from ComEd and other utilities is necessary to ensure that collaboration and empowerment may occur fairly and effectively.
- **Alternative Technological Solutions:** Given the rapid advance of various technologies, the Project could be reexamined to determine whether use of one or more new technologies could defer or even permanently replace the need for the Project. Using a concrete example such as the Project would bring focus and specificity to the NextGrid examination of new technology.
- **Undergrounding:** Assuming that the Project is actually needed, ComEd is well aware of the broad community desire for undergrounding of the new lines rather than placing them on big utility poles. Undergrounding technology is advancing, and ComEd executives have recently acknowledged the importance of undergrounding for modernizing the grid. The Project might serve as an effective case study or pilot for expanded undergrounding in northern Illinois. This approach is particularly appropriate given the Project's relatively short length and its proximity to sensitive land uses, including an airport.

In sum, while we appreciate the overall NextGrid effort so far, we respectfully encourage the Commission to robustly and specifically consider and acknowledge the municipal and county government perspectives both in NextGrid meetings and in the NextGrid Report.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission and its Staff on behalf of our residents and businesses.

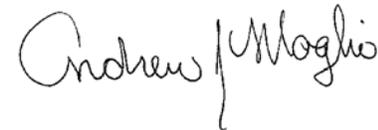
Sincerely,



Dan Cronin
County Board Chairman
The County of DuPage



Al Larson
President
Village of Schaumburg



Andrew J. Maglio
Mayor
Village of Roselle



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