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Quinn Announces Grant To Improve Energy Efficiency For Large Customers

ON January 21, Governor Pat Quinn announced that the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) is the first recipient of a Large Customer Energy Efficiency Grant to help large energy users reduce the amount of energy they expend. The program is one component of Illinois' Energy Plan, the most comprehensive effort to date to address the state's energy production. UIUC will receive more than \$848,000 for a campus-wide energy efficiency initiative that will save \$1 million per year in energy costs.

"Green energy projects like this one on the U of I campus are one of the wisest ways we can invest our capital funding," said Governor Quinn. "Not only are we lowering our energy costs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil, we are putting people to work in the green economy."

UIUC's project will generate savings totaling more than \$1 million (See **Grant** on Page 2)

EPA Strengthens Smog Standard

IN early January, the United States Environmental Protection Agency proposed the strictest health standards to date for smog. Smog, also known as ground-level ozone, is linked to a number of serious health problems, ranging from aggravation of asthma to increased risk of premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Ozone can even harm healthy people who work and play outdoors. The agency is proposing to replace the standards set by the previous administration, which they believe were not protective enough of human health.

"EPA is stepping up to protect Americans from one of the most persistent and widespread pollutants we face. Smog in the air we breathe poses a very serious health threat, especially to children and individuals suffering from asthma and lung disease. It dirties our air, clouds our cities, and drives up our health care costs across the country," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Using the best science to strengthen these standards is a long overdue action that will help

millions of Americans breathe easier and live healthier."

The agency is proposing to set the "primary" standard, which protects public health, at a level between 0.060 and 0.070 parts per million (ppm) measured over eight hours. Children are at the greatest risk from ozone, because their lungs are still developing, they are most likely to be active outdoors, and they are more likely than adults to have asthma. Adults with asthma or other lung diseases, and older adults are also sensitive to ozone.

EPA is also proposing to set a separate "secondary" standard to protect the environment, especially plants and trees. This seasonal standard is designed to protect plants and trees from damage occurring from repeated ozone exposure, which can reduce tree growth, damage leaves, and increase susceptibility to disease.

In September, 2009 Administrator Jackson announced that EPA would reconsider the existing ozone standards, set at 0.075 ppm (See **EPA** on Page 2)

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From The Staff

THE Primary Election is February 2 and then it's Ready! Set! Go! for the General Assembly's Spring Session. With a scheduled adjournment date of May 7, the legislature has a lot of work to do in a relatively short amount of time. So, things may get pretty hectic between now and the first week in May. It remains to be seen how much impact the election results will have on the session. Just one of the many things we'll be watching these next few months.

IEF

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EPA

in March, 2008. As part of its reconsideration, EPA conducted a review of the science that guided the 2008 decision, including more than 1,700 scientific studies and public comments from the 2008 rulemaking process. EPA also reviewed the findings of the independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which recommended standards in the ranges proposed today.

Ground-level ozone forms when emissions from industrial facilities, power plants, landfills and motor vehicles react in the sun.

IEF

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Grant

lion. These savings are approximate to the amount of electricity, coal and gas energy used by over 1,000 homes annually. In addition to the energy efficiency savings, officials estimate the project will create 18 construction and installation jobs and will help retain 36 jobs based on the annual savings.

The university will implement a number of energy-saving meas-

ures, including energy wheels in several new and renovated buildings, thermal pipe insulation, variable air volume hoods and controls for the Chemical Life Services Building A, heating, ventilating and air conditioning controls in the Krannert Center for Performing Arts' Mezzanine, exhaust controls in the Levis Facility, and geothermal systems for several buildings at the Allerton Park and Retreat Center.

"The ARRA-funded State Energy Program will help organizations, businesses and consumers become better stewards of the earth and help put money back into the economy through green job creation," said DCEO Director Warren Ribley. IEF

Spring Session

Deadlines

Feb. 11	House and Senate Bill Introductions
March 5	Senate Bills Out of Committee
March 12	House Bills Out of Committee
March 19	Senate Bills 3 rd Reading
March 26	House Bills 3 rd Reading
April 23	Bills Out of Committee in Opposite Chamber
May 7	Final Passage in Opposite Chamber
May 7	Scheduled Adjournment

Governor Names New ICC Chairman

GOVERNOR Pat Quinn announced on January 4 the appointment of Manuel Flores as Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). Flores, a Chicago alderman, brings to his new position a deep understanding of public service, a record for advancing pro-environmental initiatives, and a commitment to expanding broadband Internet access throughout Illinois.

"Manny Flores is an experienced and highly-regarded public servant who will provide a fresh viewpoint at this very important Commission," said Governor Quinn. "He excelled in the Chicago City Council and will do so at the helm of the ICC."

Upon Senate confirmation, Flores will be the first Latino Chairman of the ICC. A prominent member of the Chicago City Council, he was elected as 1st Ward Alderman in 2003. He has served in numerous capacities including on the Capital and Technology Development committee and the Energy, Environmental Protection, and Public Utilities committee. He also serves on the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council and the Board of Community Health. IEF



Ameren Energy Resources Completes \$1 Billion In Environmental Improvements

AMEREN Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER), the holding company for merchant generation and its energy marketing services for Ameren Corporation, recently announced the 2009 completion of more than \$1 billion in environmental improvement projects at its Illinois-based, coal-fired power plants.

In 2009, the AER merchant generating segment completed the 36-month installation of state-of-the-art environmental control technologies at two plants. AER installed a scrubber on its Duck Creek Power Plant, near Canton, Illinois, and a scrubber on Unit 1 of Coffeen Plant, near Coffeen, Illinois.

"Our investment in these technologies reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship and our support for the communities we serve," says Chuck Naslund, AER Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Through these projects, we have not only offered continued permanent employment to hundreds of Illinoisans, but we have also provided jobs to contract employees who call Illinois home. Clearly these projects have had a positive impact on the economies of central and southern Illinois - areas hard-hit by tough economic conditions."

Reducing sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 90%, the scrubbers are designed to redirect the outlet stack gas through a spray-tower scrubber design where the gas mixes with water, a 20% limestone mixture and compressed air.

The sulfur dioxide in the flue gas then reacts with the limestone to produce a gypsum by-product that can either be sold for commercial use or placed into a landfill for disposal.

In addition, the company will be completing installation of yet another scrubber and electrostatic precipitator within the first quarter of 2010 on Unit 2 of the Coffeen Plant.

In 2009, a new precipitator was also installed at the Duck Creek Plant. Electrostatic precipitators offer an efficient way to capture particulates before they go into the atmosphere.

To further reduce mercury emissions, AER in 2009 also installed activated carbon injection systems at the E.D. Edwards Plant, at its Meredosia Plant near Jacksonville, Illinois, at Newton Plant, in Jasper County, Illinois, and at the Joppa (Illinois) Power Plant (an Electric Energy Inc., plant that is 80% owned by Ameren). With activated carbon injection systems, powdered activated carbon absorbs the oxidized mercury from the flue gas, and the mercury is then collected with the fly ash in the plant's particulate collection device. [IEF](#)

NARUC, AGA Launch New Phase Of Conservation Campaign

ON January 19, the American Gas Association (AGA) commended the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) for launching the second phase of the "Anybody Can Serve, So Let's Conserve" national energy efficiency campaign.

Anybody Can Serve was initiated in January, 2009 to coincide annually with the Martin Luther

King, Jr. holiday. Building on this successful campaign, NARUC rolled out the "30-60-90 Day Energy Efficiency Challenge," a new program designed to demonstrate how families can take simple steps to lower their energy usage, save on utility bills and help clean the environment.

"I am very pleased to be here today partnering with NARUC in the launching of the second phase of its national energy efficiency campaign," said Rodney Powell, President and Chief Operating Officer of Yankee Gas Services Company, who spoke on behalf of AGA.

As part of the 30-60-90 Day Challenge, low-to-middle income families (families that make \$50,000 or less a year) from all over the country compete to see who can conserve the most energy.


"AGA, along with its member utilities, believes that all Americans need to be educated about the importance of the efficient use of energy and conservation - because all have a role to play," Powell said. "Our campaign theme comes from Dr. King, who, when told what a great man he was, would always reply, 'Anyone can be great, because anyone can serve.'"

By investing in the efficiency of buildings and appliances, promoting smart energy choices and subsidizing energy-saving efforts for low-income families, America's natural gas utilities are helping their customers save money and reduce their carbon footprint. In 2008 alone, natural gas utilities budgeted nearly \$565 million on energy efficiency programs. In fact, although the number of residential households using natural gas increased from 38 million in 1970 to about 65 million today - an increase of more than 70 percent - residential consumption over that time has remained essentially flat and greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas households have actually declined. [IEF](#)

AGA Operations Conference In New Orleans

THE American Gas Association's annual Operations Conference will be held May 11-14 at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is the premier technical forum for North American natural gas utility and pipeline operations management, featuring more than 85 presentations by engineering experts.

Topics include distribution and transmission integrity management, corrosion control management, utility and customer field services and operations safety. Three optional tours are also being offered on Thursday, May 13.

For additional information and registration, please contact Kimberly Denbow at 202-824-7334 or kdenbow@aga.org. 

2010 National Electricity Delivery Forum

THE 2010 National Electricity Delivery Forum, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will be held on February 17-18, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.

The program will focus on challenges facing the energy industry and the United States. Among the guest speakers will be Chairman Jon Wellinghoff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Commissioner David Coen of Vermont, Chairperson of NARUC for 2010.

For registration and details, go to www.electricitydeliveryforum.org. 

Illinois Energy Forum is published monthly by the Illinois Energy Association, Springfield, Illinois. For questions or comments, please contact James Monk at 217-523-7348 or e-mail at jmonk@ilenergyassn.org.

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