

**Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group
Large Group SAG Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Teleconference**

Attendees and Meeting Notes

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Meeting Materials

The following materials are posted on the [January 17 meeting page](#):

- [January 17, 2024 SAG Agenda](#)
- [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan \(Final Draft 1/11/2024\)](#)
- [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Schedule Flowchart \(Final Draft 1/10/2024\)](#)
- [SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy Update \(Draft 1/10/2024\)](#)
- [SAG Process Guidance – 2024 Update \(Redline Draft 1/11/2024\)](#)
- [SAG Facilitator Presentation: 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process](#)

Attendees

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator
Caty Lamadrid, Inova Energy Group (SAG Meeting Support)
Alan Elliott, Opinion Dynamics
Allen Dusault, Franklin Energy
Antonia Ornelas, Elevate
Barb Ryan, Applied Energy Group (AEG)
Becca McNish, ComEd
Brent Nakayama, Leidos
Bruce Liu, Nicor Gas
Carina Paton, Frontier Energy
Cassidy Kraimer, Community Investment Corp.
Cheryl Watson, Equitable Resilience & Sustainability
Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group, representing NRDC
Chris Townsend, CJT Energy Law
Chris Vaughn, Nicor Gas
Christian Koch, MEEA
Cliff McDonald, Optimal Energy Group
Deb Dynako, Slipstream
Elizabeth Horne, ICC Staff
Erin Daughton, ComEd
Erin Stitz, AEG

Fernando Morales, Ameren Illinois
Lilieric Florez Monroy, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Houston Downen, Frontier Energy
Jean Gibson, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Jeff Carroll, DNV
Jeff Erickson, Guidehouse
Jennifer Alvarado, Franklin Energy
Jim Fay, ComEd
Jim Oshaughnessy, Energy Infrastructure Partners
John Lavallee, Ameren Illinois
Jonathan Skarzynski, Nicor Gas
Kari McCue, Nicor Gas
Kari Ross, NRDC
Keith Cronin, VEIC (IL-TRM Administrator)
Kelly Klopp, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Ken Parker, Community Investment Corp.
Ken Walczak, Adler Planetarium / DarkSky
Kim Brown, ComEd
Lance Escue, Ameren Illinois
Laura Agapay-Read, Guidehouse
Laura Goldberg, NRDC
Laura Pettersen, Cascade Energy
Maria Onesto Moran, Green Home Experts
Mark Szczygiel, Nicor Gas
Matt Armstrong, Ameren Illinois
MeLena Hessel, Elevate
Michael Brandt, Elevate
Mike King, Nicor Gas
Nathan Baer, Staples Energy
Nelson May, Future Energy Enterprises (IQ South Committee Facilitation Team)
Nia May, Energy Infrastructure Partners
Nick Warnecke, Ameren Illinois
Nikki Pacific, Walker-Miller Energy Services
Nikole DiPillo, The JPI Group
Omayra Garcia, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Randy Opdyke, Nicor Gas
Rita Siong, No Organization Identified
Ronna Abshure, ICC
Sam Dent, VEIC (IL-TRM Administrator)
Sara Castleberry, Resource Innovations
Scott Eckel, ICC
Stacia Dreyer, Opinion Dynamics
Stephen Maksimovich, Inova Energy Group
Tamika J. Cole, Walker-Miller Energy Services
Ted Weaver, First Tracks Consulting, representing Nicor Gas
Theo Love, Green Energy Economics
Victoria Nielsen, ScottMadden
Zach Obert, Franklin Energy
Zach Ross, Opinion Dynamics
Zachary Froio, AEG

Meeting Notes

Opening & Introductions

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Purpose of Meeting: For the SAG Facilitator to present an overview of the 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan and request feedback.

- Agenda includes discussing SAG background, activities planned for the year, SAG groups planned for the year and finish with open items where feedback is being requested.

Kick-off to 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Materials: [SAG Facilitator Presentation: 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process](#)

SAG Background

- The SAG was created in 2008 when the first statutory requirement was created for electric utilities to provide energy efficiency programs in IL. It is an advisory body.
- Participation in the SAG is generally open for majority of meetings, with some organizations participating more frequently than others. The distribution list includes more than 400 people. IL utilities participate as well as several advocacy groups, CBOs, CAAs, implementation contractors, ICC staff, and evaluators.
- In addition to the general Large Group SAG for participation, there are Working Groups and Subcommittees that get established on an as needed basis. Each of these groups have a separate distribution list.

Carina Paton – via chat: Does the SAG do anything with energy codes and standards in Illinois?

Celia Johnson: SAG has a Market Transformation Working Group and one of the initiatives that are being explored is Stretch Codes. Beyond that the SAG does not get into discussion of codes and standards unless there's something changing that impacts energy efficiency (EE) updates.

- The SAG has “guiding principles” to support collaborative discussions.
- There are a couple of Policy and Process Guidance documents that are important for EE in IL. The first is the Illinois Policy Manual, which was revised last year for its latest version 3.0 that was approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) in December 2023. There is also a SAG Process Guidance document to summarize roles and responsibilities and topics required to be covered. This is updated as needed, and there is an effort underway to edit this document.
- The IL Technical Reference Manual (TRM) Policy in its final version was also approved by the ICC in December 2023.
- SAG website includes 15 years of meeting materials: www.ILSAG.info
- SAG Coordination with other processes: SAG coordinates with the TRM update process led by VEIC, this is also referred to as Technical Advisory Committee meetings (TAC). The annual update IL-TRM version 13.0 will begin this spring. TRM Version 3.0 will be finalized by October 1, 2024.

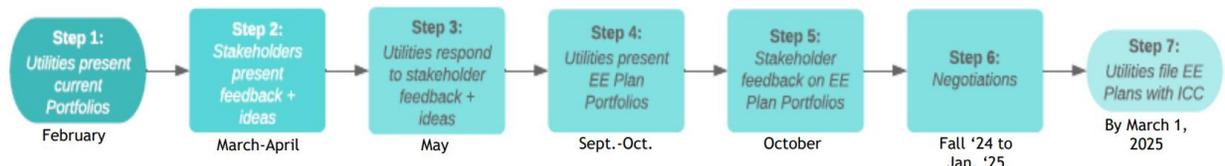
- SAG also coordinates with the Low Income Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (LIEEAC) through the IQ North EE Committee (in ComEd’s service territory) and the IQ South EE Committee (in Ameren Illinois’ service territory).

Kari Ross – via chat: Are both IQ N and IQ S Committees actively meeting right now?

Celia Johnson: I believe IQ South is actively meeting, but unsure about IQ North Committee.

2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process

- The 2024 Portfolio Planning Process focuses on the utilities’ individual EE Plans for 2026-2029, which are required by statute to be filed with the ICC for approval by March 1, 2025. The entirety of 2024 at SAG is going to be focused on portfolio planning. This is the third time the SAG is involved in this process.
- There is a dedicated page on the SAG website for the Planning Process: <https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/portfolio-planning-process/>
- The Planning Process is described in the IL EE Policy Manual – see Section 3.9, SAG Review, Draft Portfolio Outlines:
 - *Program Administrators shall work in a cooperative and iterative manner with SAG participants to develop the next multi-year Plan. Such cooperation includes discussion of foundational issues to Plan development; including budgets, Portfolio objectives, Program ideas, and Program design. Program Administrators and SAG shall seek to develop and communicate such foundational assumptions in a manner that supports efficient and timely modeling of proposals for a comprehensive Plan. A primary purpose of these cooperative and iterative discussions is to reduce the number of non-consensus issues and litigation associated with the applicable Plan dockets.*
- Seven key steps to the Planning Process:



- Negotiations between individual utilities and non-financially interested parties will take place in Fall 2024 through January 2025. The goal is to end with stipulated agreements signed by each of the utilities and non-financial interested parties.
- Majority of large group SAG meetings are open with exception of negotiation meetings when financially interested parties cannot participate.
 - There is a SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy that defines who is eligible to participate.
 - During the SAG Policy Manual update process which finalized in fall 2023, a concern was raised about how to include Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that might want to participate in negotiating party meetings. There are some changes being proposed that are not final yet but that would provide some scenarios under which CBOs could be part of negotiations.
 - There are currently proposed updates to the SAG Conflicts Policy so it is yet to be finalized. The updated policy is open for feedback from interested SAG participants. Comments are due by February 1.

- In February, IL utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas) will present an overview of current EE portfolios and considerations for 2026-2029 EE Plans. This is part of the kick-off to the Planning Process. This will help SAG participants have a common understanding of current EE portfolios. This will also help inform the opportunity for SAG participants to propose “Energy Efficiency Ideas.”
- The opportunity for SAG participants to propose “Energy Efficiency Ideas” is another key step of the process.
 - This is not a formal Request for Proposals, but rather a way for stakeholders to submit feedback and ideas for utilities’ consideration as they develop their next 4-year EE Plans.
 - EE ideas are due March 15th and will be presented to SAG in April. EE ideas will be submitted by interested parties via electronic survey with an alternative for a Word Template for those unable to use the survey, or to use the Word template for planning purposes.
 - Utilities will respond to EE idea submittals at SAG in May.
 - In submitting EE ideas, SAG participants are encouraged to:
 - 1) Focus on the highest priority EE ideas
 - 2) Work together to submit joint EE ideas, when possible, and
 - 3) Review the latest utility EE reports and participate in the February SAG meetings, to avoid proposing an EE idea already offered by a utility
- If EE Ideas relates to a measure update in the Illinois TRM, that measure update should also be shared with the Illinois TRM Administrator, VEIC, as part of the TRM update process.

Sara Castleberry – via chat: Can we confirm the TRM administrator contact information please?

Sam Dent – via chat: March 15th is the deadline for new measures ideas for the TRM. TRM Administrator email is iltrmadministrator@veic.org.

Cheryl Watson: Is there a previous compilation of ideas?

Celia Johnson: No EE ideas have been submitted yet for this cycle. This is an opportunity that happens every four years. EE idea submittals are due March 15th.

Laura Goldberg – via chat: Looking at ideas from the last process may be helpful.

Celia Johnson: The EE ideas submitted to SAG during the last planning process (in 2020) are posted on the SAG website: <https://www.ilsag.info/2020-energy-efficiency-ideas/>

Kari Ross: Will you help facilitate stakeholder ideation sessions [for stakeholders who want to work together]?

Celia Johnson: I will be helping with coordination for stakeholders interested in working together on EE idea submittals, but do not plan to facilitate those discussions.

- In fall 2024, each of the Illinois utilities will present a draft 2026-2029 EE Plan to SAG. There will be an opportunity for any interested SAG participant to present feedback on draft EE Plans to utilities. Following feedback presentations at SAG in October, the

process will conclude with final negotiations between individual utilities and non-financially interested parties.

SAG Planning Process Survey

- There will be an optional survey sent out to SAG. This survey will be used to inform the Planning Process. Survey responses are due by Thursday, February 1. Three key survey questions:
 - 1) What topic(s) should IL utilities cover in their February SAG presentations?
 - 2) What high level EE idea(s) are you considering submitting to SAG for the March 15th “EE Ideas” deadline?
 - Stakeholders are encouraged to work together to submit joint EE ideas, when possible – goal is to use survey responses to identify topics of mutual interest
 - Responding to this question is not required to submit an EE Idea in March
 - 3) Are you interested in a meeting with the SAG Facilitator to discuss the 2024 SAG Planning Process or additional background on SAG?

2024 SAG Groups

- Each SAG group has a separate distribution list. Proposed meeting dates for all of these groups can be found on the 2024 schedule flowchart.
- SAG Steering Committee
 - Holds 1-2 meetings per year; members include utility representatives and non-financially interested stakeholder organizations that signed the 2022-2025 EE Plan stipulated agreements
 - The purpose is to provide substantive feedback to the SAG Facilitator on: (1) annual SAG Plans; and (2) progress towards meeting annual SAG Plan goals to ensure that the time spent on SAG is as productive and valuable as possible
- Large Group SAG
 - Monthly Planning Process meetings planned from January to October 2024
- SAG Subcommittees
 - Equity Subcommittee
 - Network Lighting Controls Subcommittee
- SAG Working Groups
 - Non-Energy Impacts Working Group
 - Market Transformation Savings Working Group
 - Reporting Working Group
- To join the Large Group SAG or any of the SAG Working Group or SAG Subcommittee distribution lists, email SAG Facilitator, Celia Johnson:
Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com

Questions or Comments?

Elizabeth Horne: A suggestion to add to the schedule – a deliverable date by which Confidentiality Agreements should be finalized/signed.

Next Steps

There are two requests for SAG participants:

1) Complete the SAG Planning Process Survey – [Survey Responses due by Thursday, February 1](#)

SAG participants are encouraged to complete the [January 2024 SAG Planning Process Survey](#).

Responses to this SAG Planning Process Survey will be used to:

1. Inform the February 2024 utility presentations to SAG;
2. For participants to share high-level “Energy Efficiency Ideas” and identify potential opportunities to work together; and
3. Identify participants that would like to meet with the SAG Facilitator to discuss the SAG Planning Process.

2) Review 2024 Draft SAG Planning Materials – [Comments due by Thursday, February 1](#)

- [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan \(Final Draft 1/11/2024\)](#)
- [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Schedule Flowchart \(Final Draft 1/10/2024\)](#)
- [SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy Update \(Draft 1/10/2024\)](#)
- [SAG Process Guidance – 2024 Update \(Redline Draft 1/11/2024\)](#)

Please send any comments or questions directly to the SAG Facilitator, Celia Johnson: Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com. There is a SAG Steering Committee meeting scheduled on **Tuesday, February 6 (10:00 – 11:30 am)** to discuss feedback received on planning materials, if needed. Anyone who submits feedback will be invited to join Steering Committee members at the February 6th meeting.