

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

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

Attendees and Meeting Notes

Meeting Materials 1
Attendees 1
Meeting Notes 3
Opening and Introductions..... 3
Feedback from Non-Financially Interested Negotiating Parties..... 3
Closing and Next Steps..... 5

Meeting Materials

- [Wednesday, October 30 SAG Agenda](#)
- [SAG Facilitator Introduction to October 30 Meeting](#)
- [Initial Feedback Presented to Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas by Non-Financially Interested Negotiating Stakeholders](#)

Attendees

Name	Company or Organization
Celia Johnson	SAG Facilitator (Celia Johnson Consulting)
Jane Anderson	SAG Meeting Support (Inova Energy Group)
Abigail Miner	IL Attorney General's Office
AJ Young	U.S. Greenlink
Andrew Cottrell	ScottMadden
Andrey Gribovich	DNV
Barb Ryan	Applied Energy Group
Bill Riskey	Franklin Energy
Bobby Castaneda	Energy Solution
Cassidy Kraimer	Community Investment corp.
Chris Neme	Energy Futures Group, representing NRDC
Chris Vaughn	Nicor Gas
Christina Frank	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Corey Grace	Resource Innovations
David Lemmon	Utility Energy Services
Ebony Buchanan	CEDA
Elder Calderon	ComEd
Elizabeth Applegate	Applied Energy Group
Elizabeth Horne	ICC Staff

Name	Company or Organization
Eljona Fiorita	CLEAResult
Erin Stitz	Applied Energy Group
Fernando Morales	Ameren Illinois
Jarred Nordhus	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Jean Gibson	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Jeff Erickson	Guidehouse
Jim Heffron	Energy Solution
Joe Mays	Cascade Energy
John Yi CEDA	CEDA
Jonathan Kleinman	Brilliion
Karen Lusson	National Consumer Law Center
Kari Ross	NRDC
Kate Moore	AnnDyl
Kegan Daugherty	Resource Innovations
Kelly Mulder	Mulder Consulting
Kim Janas	IL Attorney General's Office
Kim Swan	ComEd
Koby Bailey	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
LaJuana Garrett	Nicor Gas
Larry Kotewa	Elevate
Laura Agapay-Read	Guidehouse
Louis	No Organization Identified
Maddie Wazowicz	MEEA
Mark Milby	Elevate
Matt Armstrong	Ameren Illinois
Melissa Helphingstine	Primera Engineering
Mia Berrios	People for Community Recovery
Michael Collins	Franklin Energy
Mike Frischmann	Ecometric Consulting
Mike King	Nicor Gas
Nate Baer	i3 Energy
Nick Moshage	Walker-Miller Energy Services
Nick Warnecke	Ameren Illinois
Nicole Popejoy	IL Association of Community Action Agencies
Omayra Garcia	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Philip Mosenthal	Optimal Energy, representing NCLC
Rashaan Keeton	Center for Energy & Environment
Salina Colon	CEDA
Samuel Morris	The Will Group
Selena Worster Walde	Erthe Energy Solutions
Shawn Haas	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Stu Slote	Skytop Consulting

Name	Company or Organization
Tina Grebner	Ameren Illinois
Tori Woolbright	Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Victoria Nielsen	ScottMadden
Zachary Froio	Applied Energy Group

Meeting Notes

See **red text** for follow-up items.

Opening and Introductions

Purpose of October 30th meeting: For interested stakeholders to present feedback to Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas on the preliminary draft 2026-2029 EE Plan Portfolio, presented to SAG on October 8.

Feedback from Non-Financially Interested Negotiating Parties

Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center, and other Negotiating Parties for Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas

Non-Financially Interested Parties

- NRDC, Illinois Attorney General, National Consumer Law Center, City of Chicago, Aces 4 Youth, Dark Sky Initiative, People for Community Recovery, Blacks in Green, ICC Staff**
 - **ICC Staff participating in discussion and negotiations only as a non-stakeholder, and will not be a signatory to any stipulation coming out of negotiations.

Things We'd Like to Change and/or Have Questions About

Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center

Portfolio-level costs

- Significantly inflated (doubling of) PGL Portfolio-level budget, as compared to existing plan, is unexplained and a non-starter
- Entire 2026-2029 budget is increasing by \$5 million, with \$4 million of that amount going to Portfolio-level costs.
- This significant increase is unnecessary and should be reallocated to programs
- This budget item should remain static as a percentage of the budget, at a maximum.

Peoples Gas Portfolio Level Budget Costs Current vs. 2026-2029 Plan – 99% increase

- Captures the difference observed in the portfolio level cost
- Second column is 2023 actuals from the Company's annual record, and the proposed 26-29 budget has increased 99% to \$8.2 million

North Shore Portfolio Level Budget Costs Current vs. 2026-2029 Plan – 44% increase

- Captures the difference observed in the portfolio level cost
- Compares 2023 numbers to proposed 26-29

IQ Spend – Increase Needed

- Appreciate the low-income allocation; however, request more
- Given the high rate of unaffordability in PGL service territory (record-setting rate increase granted in 2023), additional IQ spending is necessary and supported by demographic data.
- PGL/NS should add \$1.3 million to IQ budget to have the increase in percentage terms equal to the total % budget increase over the existing four-year plan.
- We'd like to see increased allocation to weatherization – both SF and MF, with emphasis on installation of building envelope measures, and major measure installs by ComEd. (Need to review batch files to assess measure assumptions.)
- Exception for installation of gas furnaces in income-eligible situations when furnace no longer working, or requires significant maintenance or health and safety hazard
- Statute 8-104 section F states that utility plans need to take into account the unique circumstances of the utility territory

IQ Spend – Increase Needed

- Recommendation for budget shift to achieve that goal:
 - Reallocate dollars from Portfolio-level costs
 - Additional budget dollars from R&D
 - Additional budget dollars from market transformation
 - Eliminate elementary school kits and reallocate to IQ weatherization
 - Kit measure in-service rate unknown, particularly for gas measures

Savings Goals

Mia Berrios, People for Community Recovery

- Happy to see Peoples Gas state commitment to leveraging IRA Rebate dollars.
 - Must assume some leveraging of IRA HOMES rebates (weatherization measures)
 - Work jointly with ComEd on the leveraging/braiding effort
- Need to see batch files (with individual measure cost and savings assumptions) to make further recommendations

Residential (Market Rate) Programs

Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group, representing NRDC

- No gas heat pump installations in residential applications*
 - *IL AG is still assessing this
- No gas furnaces in market rate (non-income-qualified) residential applications
- We'd like to see significant ramp-up of market-rate weatherization measures (without negatively impacting IQ weatherization budget allocation)
- Emphasis should be on building envelope measures for moderate income areas

Market Development Initiative (MDI)

Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center

- Appreciate the continued commitment to the MDI program. However, as structured, stakeholders and customers have no understanding of MDI achievements relative to goals or metrics. This is consistent with all the utilities
- Recommend that northern IL utilities (ComEd, PGL/NS, and Nicor) create a joint MDI program
 - Makes no economic or practical sense to have 3 separate approaches to building a more diverse workforce and implementation opportunities

- Need specific metrics and goals relative to budget to be created, with stakeholder input. Welcome input from others who may have good insight in this.
 - X many people trained, x many people connected to jobs, x many people are still in these jobs x years later
- Need for implementer/trade ally ombudsman role, as previously requested, independent of the company.
 - Have heard problems that subcontractors have communicated to customers

Business and Public Sector Programs

Kari Ross, NRDC

- Need batch files to be able to provide more specific comments about programs and measures
- Slide 26 of Draft Plan suggests that your small business program is gas-only; should be a joint program, with focus on Wx shell measures
 - Would like some clarity on this
- Public Sector: Stakeholders would like a breakdown on public sector program content by type of public building, i.e., schools, libraries, municipal buildings, etc.
- No new combined heat and power (CHP) measures*
 - *IL AG still assessing this

Next Steps

Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center

- We look forward to reviewing batch files to better understand assumed measure mix, and assumed cost per therm
- Look forward to negotiations

Closing and Next Steps

Next Steps for Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas EE Plan:

- Negotiation meetings on Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas' EE Plan with non-financially interested parties begin the week of November 11th
- Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas will file the 2026-2029 EE Plan with the ICC for approval by March 1, 2025