



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Energy Community Reinvestment Report 2022

The Energy Community Reinvestment Act (“Act”) was signed into law as an article within the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, P.A. 102-0662) by Governor JB Pritzker on September 15, 2021. This Act entailed the enactment of a range of programs to support the Illinois workforce and communities during the transition to renewable energy in Illinois. Section 10-40 of this Act required that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) prepare a report “365 days after the effective date...and at least once each calendar year thereafter” to provide an update on the impact of those programs and recommendations for future modifications. This is the first such report.

Energy Community Reinvestment Act Implementation

There are not yet any metrics or impacts to report for the programs under the Energy Community Reinvestment Act, as they are not yet fully in operation. We provide an update on progress on programs established in the Act below. For future reference, DCEO provides updates and documentation related to all DCEO CEJA programs at our website, at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/ClimateAndEquitableJobs.aspx>

Energy Transition Workforce Commission

The Energy Transition Workforce Commission (“Commission”) held its first meeting on August 10, 2022. The Commission’s main task is to produce a report, which will contain analysis and modeling to help the Commission understand the anticipated impact of the transition to renewables for the Illinois economy. To complete this report, DCEO has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Illinois Springfield. Economist Dr. Ken Kriz will lead the university team assigned to perform this analysis.

Energy Transition Community Grants

Energy Transition Community Grants will support economic development in communities that have recently experienced or will soon experience a fossil fuel plant, nuclear plant, or coal mine closure. On August 31, 2022, DCEO issued a request for information (RFI) for the Energy Transition Community Grant Program. Through this RFI, DCEO is seeking information from stakeholders on the anticipated needs of target communities, the structure and eligible uses of funds, and additional feedback to help inform program development. Responses to this RFI may be submitted via an online form until September 30, 2022, after which DCEO will use information from the responses in preparation of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the grant opportunity.

Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights

The Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights entails the prompt provision of services to employees upon the announcement of a plant or mine closure, and new reporting requirements for owners of plants.

Following filing of WARN notices by each plant, Rapid Response services outlined under the Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights were provided to the Vistra Joppa Power Plant (which has since closed) and are scheduled to occur shortly at the Vistra Edwards plant in Bartonville.

Additionally, while NRG does not currently have plans for involuntary employment losses at two closing plants in Illinois, DCEO provided Rapid Response Services to employees at those plants, as well. DCEO continues to work with Vistra and NRG to implement the full reporting provisions of the Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights in anticipation of full closure or deactivation of those plants.

Company	WARN Notification Date	Rapid Response Workshop Dates	Employees Impacted
Vistra Joppa Power Plant	May 12, 2022	July 13, 2022 July 14, 2022 July 15, 2022	Facility officially closed
Vistra Edwards Plant - Bartonville	May 12, 2022	November 2, 2022 November 3, 2022	69 layoffs by 7/1/23
NRG Waukegan Generating Station	N/A	May 26, 2022	N/A – no involuntary employee losses
NRG Will County Generating Station	N/A	May 26, 2022	N/A – no involuntary employee losses

The range of services provided as part of Rapid Response may include the following: career services such as resume writing, assistance with online job applications, career exploration, labor market information, testing/assessment, career planning, case management, skills upgrade, information on applying for employment benefits, job search and placement assistance, training or retraining. Training services may include On-the-Job Training, Classroom Training or Incumbent Worker Training in relation to layoff aversion strategies.

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

The Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program provides scholarship assistance to children of eligible displaced energy workers. The program was designed to support students who attend or will attend an undergraduate or graduate program at an Illinois institution and have been impacted by a parent's layoff from a retiring power plant or a closing coal mine. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has promulgated rules for the program authorized by Section 10-30 of the Act, and these can be found in the Illinois Administrative Code Title 23, Part 2746 (effective July 1, 2022).

ISAC is currently developing the program application, awarding, certification and disbursement processes, which includes determining a priority application date, reviewing applicant eligibility, and disbursing awards until the \$1.1 million in appropriated funds are depleted. ISAC and DCEO have also begun building a partnership to share information and resources that will help facilitate the administration of this program. The application for Academic Year 2022-23 will be posted on the ISAC Student Portal and should be available early 2023. Students will be able to apply to cover the full academic year.