SPECIAL MEETING OF
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
NO QUORUM
MEETING NOTES

Thursday, November 9, 2017 (3:30 pm – 5:00 pm)

I. Introductions
  • Teleconference
    • Commissioner Kim Wasserman, Chair
    • Commissioner Keith Harley
    • Commissioner Lore Baker – DHS – Housing
    • Commissioner Cheryl Johnson – People for Community Recovery
    • Pastor Vance – Faith in Place
    • Commissioner Veronica Kyle
  • Springfield
    • Commissioner Chris Pressnall- IEPA Environmental Justice Officer
    • Alec Davis - IERG
    • Commissioner Jerry Peck – IMA
    • Crystal Myers-Wilkens – IEPA
  • Chicago
    • No one at the James R. Thompson Center

II. Agenda
  ➢ Discuss draft letter to Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Director Anthony Star commenting on the draft Long-Term Renewable Resources Plan.

III. Discussion
  ➢ Commissioner Peck
    o Quorum must be eight Commissioners since there are 24 total
    o Must be present in person
  ➢ Commissioner Pressnall
    o Explained that the Open Meetings Act does not require boards and commissions that are solely advisory in nature, not binding, do not have an in-person requirement
  ➢ Commissioner Peck
    o Need a quorum plus one to vote for action so need nine total
  ➢ Commissioner Harley
    o Asked Alec Davis if he was a Commissioner
  ➢ Alec Davis
Stated that he was not a Commissioner and that the appointed Commissioner from IERG is Brenda Carter, who has taken another position

IERG may pursue an appointment in the future

➢ Commissioner Harley
   ○ Commissioner present are Pressnall, Harley, Kyle, Peck, Wasserman and Baker

➢ Chair Wasserman
   ○ Commission needs to revisit the factsheet
   ○ Commission probably never voted on by-laws

➢ Commissioner Peck
   ○ The fact sheet is less stringent
   ○ Have poor attendance by legislators
   ○ Since this is a public body, have to look to Open Meetings Act for guidance
   ○ There are strict requirements in the Open Meetings Act

➢ Chair Wasserman
   ○ In 2018, need to work on the by-laws

➢ Commissioner Peck
   ○ Should the meeting continue?
   ○ Can we take a vote on the letter, we do not have a quorum
   ○ We should not discuss the letter

➢ Chair Wasserman
   ○ Are we still currently at five Commissioners?

➢ Commissioner Pressnall
   ○ Yes

➢ Chair Wasserman
   ○ Thanked Commissioner Peck for his comments

➢ Alec Davis
   ○ Did coordinate with Commissioner Peck on comments to the letter
   ○

➢ Chair Wasserman
   ○ We do not have a quorum
   ○ Cannot come to a census
   ○ Recommends that the Commission does not send a letter to IPA
   ○ This is in-line with the principles of EJ
   ○ Individuals should submit comments on their own
   ○ Use format Commission working group developed as a guide

➢ Commissioner Harley
   ○ Look to November 3 letter developed by the working group
   ○ Commissioner’s Peck letter is not in agreement
   ○ Five Commissioners are not representative of the Commission as a whole
➢ Commissioner Kyle
  o Previously been able to reach a consensus
  o Need to send letters individually
  o By-laws were not created by the Commission as a whole

➢ Commissioner Harley
  o Only regret is all of the time that was spent by the working group, loss of time and effort by not sending the letter
  o Work will not go to waste
  o Quality of the ideas was good

➢ Chair Wasserman
  o Need to work on staffing the Commission

➢ Commissioner Peck
  o Will reach out to organized labor and power sector to staff the Commission
  o Set up meeting with Commissioner Pressnall to see if a good fit

➢ Chair Wasserman
  o Thanked Commissioner Peck

➢ Commissioner Harley
  o There are no hard feelings and want to work together going forward

➢ Alec Davis
  o Wanted to share an observation
  o Played with the mapping tool and notes that it deviates from IEPA’s mapping tool

➢ Commissioner Pressnall
  o Noted that Commissioner Baker arrived

➢ Commissioner Peck
  o Commission should focus on an EJ standard for the entire state

➢ Alec Davis
  o People should explain the various EJ tools and the background
  o For example, CalEnviroScreen

➢ Commissioner Pressnall
  o Will keep working on Commission appointments
  o Strengthening bylaws

➢ Chair Wasserman
  o Folks should look at IPA’s required format for submitting comments
  o Set priorities going forward
  o Next Commission meeting on December 13 at 10:30 am
IV. **Next meeting date and location**

December 13, 2017 – 10:30 am pm until 12:00 pm

V. **Adjournment**
- At 4:25 pm