

**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**

- Quorum must be eight Commissioners since there are 24 total
- Must be present in person

➤ **Commissioner Pressnall**

- 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**

- Need a quorum plus one to vote for action so need nine total

➤ **Commissioner Harley**

- 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
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- **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**
 - Previously been able to reach a consensus
 - Need to send letters individually
 - By-laws were not created by the Commission as a whole
- **Commissioner Harley**
 - Only regret is all of the time that was spent by the working group, loss of time and effort by not sending the letter
 - Work will not go to waste
 - Quality of the ideas was good
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Need to work on staffing the Commission
- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Will reach out to organized labor and power sector to staff the Commission
 - Set up meeting with Commissioner Pressnall to see if a good fit
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Thanked Commissioner Peck
- **Commissioner Harley**
 - There are no hard feelings and want to work together going forward
- **Alec Davis**
 - Wanted to share an observation
 - Played with the mapping tool and notes that it deviates from IEPA's mapping tool
- **Commissioner Pressnall**
 - Noted that Commissioner Baker arrived
- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Commission should focus on an EJ standard for the entire state
- **Alec Davis**
 - People should explain the various EJ tools and the background
 - For example, CalEnviroScreen
- **Commissioner Pressnall**
 - Will keep working on Commission appointments
 - Strengthening bylaws
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Folks should look at IPA's required format for submitting comments
 - Set priorities going forward
 - 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