

1 AN ACT concerning utilities.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by changing
5 Section 16-111.5 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/16-111.5)

7 Sec. 16-111.5. Provisions relating to procurement.

8 (a) An electric utility that on December 31, 2005 served at
9 least 100,000 customers in Illinois shall procure power and
10 energy for its eligible retail customers in accordance with the
11 applicable provisions set forth in Section 1-75 of the Illinois
12 Power Agency Act and this Section. "Eligible retail customers"
13 for the purposes of this Section means those retail customers
14 that purchase power and energy from the electric utility under
15 fixed-price bundled service tariffs, other than those retail
16 customers whose service is declared or deemed competitive under
17 Section 16-113 and those other customer groups specified in
18 this Section, including self-generating customers, customers
19 electing hourly pricing, or those customers who are otherwise
20 ineligible for fixed-price bundled tariff service. Those
21 customers that are excluded from the definition of "eligible
22 retail customers" shall not be included in the procurement plan
23 load requirements, and the utility shall procure any supply

1 requirements, including capacity, ancillary services, and
2 hourly priced energy, in the applicable markets as needed to
3 serve those customers, provided that the utility may include in
4 its procurement plan load requirements for the load that is
5 associated with those retail customers whose service has been
6 declared or deemed competitive pursuant to Section 16-113 of
7 this Act to the extent that those customers are purchasing
8 power and energy during one of the transition periods
9 identified in subsection (b) of Section 16-113 of this Act.

10 (b) A procurement plan shall be prepared for each electric
11 utility consistent with the applicable requirements of the
12 Illinois Power Agency Act and this Section. For purposes of
13 this Section, Illinois electric utilities that are affiliated
14 by virtue of a common parent company are considered to be a
15 single electric utility. Each procurement plan shall analyze
16 the projected balance of supply and demand for eligible retail
17 customers over a 5-year period with the first planning year
18 beginning on June 1 of the year following the year in which the
19 plan is filed. The plan shall specifically identify the
20 wholesale products to be procured following plan approval, and
21 shall follow all the requirements set forth in the Public
22 Utilities Act and all applicable State and federal laws,
23 statutes, rules, or regulations, as well as Commission orders.
24 Nothing in this Section precludes consideration of contracts
25 longer than 5 years and related forecast data. Unless specified
26 otherwise in this Section, in the procurement plan or in the

1 implementing tariff, any procurement occurring in accordance
2 with this plan shall be competitively bid through a request for
3 proposals process. Approval and implementation of the
4 procurement plan shall be subject to review and approval by the
5 Commission according to the provisions set forth in this
6 Section. A procurement plan shall include each of the following
7 components:

8 (1) Hourly load analysis. This analysis shall include:

9 (i) multi-year historical analysis of hourly
10 loads;

11 (ii) switching trends and competitive retail
12 market analysis;

13 (iii) known or projected changes to future loads;

14 and

15 (iv) growth forecasts by customer class.

16 (2) Analysis of the impact of any demand side and
17 renewable energy initiatives. This analysis shall include:

18 (i) the impact of demand response programs, both
19 current and projected;

20 (ii) supply side needs that are projected to be
21 offset by purchases of renewable energy resources, if
22 any; and

23 (iii) the impact of energy efficiency programs,
24 both current and projected.

25 (3) A plan for meeting the expected load requirements
26 that will not be met through preexisting contracts. This

1 plan shall include:

2 (i) definitions of the different retail customer
3 classes for which supply is being purchased;

4 (ii) the proposed mix of demand-response products
5 for which contracts will be executed during the next
6 year. The cost-effective demand-response measures
7 shall be procured whenever the cost is lower than
8 procuring comparable capacity products, provided that
9 such products shall:

10 (A) be procured by a demand-response provider
11 from eligible retail customers;

12 (B) at least satisfy the demand-response
13 requirements of the regional transmission
14 organization market in which the utility's service
15 territory is located, including, but not limited
16 to, any applicable capacity or dispatch
17 requirements;

18 (C) provide for customers' participation in
19 the stream of benefits produced by the
20 demand-response products;

21 (D) provide for reimbursement by the
22 demand-response provider of the utility for any
23 costs incurred as a result of the failure of the
24 supplier of such products to perform its
25 obligations thereunder; and

26 (E) meet the same credit requirements as apply

1 to suppliers of capacity, in the applicable
2 regional transmission organization market;

3 (iii) monthly forecasted system supply
4 requirements, including expected minimum, maximum, and
5 average values for the planning period;

6 (iv) the proposed mix and selection of standard
7 wholesale products for which contracts will be
8 executed during the next year, separately or in
9 combination, to meet that portion of its load
10 requirements not met through pre-existing contracts,
11 including but not limited to monthly 5 x 16 peak period
12 block energy, monthly off-peak wrap energy, monthly 7 x
13 24 energy, annual 5 x 16 energy, annual off-peak wrap
14 energy, annual 7 x 24 energy, monthly capacity, annual
15 capacity, peak load capacity obligations, capacity
16 purchase plan, and ancillary services;

17 (v) proposed term structures for each wholesale
18 product type included in the proposed procurement plan
19 portfolio of products; and

20 (vi) an assessment of the price risk, load
21 uncertainty, and other factors that are associated
22 with the proposed procurement plan; this assessment,
23 to the extent possible, shall include an analysis of
24 the following factors: contract terms, time frames for
25 securing products or services, fuel costs, weather
26 patterns, transmission costs, market conditions, and

1 the governmental regulatory environment; the proposed
2 procurement plan shall also identify alternatives for
3 those portfolio measures that are identified as having
4 significant price risk.

5 (4) Proposed procedures for balancing loads. The
6 procurement plan shall include, for load requirements
7 included in the procurement plan, the process for (i)
8 hourly balancing of supply and demand and (ii) the criteria
9 for portfolio re-balancing in the event of significant
10 shifts in load.

11 (c) The procurement process set forth in Section 1-75 of
12 the Illinois Power Agency Act and subsection (e) of this
13 Section shall be administered by a procurement administrator
14 and monitored by a procurement monitor.

15 (1) The procurement administrator shall:

16 (i) design the final procurement process in
17 accordance with Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power
18 Agency Act and subsection (e) of this Section following
19 Commission approval of the procurement plan;

20 (ii) develop benchmarks in accordance with
21 subsection (e)(3) to be used to evaluate bids; these
22 benchmarks shall be submitted to the Commission for
23 review and approval on a confidential basis prior to
24 the procurement event;

25 (iii) serve as the interface between the electric
26 utility and suppliers;

1 (iv) manage the bidder pre-qualification and
2 registration process;

3 (v) obtain the electric utilities' agreement to
4 the final form of all supply contracts and credit
5 collateral agreements;

6 (vi) administer the request for proposals process;

7 (vii) have the discretion to negotiate to
8 determine whether bidders are willing to lower the
9 price of bids that meet the benchmarks approved by the
10 Commission; any post-bid negotiations with bidders
11 shall be limited to price only and shall be completed
12 within 24 hours after opening the sealed bids and shall
13 be conducted in a fair and unbiased manner; in
14 conducting the negotiations, there shall be no
15 disclosure of any information derived from proposals
16 submitted by competing bidders; if information is
17 disclosed to any bidder, it shall be provided to all
18 competing bidders;

19 (viii) maintain confidentiality of supplier and
20 bidding information in a manner consistent with all
21 applicable laws, rules, regulations, and tariffs;

22 (ix) submit a confidential report to the
23 Commission recommending acceptance or rejection of
24 bids;

25 (x) notify the utility of contract counterparties
26 and contract specifics; and

1 (xi) administer related contingency procurement
2 events.

3 (2) The procurement monitor, who shall be retained by
4 the Commission, shall:

5 (i) monitor interactions among the procurement
6 administrator, suppliers, and utility;

7 (ii) monitor and report to the Commission on the
8 progress of the procurement process;

9 (iii) provide an independent confidential report
10 to the Commission regarding the results of the
11 procurement event;

12 (iv) assess compliance with the procurement plans
13 approved by the Commission for each utility that on
14 December 31, 2005 provided electric service to a least
15 100,000 customers in Illinois;

16 (v) preserve the confidentiality of supplier and
17 bidding information in a manner consistent with all
18 applicable laws, rules, regulations, and tariffs;

19 (vi) provide expert advice to the Commission and
20 consult with the procurement administrator regarding
21 issues related to procurement process design, rules,
22 protocols, and policy-related matters; and

23 (vii) consult with the procurement administrator
24 regarding the development and use of benchmark
25 criteria, standard form contracts, credit policies,
26 and bid documents.

1 (d) Except as provided in subsection (j), the planning
2 process shall be conducted as follows:

3 (1) Beginning in 2008, each Illinois utility procuring
4 power pursuant to this Section shall annually provide a
5 range of load forecasts to the Illinois Power Agency by
6 July 15 of each year, or such other date as may be required
7 by the Commission or Agency. The load forecasts shall cover
8 the 5-year procurement planning period for the next
9 procurement plan and shall include hourly data
10 representing a high-load, low-load and expected-load
11 scenario for the load of the eligible retail customers. The
12 utility shall provide supporting data and assumptions for
13 each of the scenarios.

14 (2) Beginning in 2011 ~~2008~~, the Illinois Power Agency
15 shall prepare a draft procurement plan by August 15th of
16 each year, or such other date as may be required by the
17 Commission. The procurement plan shall identify the
18 portfolio of demand-response and power and energy products
19 to be procured. The draft procurement plan shall also
20 indicate, in legislative style, the specific changes to the
21 most recent Commission-approved procurement plan.

22 Cost-effective demand-response measures shall be procured
23 as set forth in item (iii) of subsection (b) of this
24 Section. Copies of the draft procurement plan shall be
25 posted and made publicly available on the Agency's and
26 Commission's websites, and copies shall also be provided to

1 each affected electric utility. An affected utility shall
2 have 30 days following the date of posting to provide
3 comment to the Agency on the draft procurement plan. Other
4 interested entities also may comment on the procurement
5 plan within the timeframe outlined in this Section. All
6 comments submitted to the Agency shall be specific,
7 supported by data or other detailed analyses, and, if
8 objecting to all or a portion of the draft procurement
9 plan, accompanied by specific alternative wording or
10 proposals. All comments shall be posted on the Agency's and
11 Commission's websites. During this 30-day comment period,
12 the Agency shall hold at least one public hearing within
13 each utility's service area for the purpose of receiving
14 public comment on the draft procurement plan. Within 14
15 days following the end of the 30-day review period, the
16 Agency shall revise the draft procurement plan as necessary
17 based on the comments received and file the agency's final
18 version of the procurement plan with the Commission and
19 post the Agency's final version of the procurement plan on
20 the websites. The Agency shall identify any revisions to
21 the draft procurement plan by documenting such revisions in
22 legislative style.

23 (3) Within 10 ~~5~~ days after the filing of the Agency's
24 final version of the procurement plan, any person objecting
25 to the procurement plan shall file an objection with the
26 Commission. Within 15 ~~10~~ days after the filing, the

1 Commission shall determine whether a hearing is necessary.
2 The Commission shall enter its order confirming or
3 modifying the final procurement plan within 90 days after
4 the filing of the final procurement plan, including all
5 modifications and additions, by the Illinois Power Agency.

6 (4) The Commission shall approve the procurement plan,
7 including expressly the forecast used in the procurement
8 plan, if the Commission determines that it will ensure
9 adequate, reliable, affordable, efficient, and
10 environmentally sustainable electric service at the lowest
11 total cost over time, taking into account any benefits of
12 price stability.

13 (e) The procurement process shall include each of the
14 following components:

15 (1) Solicitation, pre-qualification, and registration
16 of bidders. The procurement administrator shall
17 disseminate information to potential bidders to promote a
18 procurement event, notify potential bidders that the
19 procurement administrator may enter into a post-bid price
20 negotiation with bidders that meet the applicable
21 benchmarks, provide supply requirements, and otherwise
22 explain the competitive procurement process. In addition
23 to such other publication as the procurement administrator
24 determines is appropriate, this information shall be
25 posted on the Illinois Power Agency's and the Commission's
26 websites. The procurement administrator shall also

1 administer the prequalification process, including
2 evaluation of credit worthiness, compliance with
3 procurement rules, and agreement to the standard form
4 contract developed pursuant to paragraph (2) of this
5 subsection (e). The procurement administrator shall then
6 identify and register bidders to participate in the
7 procurement event.

8 (2) Standard contract forms and credit terms and
9 instruments. The procurement administrator, in
10 consultation with the utilities, the Commission, and other
11 interested parties and subject to Commission oversight,
12 shall develop and provide standard contract forms for the
13 supplier contracts that meet generally accepted industry
14 practices. Standard credit terms and instruments that meet
15 generally accepted industry practices shall be similarly
16 developed. The procurement administrator shall make
17 available to the Commission all written comments it
18 receives on the contract forms, credit terms, or
19 instruments. If the procurement administrator cannot reach
20 agreement with the applicable electric utility as to the
21 contract terms and conditions, the procurement
22 administrator must notify the Commission of any disputed
23 terms and the Commission shall resolve the dispute. The
24 terms of the contracts shall not be subject to negotiation
25 by winning bidders, and the bidders must agree to the terms
26 of the contract in advance so that winning bids are

1 selected solely on the basis of price.

2 (3) Establishment of a market-based price benchmark.

3 As part of the development of the procurement process, the
4 procurement administrator, in consultation with the
5 Commission staff, Agency staff, and the procurement
6 monitor, shall establish benchmarks for evaluating the
7 final prices in the contracts for each of the products that
8 will be procured through the procurement process. The
9 benchmarks shall be based on price data for similar
10 products for the same delivery period and same delivery
11 hub, or other delivery hubs after adjusting for that
12 difference. The price benchmarks may also be adjusted to
13 take into account differences between the information
14 reflected in the underlying data sources and the specific
15 products and procurement process being used to procure
16 power for the Illinois utilities. The benchmarks shall be
17 confidential but shall be provided to, and will be subject
18 to Commission review and approval, prior to a procurement
19 event.

20 (4) Request for proposals competitive procurement
21 process. The procurement administrator shall design and
22 issue a request for proposals to supply electricity in
23 accordance with each utility's procurement plan, as
24 approved by the Commission. The request for proposals shall
25 set forth a procedure for sealed, binding commitment
26 bidding with pay-as-bid settlement, and provision for

1 selection of bids on the basis of price.

2 (5) A plan for implementing contingencies in the event
3 of supplier default or failure of the procurement process
4 to fully meet the expected load requirement due to
5 insufficient supplier participation, Commission rejection
6 of results, or any other cause.

7 (i) Event of supplier default: In the event of
8 supplier default, the utility shall review the
9 contract of the defaulting supplier to determine if the
10 amount of supply is 200 megawatts or greater, and if
11 there are more than 60 days remaining of the contract
12 term. If both of these conditions are met, and the
13 default results in termination of the contract, the
14 utility shall immediately notify the Illinois Power
15 Agency that a request for proposals must be issued to
16 procure replacement power, and the procurement
17 administrator shall run an additional procurement
18 event. If the contracted supply of the defaulting
19 supplier is less than 200 megawatts or there are less
20 than 60 days remaining of the contract term, the
21 utility shall procure power and energy from the
22 applicable regional transmission organization market,
23 including ancillary services, capacity, and day-ahead
24 or real time energy, or both, for the duration of the
25 contract term to replace the contracted supply;
26 provided, however, that if a needed product is not

1 available through the regional transmission
2 organization market it shall be purchased from the
3 wholesale market.

4 (ii) Failure of the procurement process to fully
5 meet the expected load requirement: If the procurement
6 process fails to fully meet the expected load
7 requirement due to insufficient supplier participation
8 or due to a Commission rejection of the procurement
9 results, the procurement administrator, the
10 procurement monitor, and the Commission staff shall
11 meet within 10 days to analyze potential causes of low
12 supplier interest or causes for the Commission
13 decision. If changes are identified that would likely
14 result in increased supplier participation, or that
15 would address concerns causing the Commission to
16 reject the results of the prior procurement event, the
17 procurement administrator may implement those changes
18 and rerun the request for proposals process according
19 to a schedule determined by those parties and
20 consistent with Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power
21 Agency Act and this subsection. In any event, a new
22 request for proposals process shall be implemented by
23 the procurement administrator within 90 days after the
24 determination that the procurement process has failed
25 to fully meet the expected load requirement.

26 (iii) In all cases where there is insufficient

1 supply provided under contracts awarded through the
2 procurement process to fully meet the electric
3 utility's load requirement, the utility shall meet the
4 load requirement by procuring power and energy from the
5 applicable regional transmission organization market,
6 including ancillary services, capacity, and day-ahead
7 or real time energy or both; provided, however, that if
8 a needed product is not available through the regional
9 transmission organization market it shall be purchased
10 from the wholesale market.

11 (6) The procurement process described in this
12 subsection is exempt from the requirements of the Illinois
13 Procurement Code, pursuant to Section 20-10 of that Code.

14 (f) Within 2 business days after opening the sealed bids,
15 the procurement administrator shall submit a confidential
16 report to the Commission. The report shall contain the results
17 of the bidding for each of the products along with the
18 procurement administrator's recommendation for the acceptance
19 and rejection of bids based on the price benchmark criteria and
20 other factors observed in the process. The procurement monitor
21 also shall submit a confidential report to the Commission
22 within 2 business days after opening the sealed bids. The
23 report shall contain the procurement monitor's assessment of
24 bidder behavior in the process as well as an assessment of the
25 procurement administrator's compliance with the procurement
26 process and rules. The Commission shall review the confidential

1 reports submitted by the procurement administrator and
2 procurement monitor, and shall accept or reject the
3 recommendations of the procurement administrator within 2
4 business days after receipt of the reports.

5 (g) Within 3 business days after the Commission decision
6 approving the results of a procurement event, the utility shall
7 enter into binding contractual arrangements with the winning
8 suppliers using the standard form contracts; except that the
9 utility shall not be required either directly or indirectly to
10 execute the contracts if a tariff that is consistent with
11 subsection (l) of this Section has not been approved and placed
12 into effect for that utility.

13 (h) The names of the successful bidders and the load
14 weighted average of the winning bid prices for each contract
15 type and for each contract term shall be made available to the
16 public at the time of Commission approval of a procurement
17 event. The Commission, the procurement monitor, the
18 procurement administrator, the Illinois Power Agency, and all
19 participants in the procurement process shall maintain the
20 confidentiality of all other supplier and bidding information
21 in a manner consistent with all applicable laws, rules,
22 regulations, and tariffs. Confidential information, including
23 the confidential reports submitted by the procurement
24 administrator and procurement monitor pursuant to subsection
25 (f) of this Section, shall not be made publicly available and
26 shall not be discoverable by any party in any proceeding,

1 absent a compelling demonstration of need, nor shall those
2 reports be admissible in any proceeding other than one for law
3 enforcement purposes.

4 (i) Within 2 business days after a Commission decision
5 approving the results of a procurement event or such other date
6 as may be required by the Commission from time to time, the
7 utility shall file for informational purposes with the
8 Commission its actual or estimated retail supply charges, as
9 applicable, by customer supply group reflecting the costs
10 associated with the procurement and computed in accordance with
11 the tariffs filed pursuant to subsection (1) of this Section
12 and approved by the Commission.

13 (j) Within 60 days following the effective date of this
14 amendatory Act, each electric utility that on December 31, 2005
15 provided electric service to at least 100,000 customers in
16 Illinois shall prepare and file with the Commission an initial
17 procurement plan, which shall conform in all material respects
18 to the requirements of the procurement plan set forth in
19 subsection (b); provided, however, that the Illinois Power
20 Agency Act shall not apply to the initial procurement plan
21 prepared pursuant to this subsection. The initial procurement
22 plan shall identify the portfolio of power and energy products
23 to be procured and delivered for the period June 2008 through
24 May 2009, and shall identify the proposed procurement
25 administrator, who shall have the same experience and expertise
26 as is required of a procurement administrator hired pursuant to

1 Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act. Copies of the
2 procurement plan shall be posted and made publicly available on
3 the Commission's website. The initial procurement plan may
4 include contracts for renewable resources that extend beyond
5 May 2009.

6 (i) Within 14 days following filing of the initial
7 procurement plan, any person may file a detailed objection
8 with the Commission contesting the procurement plan
9 submitted by the electric utility. All objections to the
10 electric utility's plan shall be specific, supported by
11 data or other detailed analyses. The electric utility may
12 file a response to any objections to its procurement plan
13 within 7 days after the date objections are due to be
14 filed. Within 7 days after the date the utility's response
15 is due, the Commission shall determine whether a hearing is
16 necessary. If it determines that a hearing is necessary, it
17 shall require the hearing to be completed and issue an
18 order on the procurement plan within 60 days after the
19 filing of the procurement plan by the electric utility.

20 (ii) The order shall approve or modify the procurement
21 plan, approve an independent procurement administrator,
22 and approve or modify the electric utility's tariffs that
23 are proposed with the initial procurement plan. The
24 Commission shall approve the procurement plan if the
25 Commission determines that it will ensure adequate,
26 reliable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally

1 sustainable electric service at the lowest total cost over
2 time, taking into account any benefits of price stability.

3 (k) In order to promote price stability for residential and
4 small commercial customers during the transition to
5 competition in Illinois, and notwithstanding any other
6 provision of this Act, each electric utility subject to this
7 Section shall enter into one or more multi-year financial swap
8 contracts that become effective on the effective date of this
9 amendatory Act. These contracts may be executed with generators
10 and power marketers, including affiliated interests of the
11 electric utility. These contracts shall be for a term of no
12 more than 5 years and shall, for each respective utility or for
13 any Illinois electric utilities that are affiliated by virtue
14 of a common parent company and that are thereby considered a
15 single electric utility for purposes of this subsection (k),
16 not exceed in the aggregate 3,000 megawatts for any hour of the
17 year. The contracts shall be financial contracts and not energy
18 sales contracts. The contracts shall be executed as
19 transactions under a negotiated master agreement based on the
20 form of master agreement for financial swap contracts sponsored
21 by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.
22 and shall be considered pre-existing contracts in the
23 utilities' procurement plans for residential and small
24 commercial customers. Costs incurred pursuant to a contract
25 authorized by this subsection (k) shall be deemed prudently
26 incurred and reasonable in amount and the electric utility

1 shall be entitled to full cost recovery pursuant to the tariffs
2 filed with the Commission.

3 (1) An electric utility shall recover its costs incurred
4 under this Section, including, but not limited to, the costs of
5 procuring power and energy demand-response resources under
6 this Section. The utility shall file with the initial
7 procurement plan its proposed tariffs through which its costs
8 of procuring power that are incurred pursuant to a
9 Commission-approved procurement plan and those other costs
10 identified in this subsection (1), will be recovered. The
11 tariffs shall include a formula rate or charge designed to pass
12 through both the costs incurred by the utility in procuring a
13 supply of electric power and energy for the applicable customer
14 classes with no mark-up or return on the price paid by the
15 utility for that supply, plus any just and reasonable costs
16 that the utility incurs in arranging and providing for the
17 supply of electric power and energy. The formula rate or charge
18 shall also contain provisions that ensure that its application
19 does not result in over or under recovery due to changes in
20 customer usage and demand patterns, and that provide for the
21 correction, on at least an annual basis, of any accounting
22 errors that may occur. A utility shall recover through the
23 tariff all reasonable costs incurred to implement or comply
24 with any procurement plan that is developed and put into effect
25 pursuant to Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act and
26 this Section, including any fees assessed by the Illinois Power

1 Agency, costs associated with load balancing, and contingency
2 plan costs. The electric utility shall also recover its full
3 costs of procuring electric supply for which it contracted
4 before the effective date of this Section in conjunction with
5 the provision of full requirements service under fixed-price
6 bundled service tariffs subsequent to December 31, 2006. All
7 such costs shall be deemed to have been prudently incurred. The
8 pass-through tariffs that are filed and approved pursuant to
9 this Section shall not be subject to review under, or in any
10 way limited by, Section 16-111(i) of this Act.

11 (m) The Commission has the authority to adopt rules to
12 carry out the provisions of this Section. For the public
13 interest, safety, and welfare, the Commission also has
14 authority to adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this
15 Section on an emergency basis immediately following the
16 effective date of this amendatory Act.

17 (n) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any
18 affiliated electric utilities that submit a single procurement
19 plan covering their combined needs may procure for those
20 combined needs in conjunction with that plan, and may enter
21 jointly into power supply contracts, purchases, and other
22 procurement arrangements, and allocate capacity and energy and
23 cost responsibility therefor among themselves in proportion to
24 their requirements.

25 (o) On or before June 1 of each year, the Commission shall
26 hold an informal hearing for the purpose of receiving comments

1 on the prior year's procurement process and any recommendations
2 for change.

3 (p) An electric utility subject to this Section may propose
4 to invest, lease, own, or operate an electric generation
5 facility as part of its procurement plan, provided the utility
6 demonstrates that such facility is the least-cost option to
7 provide electric service to eligible retail customers. If the
8 facility is shown to be the least-cost option and is included
9 in a procurement plan prepared in accordance with Section 1-75
10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act and this Section, then the
11 electric utility shall make a filing pursuant to Section 8-406
12 of the Act, and may request of the Commission any statutory
13 relief required thereunder. If the Commission grants all of the
14 necessary approvals for the proposed facility, such supply
15 shall thereafter be considered as a pre-existing contract under
16 subsection (b) of this Section. The Commission shall in any
17 order approving a proposal under this subsection specify how
18 the utility will recover the prudently incurred costs of
19 investing in, leasing, owning, or operating such generation
20 facility through just and reasonable rates charged to eligible
21 retail customers. Cost recovery for facilities included in the
22 utility's procurement plan pursuant to this subsection shall
23 not be subject to review under or in any way limited by the
24 provisions of Section 16-111(i) of this Act. Nothing in this
25 Section is intended to prohibit a utility from filing for a
26 fuel adjustment clause as is otherwise permitted under Section

1 9-220 of this Act.

2 (Source: P.A. 95-481, eff. 8-28-07; 95-1027, eff. 6-1-09.)

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.