



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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Fossil Fuel Generators Can't Perform--So They Just Voted For a Bailout

CHICAGO—This narrow vote is nothing less than a bailout for fossil fuels that have proven over and over that they can't perform when customers need them the most. Team gas is so frightened of non-performance that they need to change the rules and let themselves off the hook. A significant portion of our electric bills goes to capacity payments that are supposed to guarantee that power generators keep the lights on—but today's vote betrays consumers across the country. Instead of giving gas and coal generators a bailout for failing to perform, PJM should hold strong and keep the penalties for nonperformance in place and reform its approval process to fast-track reliable, clean energy sources.

—CUB Executive Director David Kolata

Background:

- In a stakeholders meeting on May 11, power generators that are members of PJM Interconnection, the country's largest grid operator, voted to slash by up to 90 percent the penalties for failing to meet capacity commitments in the future (after June 1).
- The push to weaken future penalties was started by fossil fuel generators that face \$1.8 billion in fines from PJM for what could have been catastrophic nonperformance during Winter Storm Elliott. That storm in December of 2022 included nearly 46 GW of forced power plant outages, and nearly all of those resources were natural gas and coal.
- The issue now goes before the larger PJM Board, and potentially the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

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