



# Ameren Illinois Company (AIC) Assessing the Grid Plans & Workshop Wrap Up

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# Distribution is Changing and so is Ameren Illinois



The energy industry is experiencing a rapid rate of change in response to customer and community expectations, distributed energy resources, clean energy goals, and emerging technologies.



**Prioritizing Customer and  
Community Needs – Now  
and in the Future**



**Strategic Investments in  
Technology and  
Infrastructure**



**Modernization and Moving  
Towards Clean Energy**

**Despite complexity, Ameren Illinois continues to ensure a planning process that best supports customer needs, community benefits, and Illinois requirements**

# The MYIGP is a Journey, Not a Destination



The multi-year integrated grid plan (MYIGP) stakeholder workshop series reinforced that developing the MYIGP will be a challenging and complex process requiring the need to balance the perspectives of a variety of stakeholders. There was great value in discussing challenges, lessons learned and guiding principles.

## Key Observations:

- Illinois utilities are at the starting point of engaging in integrated grid planning; **this is the first of multiple grid plans and the beginning of a long process**
- **Community and customer education is a critical** part of the stakeholder engagement process and needs to be an **ongoing effort**
- A **holistic perspective** and **long-term approach** to planning are required to realize state goals and benefits
- The MYIGP development process requires **concerned, continuous, and transparent engagement** among stakeholders
- **Learnings from other jurisdictions** may present opportunities and should be leveraged where appropriate

**Ameren Illinois remains committed to continuing to actively engage and educate customers and other stakeholders in the MYIGP development process**



# Workshop Key Themes

The following four themes were identified in the stakeholder workshop series as critical to the ongoing grid planning process.



**Reliable and Resilient  
Clean Energy**



**DER Enablement and  
Interconnection**



**Affordability and  
Cost-Effectiveness**



**Equity and Shared  
Benefits**

**Ameren Illinois is committed to providing all customers with access to safe, secure, reliable, resilient power balanced with affordability and environmental stewardship**

# Reliable and Resilient Clean Energy

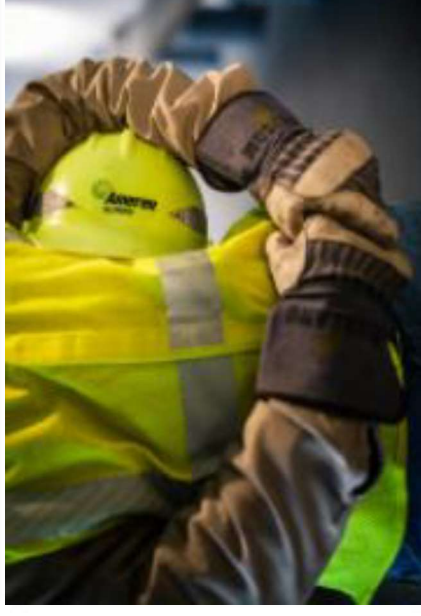


## What We Heard

- Resiliency and reliability were two of the most represented and prioritized issues; customers expect and need dependable service
- Electrification is increasing the importance of the electric system as customers come to rely on it to meet more needs
- Major storms are becoming more frequent and severe, driving the need for a more resilient electric system

## Ameren Illinois' Perspective

- It is among Ameren Illinois' core principles to provide reliable electricity to AIC customers and to invest in the resiliency of the electric delivery system
- Investing in the reliability of the electric delivery system provides systemic benefits that accrue to all electric customers
- AIC is an enabler of access to clean energy with a focus on cost-effective transmission and distribution



# DER Enablement and Interconnection

## What We Heard

- Stakeholders support the development of DERs to help meet clean energy goals
- Nationally, grid planning is increasingly focused on programs that enable DERs integration
- Opportunities may exist to share system data through hosting capacity maps to facilitate DER development

## Ameren Illinois' Perspective

- AIC will continue to support the growth of DER on the electric delivery system
  - For example, AIC will publicly post initial hosting capacity maps starting summer 2022 to facilitate DER development
- AIC has continually improved processes and is looking to automate additional parts of the interconnection process



# Affordability and Cost-Effectiveness



## What We Heard

- Affordability continues to be a primary concern for many customers
- The least-cost best-fit approach minimizes costs and is well suited for the majority of grid investments
- BCAs are important tools for consideration of potential investments that otherwise don't meet a least-cost, best-fit approach

## Ameren Illinois' Perspective

- AIC continues to make investments that will address the needs of its customers and the challenges of grid modernization while managing affordability
- Previous Commission-approved cost-effectiveness methodologies should continue to be used, as practical
- AIC is evaluating key issues associated with ownership, maintenance, operation, technology, and management related to NWA solutions as alternatives to traditional investments



# Equity and Shared Benefits



## What We Heard

- Investments made outside of EJ/R3 communities often still bring benefits to those communities
- There is evolving understanding of what the law requires and an agreed-upon set of benefits that align with the interests of all stakeholders
- The discussion is open as to how and whether benefits will be measured and tracked

## Ameren Illinois' Perspective

- AIC is committed to ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy future are available to all of its customers
- Both qualitative and quantitative benefits need to be clearly defined and measurable
- Both system and targeted EJ/R3 activities should inform equitable investment eligible communities' benefits





# We Want to Continue to Hear Your Voice



The success of the MYIGP depends on constructive input from stakeholders with representation across all stakeholder groups. Ameren Illinois supports continued outreach and engagement activities up until and after the filing to further community education and gain feedback.

## Engagement Activities Under Considerations:

- Launch a **survey to AIC customers** to solicit additional input on critical energy priorities and areas of concern
- Maintain an **AIC-hosted website** to provide education and transparency to critical components and impacts of the grid plan
- Support **meetings with stakeholders and municipalities** to ensure a common understanding of topical issues
- Facilitate **meetings with DER developers and electrical inspectors** to enable DER interconnection and solicit feedback
- Conduct educational **tours/exhibitions of AIC facilities** to showcase grid technologies (e.g., microgrid, solar pilots)
- Support **ongoing engagement efforts** identified by stakeholders