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From: [Tipsord, Marie](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: FW: [External] R2018-20: Hours and Procedures for Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:16:53 PM

Please enter this in the regular docket as a public comment. thanks

From: Faith Bugel [mailto:fbugel@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Powell, Mark <Mark.Powell@Illinois.gov>; Tipsord, Marie <Marie.Tipsord@illinois.gov>
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Subject: [External] R2018-20: Hours and Procedures for Public Comment

Hearing Officers Tipsord and Powell,

I understand that several people interested in offering public comment have reached out to the Board seeking the hours and/or procedures for public comment at the March 6-7 hearings in R2018-20. I also understand that one of them was told that there has not been a motion seeking public comment during established hearing hours and that the hours and procedures for public comment would be communicated at the start of the hearing on March 6.

I have heard from several of our members and also members of the public with concerns about proceeding this way. Obviously, there are members of the public interested in opportunities to offer comment during established hearing hours since the Board has been hearing from those very individuals. Further, the motion from Environmental Groups seeking extended evening hours for public comment (which was obviously denied) is also indicative of the level of interest in opportunities to offer public comment at the March 6-7 hearings. Some of these individuals are coming from a distance and cannot take the time to both travel to the hearing and be there for the full duration of the hearing. In addition, some individuals are local but also cannot commit to attending the full duration of the hearing due to work and childcare obligations. For that reason, we are seeking that the hours and procedures for public comment be set in advance of the hearing.

The Board's response to Environmental Groups' motion for extended hearing hours made it clear that the Board would like to minimize the number of motions from Environmental Groups in this proceeding (and I assume a motion is not necessary because not all individuals interested in public comment would be affiliated with one of the interested parties in this rule making). To that end, I am emailing instead of filing a motion requesting that the Hearing Officer set, in advance of the hearing, the exact hours and specific procedures for public comment at the the March 6-7 hearings in R2018-20. Please advise if you would like us to proceed differently.

Thanks,
Faith E. Bugel
Representing Sierra Club

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