

# NEWS RELEASE

## INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (IURC)

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### **IURC, Electric Utilities Discuss Ongoing Cybersecurity Efforts**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC or Commission) met with the state’s five investor-owned electric utilities and two regional transmission organizations today to discuss their ongoing efforts regarding cybersecurity information, planning, and preparedness practices. Representatives from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and members of the Indiana Executive Council on Cybersecurity, were also in attendance.

Cybersecurity is a fundamental part of a utility’s business operations, and cyberattacks on these facilities can lead to disastrous consequences, including physical equipment damage, power outages, and the breach of confidential or proprietary information. Recognizing the cybersecurity challenges facing the utility industry, Commissioner Sarah Freeman, who represents the Commission on the National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners’ (NARUC) Committee on Critical Infrastructure, organized today’s meeting with the goal of learning more about how utilities and grid operators ensure safety and reliability for Hoosiers.

“Today’s meeting offered an opportunity for the Commissioners and staff to receive an update on how utilities and regional transmission organizations in the state are combatting cyber threats,” said Commissioner Sarah Freeman. “The job is never done when working to prepare for or prevent a cyberattack, so it’s an important conversation to have regularly with our stakeholders, and I commend the utilities and regional transmission organizations that participated today for their continued work in this area.”

Utilities in attendance included Duke Energy Indiana, Indiana Michigan Power (I&M), Indianapolis Power & Light (IPL), Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), and Vectren. Regional transmission organizations in attendance included the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and PJM Interconnection.

This is the third formal meeting with utilities and regional transmission organizations that the Commission has hosted since 2013. The meeting was scheduled as an executive session under Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(13) to allow for confidential discussion of information and intelligence intended to prevent, mitigate, or respond to the threat of terrorism.

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The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (Commission) is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the Commission is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. The Commission also serves as a resource to the legislature, executive branch, state agencies, and the public by providing information regarding Indiana's utilities and the regulatory process. In addition, Commission members and staff are actively involved with regional, national, and federal organizations regarding utilities issues affecting Indiana. For more information, please visit [www.in.gov/iurc](http://www.in.gov/iurc).