



## Board Meeting March 20, 2025

The Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA) held a Board Meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 10:30am, at the City of Batavia Government Center, 100 N. Island Ave., in Batavia, IL.

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

President Holton called the meeting to order at 10:33am

#### **NIMPA Members present at the meeting:**

Aaron Holton, City of Geneva  
Rahat Bari, City of Batavia  
Steve Allen, City of Batavia  
Rich Babica, City of Geneva  
Gary Holm, City of Batavia  
Blake Toliver, City of Rochelle

#### **Present via teleconference:**

Richard Heinemann, General Counsel  
Jeff Fiegenschuh, City of Rochelle  
Noah Hansen, Avant Energy  
Joe Fulliero, Avant Energy  
Dominick Lanzito, Van Buren Consulting  
Trevor Smith, Avant Energy  
Chad Kustermann, Avant Energy  
Elizabeth Zrelak, Administrative Support

### 2. Approval of Regular Session NIMPA Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2025

MOTION: To approve the general session NIMPA meeting minutes  
from February 20, 2025

MAKER: Rahat Bari

SECOND: Jeff Fiegenschuh

AYES: 3 (Bari, Fiegenschuh, Holton)

NAYS: 0

The motion passed

### 3. Van Buren Consulting Update

Attorney Lanzito indicated that April 1 & 2, 2025, are Lobby Days, and representatives from either Rochelle and/or NIMPA will attend. Two bills that contain provisions of the Transparency Act are relevant to attendance:

- a. Representative Didech's bill is still in the House Rules Committee.
- b. Senator Cunningham's omnibus utility bill is gaining traction, with Senator Dave Koehler (46th District, East Peoria) as a co-sponsor. This bill has been assigned to the Energy & Public Utilities committee. Stacy Wilson is working with the Sierra Club to negotiate terms. There are concerns about potential consequences for independent municipal utilities. Attorney Lanzito highlighted problematic practical applications of some integrated resource plans. Once hearings are scheduled, Attorney Lanzito will submit slips in an attempt to have a member present or share input prior to any testimony at the subject matter hearing. There will be an update on scheduled hearings, who is

attending on April 1 & 2, and coordinate meetings with district legislatures. The goal is to coordinate meetings with NIMPA members or representatives, so legislatures see faces, not just names or an acronym. April 2nd is a busy lobby day with less structured meetings. President Holton advised they would discuss attendance and requests for any meetings. Mr. Fiegenschuh will be onsite.

Attorney Lanzito exits the meeting.

**4. Financial Report – Review of January 2024 Financials**

- a. Mr. Smith indicated that NIMPA’s rate to members was \$4.53/MWh lower than budget for January. This variance was the result of lower than budgeted purchase power, fuel, and transmission costs, and partially offset by higher than budget maintenance and other operating costs.
- b. At the end of January, NIMPA had a \$15M credit facility with PNC Bank, a \$2.5M letter of credit with PJM, and \$12.5M of the credit facility, which remains unused.
- c. The ECA payable to members increased by \$338,000 in January due to a combination of a budgeted ECA decrease of \$67,000, lower cost than budget of \$404,000. At the end of January, the ECA balance was \$8.8M.
- d. Capital Adder Fund:  
NIMPA’s Capital Adder Fund had a balance of approximately \$10.7M at the end of January. The fund balance continues to represent more than four years of NIMPA’s share of projected capital costs based on Prairie State’s projected capital expenditures over the next five years.
- e. Cash Investment Report:  
NIMPA has a total of \$72.5M of cash and investments, of which \$35.9M is related to debt service reserves and debt service. NIMPA’s operating account balance was \$12.8M at the end of January.

MOTION: To approve NIMPA monthly financials from January 2025  
MAKER: Jeff Fiegenschuh  
SECOND: Rahat Bari  
AYES: 3 (Fiegenschuh, Bari, Holton)  
NAYS: 0  
The motion passed

Mr. Kustermann enters the meeting

**5. Management and Operations Report: January 2025**

Mr. Hansen reviewed the January 2025 operations results:  
NIMPA’s share of Prairie State generated 69,750 MWh for the month for approximately \$3,739,000 in revenue in PJM. Prairie State also generated 209 MWh to cover station service in MISO for revenue of \$6,500. Prairie State Unit 1 and Unit 2 had forced outages during the month of January. Unit 2 was on forced outage for the first six days of January, continuing with a generator outage that began on November 22, 2024, returning to service on January 6, 2025, with a small derate for a small feed pump issue on January 7, 2025. Unit 1 was on forced outage on three separate occasions in January boiler tube leaks and was on outage for 6.5 days throughout the month. Overall, both units had a unit on outage for approximately 12.5 equivalent days in January. Overall, the capacity factor for the month was approximately 76%. According to Prairie State, NIMPA’s EFOR for January was 20.2%.

Total generation for the month, including PJM and MISO at Prairie State, was less than, or unfavorable to budget, by approximately 12,300 MWh or 15% less than budget on a volume basis, as a result of the outages. The unfavorable variance is due to unit availability issues. In January, NIMPA's delivery costs to members was approximately \$3.59M. NIMPA's FTRs had a loss of \$736,000 for the month of January. Prairie State prices were higher than the member city delivery points, on average, which resulted in daily FTR costs, or payments, for that delivery path to members.

The average Prairie State price was \$53.61 per MWh of generation compared to \$40.19 for the member deliveries. The FTRs functioned as designed and aligned with Prairie State generation with members deliveries; however, from the portfolio perspective, NIMPA only realized a portion of those higher generation prices given the unit outages. If units were available, NIMPA would have increased revenues to offset.

ISO miscellaneous charges at PJM were \$10,600.

RPM Auction revenues were \$105,000.

Overall, NIMPA had a PJM ISO cost of \$470,000 for the month of January, which is \$365,000 unfavorable compared to budget, which assumed a PJM ISO cost of \$103,000. This unfavorable variance to budget is due to the less than budgeted Prairie State production and higher budgeted FTR costs with the inability to offset the higher FTR costs with increased generation.

MISO congestion costs were a revenue of \$460,000 in January, which is \$445,000 favorable compared to budget. Loss costs were at cost to NIMPA of \$27,000, which is \$70,600 favorable compared to budget. The favorable variances and congestion loss costs are due to lower than projected costs on a \$/MWh basis, primarily due to a revenue on the congestion side for MISO.

ARRs – Revenue of \$48,000.

MISO - NIMPA had an overall revenue for January of approximately \$482,000, approximately \$539,000 favorable to budget.

PJM and MISO – NIMPA had ISO revenue for the month of January of \$13,400, a favorable variance to budget of approximately \$174,000 in total for the month of January, compared to the budgeted net cost of \$160,000. The favorable variance for January is due to the lower associated MISO congestion and loss costs.

Mr. Holton inquired that due to the outages, he anticipated numbers would be decreased and is pleasantly surprised. Mr. Holton questioned 'are the higher revenues on the MISO congestion side due to lower generation output'?

Mr. Hansen stated that the MISO congestion costs are related to the higher FTR payments on the PJM side given the transmission outages and constraints. Had NIMPA generated more in the month, perhaps, congestion costs may have been less, but during operating days, there were multiple days with positive MISO congestion costs and drove revenue.

## **6. General Counsel Update**

Attorney Heinemann indicated that he had no updates.

**7. Executive Session (Discussion of contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity from the Prairie State Project; Litigation related to the Prairie State Generating Company).**

MOTION: To move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity from the Prairie State Project; Litigation related to the Prairie State Generating Company @ 10:49am

MAKER: Rahat Bari

SECOND: Aaron Holton

ROLL CALL: AYES: 3 (Bari, Fiegenschuh, Holton)  
NAYS: 0  
The motion passed

**Return to Regular Session at 11:18am**

**8. Action Items from Executive Session:** Authorization of credit line increase for the upcoming FTR auction.

MOTION: Credit Line Increase for upcoming FTR Auction

MAKER: Aaron Holton

SECOND: Blake Toliver

ROLL CALL: AYES: 3 (Holton, Toliver, Bari)  
NAYS: 0  
The motion passed

**9. Old Business:**

- a. Mr. Holton refers to a public participant question from last month's NIMPA Board Meeting and wanted to share an updated, corrected response in that NIMPA does have an APPA Associate Membership. This is the only industry association that NIMPA is a part of.
- b. Currently, the June 2025 meeting date is scheduled for June 19, 2025, in Batavia. However, Batavia observes Juneteenth, so public facilities will be closed. Mr. Holton brings this up for discussion. Mr. Fiegenschuh suggested Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11am, which was agreed upon. Mr. Niles will be instructed to send an updated invite to participants and update the website with new information.

**10. New Business:**

Mr. Holton started a discussion regarding Attorney Lanzito's departure from Van Buren Consulting and what next steps should be taken to either stay with Van Buren or to follow Attorney Lanzito to Brentwood Consulting, LLC.

Mr. Fiegenschuh shared that the City of Rochelle will follow Attorney Lanzito due to the expertise that Attorney Lanzito possesses. No communication from Van Buren representatives to date. Attorney Lanzito is starting his own lobbying firm. There is a 30 day notice clause within the Van Buren agreement.

While in open session, Attorney Heinemann counseled members on motions that would need to be undertaken to authorize President Holton to terminate the agreement with Van Buren and to authorize President Holton to enter into an engagement agreement with Attorney Lanzito at his new firm, Brentwood Consulting, LLC. The new agreement will include waiving of fees for the month of April to avoid double billing to NIMPA. The new agreement will be effective April 1, 2025.

Mr. Holm stated that no action items may be undertaken in the new business portion of the board meeting, according to NIMPA bylaws.

Attorney Heinemann agreed, and members determined a Special NIMPA Meeting would be posted for public participation. Per Attorney Heinemann, presence is required by two board members at a special meeting. Mr. Hansen will draft the announcement and send to Attorney Heinemann for approval to post.

Mr. Bari inquired whether NIMPA is duplicating efforts with Attorney Lanzito and Stacy Wilson.

Mr. Holton indicated that Attorney Lanzito was retained to ensure NIMPA's message is carried forward to legislatures, and he approves of the work that Attorney Lanzito has provided for NIMPA. Mr. Allen agrees that it is good to have two voices. A discussion ensued, and a determination was made to hold a special meeting for compliance and to retain Attorney Lanzito at Brentwood Consulting, LLC.

Avant will prepare a special meeting notice for 8:30am on March 26, 2025, with motions to end Van Buren's agreement and a motion to sign an engagement agreement with Attorney Lanzito's new firm, Brentwood Consulting, LLC.

**11. Comments:** Mr. Holton indicated that this will be Mr. Holm's last NIMPA meeting.

**12. Motion to adjourn:**

MOTION: To adjourn the NIMPA March 2025 Board Meeting @ 11:35am  
MAKER: Rahat Bari  
SECOND: Jeff Fiegenschuh  
VOICE VOTE: All in favor, motion carried

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Zrelak