

## IOWA UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
9:00 A.M., HEARING ROOM, 1375 EAST COURT AVENUE  
DES MOINES, IOWA

Commissioners Present: Sarah Martz, Joshua Byrnes, and Erik Helland

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Martz

Consent Items:

Commission meeting minutes from January 2026 were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

- a. Safety Minute - Larry Preston provided a presentation about safety around overhead and underground transmission lines and utility substations. Commissioner Byrnes and Char Martz provided additional comments.
- b. RTO and Federal/Regional Update - Eric Giddens presented an overview of recent activity with FERC and NERC. No questions from Commissioners.
- c. Litigation Status Report - Michelle Rabe presented an overview of four cases in litigation. No questions from Commissioners.
- d. PHMSA Overview – Emily Clapham shared information about the IUC’s natural gas pipeline inspections and investigations. Commissioner Byrnes asked about a recent hazardous liquid pipeline rupture and the agency’s role on site.
- e. Legislative Update – Stephanie Weisenbach provided an update on the status of utility-related bills in the Iowa Legislature. No questions from Commissioners.

Other Business:

- a. EFS Update – Chair Martz discussed changes to the electronic filing system, which include requiring users to create a login (no longer allowing guest users) and search term requirements to better align with best practices in similar databases. No questions from the Commissioners.
- b. NARUC Winter Policy Summit – Commissioner Byrnes provided an update on the Washington, D.C., conference attended by all three Commissioners. Numerous D.C. energy policy and elected officials attended sessions to provide information. Commissioner Helland provided additional comments about administrative law,

innovation panels he participated in, and the importance of representing Iowa with energy officials and utility commissioners from other states. Chair Martz commented on meeting with the five FERC commissioners during the Federal-State Current Issues Collaborative meeting focused on large load growth.

- c. Service Awards – Nichol Toomire presented a five-year service award to Matt Alvarado and a 20-year service award to Dana Tate.

### Public Comments

Eleven people spoke on various topics.

### Closing Remarks

No additional remarks.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Next monthly Commission meeting: 9 a.m. to noon March 18, 2026

Recorded by: Melissa Myers

Note: March 18 meeting was canceled; next meeting April 15, 2026

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**Approved at the April 15, 2026, Iowa Utilities Commission meeting.**