

## IOWA UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 4, 2026  
11:00 A.M., HEARING ROOM, 1375 EAST COURT AVENUE,  
DES MOINES, IOWA

Commission Members Present: Sarah Martz, Joshua Byrnes, Erik Helland

Call to Order: 11:00 a.m. by Chair Martz

### Agenda Items:

#### **1. RMU-2025-1125: Notice of Intended Action**

- Matt Oetker: Background – electric transmission rulemaking. Proposed order commencing + red line version of NOIA. Submitted into proofing mid-February, now with the Commission. One Commissioner has proposed change to item #4. Bringing now to see if they can resolve that change.
- Josh Byrnes: His change on item #4. Wanted to keep “truck gardens” – encompasses many Iowa enterprises. They are greatly impacted by transmission lines, so language should stay in.
- Sarah Martz: To Josh - how would you define truck garden?
- Josh: Bringing fruit to markets; how-grown products; “farmers market” type of folks
- Matt: He proposed deletion – his thought process was that he could not define that term and the other terms had more permanency. Wasn’t sure if “truck gardens” had similar permanency. Would transmission companies have the same understanding of definition? Defers to Josh about truck gardens.
- Josh: Fair. Knows some participants in that industry and the impact this would have. If transmission company doesn’t know what it is, maybe they will now.
- Erik: Is truck garden defined anywhere?
- Matt: Not in Iowa Code. Only use in IAC is in 199 IAC 9. Resorted to google to try and define.
- Erik: Presumes they are regulated somewhere if they are selling fruit for sale. Are we going to establish a definition?
- Matt: Only applies to the use of guide wires – a landowner consent option would only apply in eminent domain proceedings so if a truck garden is impacted, the owner could discuss the impact during the eminent domain proceedings.
- Erik: Landowners would need to decide what a truck garden is.
- Matt: Staff would also have to b/c of review – need to determine whether line is constructed properly
- Erik: If not clearly defined, we should define it sometime in the future – best practice.
- Matt: Good point – after NOIA, there will be an additional comment opportunity and oral presentation/meeting, so industry will have additional chances to comment on it and possibly provide better definitions.
- Sarah: To Hunter - is this in land restoration rules?
- Hunter: Yes
- Sarah: Any questions from industry about ambiguity?

- Hunter: Not since new chapter 9 (3-4 years ago). Only a few pipelines since have qualified. No complaints about truck gardens.
- Sarah: Could indicate support for modifying order and then it would go through review process. What is your proposal?
- Matt: Just wants consensus. Change would need to be made to order and NOIA. Suggests changes be made with staff and then update documents for Commission.

Motions: Josh – Motion to reinsert the word truck gardens into item #4

- o Sarah seconded

Roll call vote:

Commissioner Byrnes: Yes

Chair Martz: Yes

Commissioner Helland: Yes

The motion passes / fails

**2. RPU-2025-0003:** Commissioner Byrnes motioned to go into closed session in Docket No. RPU-2025-0003 pursuant to Iowa Code § 21.5(1)(f). Chair Martz seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

Commissioner Byrnes: Yes

Chair Martz: Yes

Commissioner Helland: Yes

The motion passes / fails

Open session recessed at 11:14 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

**3. RPU-2025-0003:** Chair Martz reconvened the public meeting after the closed session. After deliberation, council has been directed to make adjustments to order based on the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Recorded by: Ross Carpenter

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