



# **Illinois Emergency Communications Network**

**A Virtual Inter-Utility  
Emergency Operations Center**

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**Illinois Terrorism Task Force - 2005**



# Taskforce Participants

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- **Jim Hargrave, Verizon (Chairman)**
- **Andy Whitt, Verizon**
- **Mike Youngs, NICOR**
- **Richard Chapman, Illinois Power**
- **Don Waddell, Illinois Power**
- **Pat Laird, Exelon**
- **Lance Thomason, SBC Ameritech**
- **Deno Perdiou, SBC Ameritech**
- **Scott Kilkenny, Kinder Morgan**
- **Bruce Renwick, ComEd**
- **Bob Mill, Ameren**
- **Joe Mullenschlader, AmerenCIPS**
- **Bob Bensko, Illinois Commerce Commission**
- **Commissioner Richard Mathias, Illinois Commerce Commission**



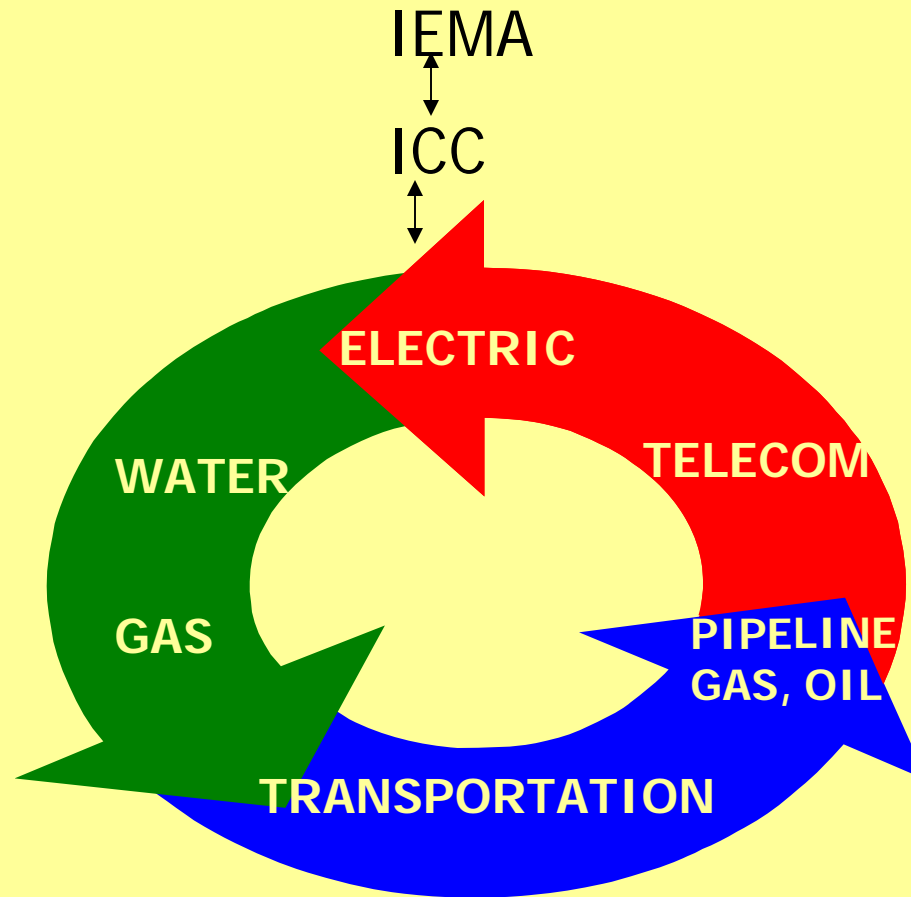
# The Steps to Emergency Preparedness

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- The need to establish a command and control protocol.
- Why/When is an emergency communications network established?
- How do companies communicate with one another and with government officials?
- Who are the key contacts in the emergency communications network?

# Command and Control Protocol

## Virtual Communications





## Why establish the network?

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- Identify all the “key” players ahead of time.
- Establishment of a mutual assistance program between the private and public sector.
- Prompt, full and effective utilization of available resources.
- Immediate access and clear-cut procedures to apply outside resources in an effective manner.
- Identify resources and limitations in current supply models.



## **When is the network established?**

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- Critical -- Verifiable event occurs to the infrastructure across industry sectors.
- 50,000 customers out of service.
- Outage time is expected to exceed 48 hours in duration.
- Major system loss which may undermine public health, safety and welfare.
- A widespread work stoppage.
- Homeland Security Advisory System.



## How do we communicate?

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- Establish secure conference bridge(s) for quick exchange of information between member companies and government. EOC to EOC interaction.
- Network Activation Alerts via paging broadcast and direct telephone contact. Maintain a Website for Alert contact information and notices: [www.iecn.org](http://www.iecn.org).
- Utilize any available technology to connect with conference bridge; landline, cellular, VoIP, etc.



# Who are the key contacts?

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## Electric and/or Gas

AmerenCIPS

CILCO

ComEd

CMS Energy Panhandle Pipeline Co.'s

Dynegy Midwest Generating

Exelon Corp.

Illinois Municipal Electric Agency

Illinois Power Co

Mid American Interconnected Network

MidAmerican Electric Co

Midwest Generating Company

Natural Gas Pipeline Co. (Kinder-Morgan)

Nicor

Peoples Energy

## Telecommunications

AT&T (wireline/wireless)

Sprint & Sprint PCS

Focal Communications

WorldCom

Illinois Telecom Association

McLeodUSA

Verizon (wireline/wireless)

SBC/Ameritech

Cingular

## Governmental Agencies

Illinois Commerce Commission

Illinois Emergency Management Agency



# Next Steps/Implementation

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- **Education/Training**

- Educate key utility company and government personnel on how the virtual emergency operations center will work and the advantages that such a network can offer.
  - First EOC managers meeting April 24th at the SBC/Ameritech EOC in Hoffman Estates.

- **Testing**

- Test the virtual command center under simulated emergency conditions to insure the network functions properly and identify any processes that need improvement.
  - First table top test of the network is scheduled for May 15, 2002. The test will be coordinated by IEMA and the ICC.