

Part I Verification Deadline Under 2024 REC Contract, Detailed Memo on Capacity Reallocation, Financing Opportunities Webinar Held

April 10, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

2026 Program events and due dates can be found at the [Key Dates & Deadlines webpage](#).

- **Key Dates**
 - April 15 – [MES Compliance Webinar](#)
 - April 24 – [IPA Power Hour: Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois](#)
- **Deadlines**
 - April 21 – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for May 7, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - April 23 – Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for May 7, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - April 24 – Part II Verification for April
 - May 3 – Part I Verification Deadline Under 2024 REC Contract

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – April 15, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>. The schedule is available at the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.

Program News

All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates](#) page.

- **New! Deadline for Part I Project Verification under 2024 REC Contract** – As [previously shared](#), following the ICC's approval of the 2026 Long-Term Plan and the signing of the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act into law, the IPA has begun drafting the 2026 REC Contract. The draft 2026 REC Contract is expected to be posted for stakeholder comment on April 17, 2026, with all comments due by May 1, 2026. The final versions of the 2026 REC Contracts will be posted on June 1, 2026. As specified in Section 6.B of the [draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#), the new 2026 REC Contract will be used for all applications approved by the ICC starting June 1, 2026, regardless of application submission date. **The final ICC meeting approving projects under the 2024 REC Contracts will be May 21, 2026. Projects must be Part I Verified (not just submitted) by May 3, 2026, to be included in this ICC submission.** While the Program is currently processing Part I applications within 10 business days, a spike in application submissions may result in longer processing times and the Program cannot guarantee verification of Part I applications by May 3. **Participating entities are encouraged to submit Part I applications for the 2024 REC Contract as soon as possible, and to be responsive to Need Info requests and all communication from the Program Administrator.**
- **New! Updates Following Capacity Reallocation** – [As previously announced](#), the Program paused for two business days, from March 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT, through April 1, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. CPT to prepare for and reallocate 50% of unused Program capacity, that totaled 414.05 MW. Upon reopening, the Program detailed the steps it took to allocate capacity to eligible waitlisted applications, specific results of the allocations, the amount of capacity that was reallocated, and associated updates to project waitlists. A [detailed memo](#) on specific capacity reallocation processes and steps was published this week.

- **New! Financing Opportunities Webinar Held** – [As previously announced](#), the Program Administrator held a webinar on Thursday, April 9, 2026, to provide information on financial resources and financing opportunities, including grant and loan programs, Illinois Shines vendors can pursue. Presenters included Illinois Shines partner organizations HACIA, NLR, CEJF, and the Ameren Market Development Initiative. A [recording of the event](#) and [presentation slides](#) are now available; questions and answers from the webinar will soon be shared. As the Q&A portion of the session was cut short, attendees are encouraged to email eec@illinoisshines.com any remaining questions they have.
- **New! IPA Hosts Roundtables on Elective Pay Across Illinois** – The IPA conducted a multi-stop Elective Pay roadshow across eight cities in Illinois to support public and nonprofit entities in accessing federal clean energy tax credits. The roadshow convened municipalities, nonprofits, school districts, rural electric cooperatives, houses of worship, and park districts. Participants received practical guidance on the mechanics of Elective Pay, its application to specific projects, and information on financing (such as the [Illinois Finance Authority EERLF bridge loan](#)). If you are a tax-exempt entity that missed these sessions, please contact IPA for direct assistance at IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov. Key takeaways included:
 - Illinois communities are forging ahead with clean energy, despite the tax credit for solar projects facing higher restrictions.
 - Elective Pay is key and is a perfect complement to IPA incentives. Since Elective Pay can be stacked on top of IPA’s REC incentives, entities realize the return on investment even sooner.
 - There are many eligible entities that still don’t know how to utilize Elective Pay, including public and nonprofit organizations that had questions and wanted assistance getting their payments. **Please notify any tax-exempt entities in your network that the IPA continues to offer technical assistance through the end of June, for free!**
- **New! IPA Racial Disparity and Availability Study Consultant to Host Public Hearings** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA partnered with Griffin & Strong, P.C. to conduct a Racial Disparity and Availability Study to measure the presence and impact of discrimination on minority- and women-owned businesses and workers in Illinois’ clean energy economy. Griffin & Strong will host Public Hearing Sessions for the Study on [Wednesday, May 6, 2026](#), and [Thursday, May 7, 2026](#), at 6:00 p.m. CST. Please register for the proper session with the hyperlinks above.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - [March Consumer Protection Working Group Minutes](#) ([Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page)
 - [April Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
 - Updated [Community Solar System Parameters Evaluation](#) ([Help Guides and Application Tips](#) page)
 - Financing Opportunities [webinar recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) ([Program Year Webinars](#) page)
- **Batch Fee Reporting Portal Feature Release** – [As previously announced](#), the Program launched a Batch Fee Reporting Portal feature allowing AVs to see details about the fees applied to their batches. AVs are now able to see the application fee per kW, credit card fees, and total batch fees updated dynamically as projects are added to the batch. For each batch, AVs are able to export a report with batch fee details, and a list of each project and project size originally included in the batch. This feature can support AVs in numerous additional ways, listed in the Program’s previous announcements.
- **Illinois Shines Releases March 2026 State of the Program** – [As previously announced](#), the Program published its latest [Illinois Shines State of the Program communication](#). The communication, published twice yearly, details key areas of Program progress, implemented solutions, current initiatives, forums to solicit and address stakeholder needs and requests, and an updated Program vision and stakeholder commitments from the Program Administrator. Access past State of the Programs on the [About](#) page, in the document archives.

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for April** – The last Part II Verification date for April will be April 24, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before April 24, 2026, will be included in the May invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between April 25 and April 30, 2026, will be invoiced in June 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.
- **April REC Invoicing Open** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on April 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by April 10, 2026, to receive payment for the April invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by April 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the June 2026 invoice period.
- **IPA Lifting Pause on Two Withhold Limit** – [In August 2025](#), the IPA paused the enforcement of the two withhold limit for Part I application submissions to the ICC meetings for REC Contract approval, due to the Federal Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025. **The pause will be lifted with the start of ICC submissions under the 2026-27 Program Year.** After the start of the 2026-27 Program Year, DG projects will only be permitted to be withheld twice before they must be submitted to the ICC for REC Contract approval or permanently withdrawn from the Program. Projects that have been withheld more than two times already will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw at the first ICC meeting submission after June 1, 2026.
 - CS projects will undergo the new opt-in batching process in which projects can **opt-out of ICC submission for up to four ICC meetings**. At the fifth ICC meeting the AV must opt-in to ICC submission or the project will be automatically and permanently withdrawn. This process is further outlined in the [Draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#). Projects that have already been withheld will start fresh under the new process and be allowed to opt-out of four ICC meetings before being required to opt-in or will be permanently withdrawn.
- **May 31, 2026, REC Transfer Deadline** – In preparation for the close of the 2025-26 delivery year and the upcoming Annual Report, the Program Administrator reminds AVs that **all REC transfers must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CPT on May 31, 2026**. RECs will be counted toward the 2025-26 Annual Report based on the date that their transfer is complete, NOT the day that their transfer is initiated or when they are generated. Ensuring REC transfers are complete will help minimize potential Drawdowns on posted collateral.
- **Complying with MES Reporting Requirements and Upcoming Webinar** – [As previously announced](#), MES reporting will be consolidated into one report due on July 15, 2026. All AVs and Designees participating in the Program are required to submit the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*, [including EECs starting PY 2026-27](#). Illinois Shines AVs and Designees are invited to join the MES Compliance Webinar on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CPT** to receive guidance on preparing and submitting the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*. Register for the webinar [Please register with this link.](#)
- **IPA Power Hour - Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois** – On April 24, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CPT, the IPA will host the educational Power Hour webinar, *Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois*. The session will dive into how electricity prices are set, recent national and Illinois trends, key drivers behind price changes, market developments shaping future costs, and strategies that states are deploying to navigate these evolving dynamics. Registration is required to attend. [Please register with this link.](#)
- **Expedited CDCS Application Review and Scoring Schedule for 45-Day Application Window** – As a result of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan, the Program opened an additional 45-day CDCS application window from January 16, 2026, to March 2, 2026. On March 20, the Program announced an expedited review and scoring schedule to prioritize the selection of projects in the 2025-26 Program Year. AVs should review the planned, [updated timeline](#) and ensure a timely response to the Program Administrator. Failure to respond to the Program Administrator by the end of each cure period may result in project removal. The last eligible ICC

Meeting for the 2025-26 Program Year is May 21, 2026. Projects not selected for capacity during the Random Selection Event will remain on the waitlist until new capacity becomes available at the start of the 2026-27 Program Year and will be subject to all 2026-27 Program Year requirements and, if awarded capacity, will be placed on the 2026 REC Delivery Contract.

Reference and Reminders

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback** – This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests. Details on previous proposals and feedback requests can be found at the [Program website](#).

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request for Comment Release	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Consumer Protection Documents	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	IPA is reviewing comments, which have been posted to the Program website.
Draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – To avoid late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, AVs must indicate any requests to withdraw or withhold projects during the two-day re-batching window. In the absence of any action by an AV, the Program Administrator will re-batch the projects at its discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC. Please note that due to recent federal action, the Agency has temporarily paused enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until June 1, 2026. AVs that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window. Upcoming windows for re-batching are as follows:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
4/21/2026	4/23/2026	5/7/2026
5/5/2026	5/7/2026	5/21/2026

- **Portal Maintenance and Releases** – Scheduled system maintenance occurs Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. CPT, during which times the Portal is typically unavailable to users. Users working in the Portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 p.m. CPT start of system maintenance window. Any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode. The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap, and Portal help guides can be found at IllinoisShines.com/Portal-Updates.
- **Application Processing Tables and Updates** – Application processing tables are maintained [here](#). These tables are updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com. In addition to information available on the [Project Application Reports](#) page, the status of individual project applications can be checked using the [Project Look Up Tool](#).
 - **Small DG Application Processing Update** – Following a spike in submission of project applications, review of Small DG Part I and Part II applications had exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. Part I application review has now returned to expected review timeframes; the Program Administrator is working to bring Part II application reviews into the expected turnaround time.

CONTACT US: For Portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact admin@IllinoisShines.com or call 877-783-1820.