

"The Negative Effects of Public Utility Policies on the Environment & the Consumer"

**Chris Thomas, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Senior Policy Analyst
Illinois Dunesland's November 21, 2009 Luncheon Speaker
Noon, Illinois Beach State Park Resort on the Lakefront**

Electricity production has a largely negative impact on the environment, yet this has long been tolerated in the name of economic development. Join us as Chris Thomas, the Policy Director for the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), Illinois's leading non-profit utility consumer advocacy group, explains how emerging technologies can help bring substantial reform to Illinois's utility system. He will also discuss the work being done by CUB and other consumer and environmental advocates to facilitate positive changes.

Improved efficiency, simplified interconnection of distributed renewable resources, and the introduction of new energy storage systems are all now possible with emerging improvements in technology. Taken together, these improvements will provide a platform that can foster more awareness of the correlation between energy usage and its impact on environmental quality. Mr. Thomas will discuss efforts underway to promote a conscious approach to consumption that can reduce both cost and minimize the negative environmental impacts that are inherent in the current system.

Chris Thomas joined CUB's staff as a Senior Policy Analyst in September 2004. He spends his days combing through and analyzing industry information, so he can provide easy-to-understand explanations of complicated utility issues for CUB staff and the public. Chris also files expert testimony defending consumers in utility cases before the ICC.

The world of utilities is not new to Chris. After receiving his master's degree in economics and finance, he worked for four years as a regulatory economist, providing analysis and testimony on telecommunications issues for the Missouri Public Service Commission. Chris said it's fulfilling to be working for an organization that promotes the public interest, especially in the changing realm of utility deregulation.

"CUB is taking a vital and active role in trying to get consumers the information they need, in a format they can easily understand, to make truly informed decisions based upon the merits of the utility services being offered," he said.

Sarah Moskowitz, CUB's Outreach Director, will accompany Chris to this presentation.

RSVP by November 18

Karen Jump 847 498-5710 OR ildunesland@aol.com

\$15 includes beautiful view of the lakefront at the Illinois Beach State Park Resort, great

presentations, superb conversation, entree, beverage, dessert, tax, tip a bargain today!

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You may pay at the door, but we must have your reservation as soon as possible.

Please give your menu choice when you make your reservation:

1. Caesar Salad

2. Chicken Salad/Fruit

3. Chef's Salad: mixed greens, carrots, red cabbage, red onions, tomatoes, eggs, roast beef, ham, turkey & cheddar cheese

4. Cheeseburger/Fries

5. Turkey Club/Fries

Additional questions or last minute reservation issues:

Please contact Dunesland's President Paul Kakuris at 312 332-3377.

Directions to the park are on our web site at: http://illinoisdunesland.org/Contact_Us.html

For further information about our organization and the park: <http://illinoisdunesland.org/>

To make a donation or to join Dunesland: <http://illinoisdunesland.org/Gifting.html>

Volunteers Are Always Needed!

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