**Section 454.20 Definitions**

"ABC" means *agents, brokers, and consultants engaged in the procurement or sale of retail electricity supply for third parties* and has the same meaning as defined in Section 16-115C(b) of the Public Utilities Act [220 ILCS 5/16-115C(b)].

"Act" means the Public Utilities Act [220 ILCS 5].

"Aggregate billing demand" means the total of the highest monthly billed demand of each of the retail customer's affiliated electric accounts during the past calendar year.

"Alternative retail electric supplier" or "ARES" has the same meaning as in Section 16-102 of the Act [220 ILCS 5/16-102].

"Applicant" means a person or entity that seeks a license from the Illinois Commerce Commission pursuant to the Section 16-115C of the Act.

"Attempts to procure" means a third-party individual or entity that takes a substantial step to Procure electric power and energy, such as but not limited to preparing solicitations, notifying potential bidders of the solicitation, or determining the results of a solicitation; except, it shall not include an individual or entity providing professional services incidental to the procurement of retail service, such as but not limited to legal, accounting or engineering services.

"Attempts to sell" means a third-party individual or entity that takes a substantial step to sell electric power and energy to end user customers, such as but not limited to soliciting customers, making offers or preparing contracts; except, it shall not include an individual or entity providing professional services incidental to the sale of retail service, such as but not limited to legal, accounting or engineering services.

"Commission" means the Illinois Commerce Commission.

"Licensee" means an applicant that has applied for and received a license under this Part.

"License bond" or "permit bond" means an obligation of a surety to pay the monies that the licensee owes the State of Illinois for violations of the duties and obligations imposed on it as an ABC.

"Procure" means purchasing or entering into a contract to purchase the services of a RES on behalf of a retail electric customer.

"Qualifying surety" means a surety or insurer that is authorized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury pursuant to 31 USC 9305. A qualifying surety or insurer may not underwrite more than the amount specified by the U.S. Department of Treasury on a single bond. (Department of the Treasury's Listing of Approved Sureties (Department Circular 570; http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570/c570.html))

"Retail customer", as used in this Part, has the same definition as in Section 16-102 of the Act.

"Retail Electric Supplier" or "RES" means an ARES or an electric utility providing electric power and energy to retail customers outside the utility's service area pursuant to Section 16-116 of the Act.