

Volume 251 September 13, 2011

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn vetoed a utility modernization bill that would have upgraded the infrastructure of Ameren and ComEd--but at what critics say was too high a cost in rate hikes and diminished oversight.

In a Chicago news conference announcing the veto, Quinn called the bill "a dream come true" for the utilities, but "a nightmare for the consumers of Illinois."

The bill, SB1652, would have spurred a 10-year "Smart Grid" utility upgrade that would have included "smart meter" technology to show consumers the price of their electricity use on an hourly basis, helping those consumers adjust their usage.

But critics, including Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, say the bill was geared more toward guaranteed profit hikes for the utilities than long-term savings for consumers. It would have meant an average 9 percent rate hike for utility customers, and contained language that Madigan and others say would lead to loosened oversight of the utilities.

"The fight is long from over," noted Madigan, who attended the veto ceremony.

The utility industry is expected to seek a veto override when the Legislature returns to Springfield next month. The original legislation didn't pass with a veto-proof majority, but the utilities are among the more powerful lobbies in Springfield and are likely to push hard for those extra votes.

A statement from ComEd shortly after the veto makes it clear the veto-override effort has already begun: "In the coming weeks, we will work to show how this legislation provides a diverse array of important benefits to Illinois. . . . We look forward to working with members of the General Assembly to help make grid modernization and economic growth a reality in Illinois."

Extended Temp Forecast: Chicago Area

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
51 - 70	45 - 66	43 - 59	47 - 63	54 - 69

Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak Oct 2011

	Sep 13, 2011	Per kWh
PJM	West	\$.04497
Cinergy	Peak Monthly	\$.03608

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.02934
Oct 1 - Oct 31	\$.02702
Nov 1 - Nov 30	\$.02778
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 - Feb 28	\$.03581
March 1- Mar 31	\$.03668
April 1 - April 30	\$.03448
May1- May 31	\$.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$.04064
Sep 1 thru Sep 12	\$.03355

Weather Today: Abundant sunshine. High around 70F. Winds NNW at 10 to 20 mph. **Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low 51F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph. **Wed:** Intervals of clouds and sunshine in the morning with more clouds for later in the day. Slight chance of a rain shower. High 66F. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph. **Thu:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 40s. **Fri:** Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 40s. **Sat:** Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 50s.

