

### Volume 265 December 20, 2011

The struggle to decide how much it will cost Illinoisans to keep the lights on is far from over. Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison, the utilities that serve the vast majority of Illinois, did win a significant victory in October with the passage of legislation that speeded up the legal process used for setting the charge for delivering power to homes and businesses. The delivery charge is the portion of the electricity bill the utilities make their profits on.

But that's not the end of the story. The detailed parameters and performance metrics of the new "formula rate-making" process have yet to be worked out in hearings before the Illinois Commerce Commission in Springfield, the state's power system regulators.

The new streamlined rate-setting legislation also requires the utilities to spend some \$3.2 billion over 10 years updating and improving the network of wires and cables over which electricity travels, commonly called the grid, with consumers picking up the tab. For Ameren Illinois customers, the cost will have added a total of \$34 to their annual bills at the end of those 10 years, which works out at \$3.40 extra per year.

While they're busy dealing with all of that, the two giant utilities are required by law to create some 2,400 new jobs between them. The timing of where and how those jobs are made, along with the setting of verifiable results for utility investments in the grid, are among the issues to be decided during the rate-setting process. The Citizens Utility Board, a consumer watchdog group, said getting these details right is essential to ensure consumers get the best deal for their money. The utility board said it will present testimony to the ICC to help shape an annual rate-setting formula that will become the pattern for the next 10 years. And no corporate detail is too small to be overlooked, said David Kolata, the board's executive director. While Commonwealth Edison has already filed its request for higher electricity rates under the new law, Ameren Illinois has yet to do so. Before it can, the Illinois utility has got to withdraw a previous request for higher power delivery rates made under the old legislative process, and has now filed paperwork with the ICC to get that done. It is expected the ICC will rule on the matter on Wednesday, Dec 21.

### Electricity Pricing Areas – Dec 20, 2011

#### January

On-Peak	Per kWh
Cinergy	\$ .03543
PJM West	\$ .04345

### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Dec 1–Dec 31, 2010	\$ .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 - Sep 30	\$ .03058
Oct 1- Oct31	\$ .02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$ .02816
Dec 1 – Dec 19	\$ .03033

**Weather Today:** Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. High 42F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%. **Tonight:** Cloudy with a few showers. Low 39F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%. **Wed:** Chance of a shower or two during the morning, followed by partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. High 44F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%. **Thu:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 30s. **Fri:** Cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s. **Sat:** Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s.

