

Volume 268 January 10, 2012

Commonwealth Edison Co. has plans to spend an extra \$233 million in 2012 to upgrade aging cables and poles and install smart meters for utility customers. That expenditure is over and above ComEd's typical \$918 million a year spend for capital improvements and comes as a result of landmark legislation passed in late 2011 that will wrap the \$2.6 billion cost to upgrade the grid and add smart grid technology into the electricity bills of Illinois consumers. The company filed a 10-year plan with the Illinois Commerce Commission to spend \$1.3 billion to strengthen its electrical system against outages. The plan also proposes spending \$1.3 billion to add high-tech devices to the grid that they say will automatically restore power outages, eliminate the need for meter readers and give consumers more control over electricity usage. ComEd will spend \$139 million in 2012 to harden electrical lines against storm damages, replace 460 miles of underground cable in 2012, inspect 4,000 manholes and inspect 133,400 wood poles. It will also spend \$94 million in late 2012 to begin its rollout of smart grid technology.

In the first year, ComEd said it plans to install 130,000 meters in its territory and average another 440,000 meters annually until each of the 3.8 million customers in its territory is equipped with the devices. Smart meters can come in various forms, but generally allow consumers to see how much electricity they are using in real time and how much that electricity is costing.

At the same time, 470 so-called distribution automation devices will be installed in 2012, the company said, a technology that allows ComEd to automatically reroute power around problems on the system. Eventually, 2,600 such devices will be installed, the company said.

In essence, consumers who would normally wait hours and possibly days for ComEd to send a truck out to the origin of an outage would now be served by power that has automatically been rerouted from other areas. The nuisance associated with an outage would be "a few blinks of the lights" instead of a longer blackout, said Michael McMahan, vice president of smart grid and technology for ComEd.

To aid smart grid, one of ten substations will be upgraded in 2012 to allow ComEd to control automation in the area where the devices are installed. The substation would be the second such upgrade in ComEd's territory. Oak Park also has a smart substation and is part of a so-called "innovation corridor" of nine suburbs and the Humboldt Park area of Chicago ComEd is using to test out smart grid technology. That corridor is now planned to become a test bed beginning in 2012 where entrepreneurs may test smart technology on a real-world, utility scale. ComEd said innovators will apply to participate and will foot the costs to purchase the technology and install it on the system.

Electricity Pricing Areas – Jan 10, 2012

February

On-Peak	Per kWh
Cinergy	\$.03405
PJM West	\$.04268

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 – Feb 28	\$.03581
March 1- Mar 31	\$.03668
April 1 – April 30	\$.03448
May 1- 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- Oct 31	\$.02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$.02816
Dec 1 – Dec 31	\$.02971
Jan 1 – Jan 9, 2012	\$.02947

Weather Today: Sunny. High near 50F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph. **Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low 36F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph. **Tomorrow:** Partly cloudy. High 52F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. **Tomorrow night:** Occasional snow showers. Low 34F. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60%. **Thursday:** Snow and windy. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 20s. **Friday:** Cloudy with occasional flurries. Highs in the low 20s and lows in the mid teens. **Saturday:** Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 20s and lows in the upper teens.

