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Electricity is the lifeblood of our nation's economy and quality of life and the leadership of both democratic and republican political parties are on written record stating that the United States cannot achieve a strong, secure 21st Century economy with a 20th Century Electricity System.

It must be transformed from its current obsolete analog, electromechanical grid structure to a truly intelligent electronically controlled system with a fully integrated network that diagnoses and resolves problems instantly as they arise, and maximizes reliability and efficiency.

This will also enable the continuous, real-time exchange of information and energy between the utility and its customers at all times. The result will be the electricity equivalent of the Internet with even greater value potential. FERC is also emphasizing the necessity to "restructure utilities to unbundle their services and unleash the information and power of the electricity grid system. This is all, however, still a matter of States Rights responsibility and authority.

According to the Energy Future Coalition (EFC) the following attributes are the key to a different and far better energy future.

- Performance-Based Rate Making - Aligning the financial returns of the utility to how it performs on the metrics that matter most: cost, reliability, customer service, adoption of smart grid technologies and services, and support for alternate energy.
- A Smarter, Customer-Driven Grid - A grid that takes advantage of real time pricing and today's technology, and allows willing home owners and utilities to control their energy consumption appliance by appliance. This will minimize energy costs and maximize energy efficiency.
- "On-Bill Energy Efficiency Financing" - Allowing utilities to finance and customers to repay efficiency investments on their bills.
- Micro Grids - Micro grids cannot only provide backup reliability to capacity, but can also enable islanding for large customers and neighborhoods.
- Facilitating Electric Vehicle Deployment - Utilities will offer substantial initial cost vouchers to purchasers of battery electric vehicles that agree to allow the utility to manage their charging.

Electricity Pricing – July 23, 2013 Com Ed Average LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb, 2013	\$.03219
Mar, 2013	\$.03665
April, 2013	\$.03821
May, 2013	\$.03501
June, 2013	\$.03215
Jul 1 – Jul 22	\$.04518

Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	78	75	81	85	75
Low	64	62	66	65	62

