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ComEd reaches agreement with ICC on delivery charge increase

By Tribune staff

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Commonwealth Edison Co. has reached a preliminary, non-binding agreement with the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission to increase its delivery charge by \$269 million, or about \$4.50 a month for the average customer.

The deal is not complete, however, because the utility continues to press for a bigger increase, and the final decision rests with the five commissioners of the ICC. They are expected to vote on the matter in September.

The Citizens Utility Board is fighting ComEd's efforts for a rise in delivery charges.

"The facts show ComEd does not deserve a big rate increase," said Executive Director David Kolata.

In October, ComEd filed for an increase in what it can charge consumers for delivering electricity.

"This is a normal rate case process," said Judy Rader, spokeswoman for ComEd. She said it is not unusual for the utility to reach an initial agreement with the ICC's staff in advance of a final decision by the full commission.

ComEd continues to seek a higher amount, \$314 million, than that agreed to with ICC staff.

The increase does not involve the cost of electricity itself, which is determined separately. ComEd makes money from its delivery charge, but not from the cost of electricity.

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