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## Get ready to dig deeper: ComEd rates rising 6%

### APPEAL PLANNED | Hike opposed by attorney general's office, CUB, AARP

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September 11, 2008 BY [CHERYL V. JACKSON](#) [cjackson@suntimes.com](mailto:cjackson@suntimes.com)

Electric power provider ComEd got the OK to raise rates by about \$270 million -- roughly 6 percent, or \$4.50 more, to the average \$75 monthly residential bill.

The Illinois Commerce Commission on Wednesday approved the increase, which takes effect Sunday. The approved hike was about two-thirds of the \$361 million, or 8 percent, increase the power company initially sought last October, and closer to the revised \$314 million, or 7 percent, increase ComEd most recently proposed.

The subsidiary of Chicago-based Exelon Corp. wanted to recoup about 75 percent of its planned 2008 investment expenditures with this rate hike, but commission staffers recommended an increase to cover six months of the investments.

The ICC rejected a proposed surcharge that would have allowed the company to recoup storm-related expenses from customers over a 12-month period, instead of spreading the billing out over five to six years, as it currently does.

Rather than approving a five-year surcharge to cover the costs of a technology upgrade, the commission directed ComEd to study the technology and its costs.

Consumer advocate Citizens Utility Board, the AARP and the Illinois office of the attorney general opposed the delivery rate increase, and CUB and AARP will appeal the decision. CUB and the attorney general's office argued that ComEd needed only 10 percent of its initial rate increase request.

"Consumers who are facing high prices at the pump, a long winter of high heating prices and facing a slumping economy now have to face the ComEd rate hike," said CUB spokesman Jim Chilsen.

"We're arguing that it's too much and at the wrong time," said David Irwin, spokesman for the AARP Illinois. "People are getting hit already."

ComEd, which provides electricity to about 3.8 million customers across northern Illinois, has said it needed the rate increase because the company was not making enough profit.

[Texas prison guards may get 20% pay hike - TDCJ requests 10.5% overall budget increase](#)

From Grits for Breakfast

[Randall County\(Amarillo\) wants half the rate hike Lubbock County has proposed](#)

From Lubbock County Register

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago

Sun-Times.

piic wrote:

With Obama's ethanol commitment that uses cropland, costs \$9 to make one gallon, and truckers costs driving up food prices, IL is just a statistic. The mandate on bio-fuel isn't too smart either-one very astute website tells us that we won't use half the amount of fuel produced over the next decade or more. IL - better suck it up and prepare to pay those prices...at least Axelrod wasn't instrumental in the latest ComEd hikes as he was in the first. Be sure to tell your IL Representatives to enjoy their pork while you eat beans.

9/11/2008 11:12 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

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demon wrote:

To bad the working people didn't band together, if they did, they would get much of the out of control companies and politicians put back in their places.What if for one month, say the month of October, nobody paid their electric bills?What if for one entire weekend, Saturday & Sunday, nobody burned an ounce of fuel?What if for one year, nobody actually purchased a city vehicle sticker for their car?If people were to band together a lot of things could get accomplished, unfortunately people won't do it.With that being said, they'll just keep raising prices and fees until they have all your money.

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grover 799 wrote:

"ComEd, which provides electricity to about 3.8 million customers

across northern Illinois, has said it needed the rate increase because the company was not making enough profit."What is enough profit? Why not be like Exxon/Mobil, \$2 to 3 Billion a quater is just not enough? We have to rip off the customer to make sure the Board and Executive Committee get their golden parachutes and bonuses.

9/11/2008 9:09 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](http://suntimes.com)

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ashlee wrote:

This will help pay for the overtime comed workers eating at expensive restaurants.In my town you see the comed trucks parked at the most expensive steak house!

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funnyfarm wrote:

This utility bill is now half my rent practically because I heat with electric it makes me sick!I've decided to move and sell my condo for gas heat it will never end with com ed,there cousins with cta.

9/11/2008 6:50 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](http://suntimes.com)

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big dog wrote:

The cost of clean air /save this & that /and no coal or nukes. Let's make utilites use renewables that will drive the cost upeven more. This is only the start when NOBAMA and the boyz start putting more rules (to save the world) on utilites. What about the poor.....

9/11/2008 6:42 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](http://suntimes.com)

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gary rockford il. wrote:

They really should check if Emil Jones was getting any KickBacks from COMED !

9/11/2008 6:28 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](http://suntimes.com)

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no to chicago 2016 wrote:

Who has a \$75.00 monthly bill with Com Ed?No one that I know!Again, the City of Shitcago, Crook County, in the State of Scamois!Just keep hitting the little guy!

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