



## New proposal could raise energy rates

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ComEd shakes things up in Springfield offering half a billion dollars to cash strapped Illinois. Although the money has its benefits the downfall is that ComEd customers could see higher rates in the future. ComEd says this proposal could have a positive effect on our state and even add more green jobs, but one consumer advocate group says it could hurt our pocket books. David Kolata, Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board says, "It's hard to see how you could get a good deal for consumers in just a few days." ComEd proposes a deal that would give the government 500 million dollars up front, in exchange for guaranteed future profits on its electrical rates.

Kolata says, "They freeze rates for four years, however it's not a real rate freeze because rates could go up."

Kolata was in Springfield on Wednesday to find out how this could effect ComEd customers. Kolata says, "The bill we have seen so far is not a good deal for consumers we are willing to sit down with ComEd, but the bill we have seen is very one sided, it's good for utility not so good for consumers."

Customers have their reservations. James Carrell a Rockford resident says, "They can not guarantee it will stay where it's at, for any for any length of time because of where the economy is." K.B. Dheerendra another local says, "No one will give you money for nothing, there is a catch there, I believe they will increase the cost down the road."

ComEd says it thinks the idea will benefit the state and the company. No decision has been made yet but, Governor Quinn says he'll think about the offer. He doesn't know if something this complicated could be worked out by this week when the legislative session ends.



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