



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CUB STATEMENT ON PROPOSED COM ED RATE DECREASE

CUB always likes to hear that a utility is lowering rates, so this is good news for ComEd customers. We plan to review ComEd's filing and work to give consumers the greatest benefit. We're also encouraged that the utility is extending its moratorium on shut-offs and late fees to at least June 1. The last thing consumers need in the middle of a public health and financial crisis is to worry about their utility service. As we recover from this emergency, one of the challenges in the year ahead will be how all parties—utilities, regulators, legislators—can work together to bring relief to utility customers so we can keep their service on and bills affordable.

—Jim Chilsen, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) director of communications

BACKGROUND

-On Thursday, April 16, ComEd announced it was requesting that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) decrease the utility's delivery rates by \$11.5 million. The ICC will rule on the case in December.

-The cut reportedly would lower the average residential customer's monthly bill by about a dollar beginning Jan. 1, 2021. If approved, the average total monthly residential bill would be about \$82.

-The decrease affects delivery charges—what all customers pay to have the electricity delivered to their homes. Those charges take up about a third to a half of the bill.

-ComEd's delivery rates are set according to the state's 2011 "Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act," or the "smart-grid bill." That law uses a formula to determine ComEd rates annually to pay for about \$2.6 billion in system upgrades.

-ComEd also said it would extend its suspension of disconnections and new late-payment charges through at least June 1. The ICC has also directed utilities in the state to suspend disconnections and late-payment charges until the COVID-19 state of emergency is over.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog organization. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$10 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds over the years. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

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