

METERING AND METER READING

For those customers who receive metering service from ComEd, ComEd is responsible for metering and meter reading. ComEd is obligated to send retail customer usage information to their respective Retail Electric Supplier (RES). ComEd owns, furnishes, installs, reads, controls, and maintains metering equipment. ComEd determines standard metering requirements, offers Automated Meter Reading (AMR) upon request and leases meters in excess of standard metering equipment under Rider ML – Meter-Related Facilities Lease. ComEd handles meter replacement and manages metering data.

If metering is provided by a Metering Service Provider (MSP), the MSP is responsible for ensuring that all installations are performed in accordance with the version of the National Electrical Codes (NEC) adopted by the municipality in which the MSP provides metering service. In addition, ComEd's rules and practices must be observed. When an MSP is providing metering service to the customer, ComEd retains ownership of the distribution facilities for the accurate measurement of supply used by the customer and continues to service ComEd provided equipment according to ComEd's practice.

The meter reading cycle is the same for a customer whether the customer is taking delivery services or bundled electric service. ComEd provides billing determinants to Retail Electric Suppliers via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) whether the metering is provided by ComEd or an MSP.

This chapter describes metering options and standards as well as meter reading procedures for ComEd-provided metering service.

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❖ **Documentation:**

Document	Where Found
Meter reading schedule	ComEd.com Web site: https://www.comed.com

To access the meter reading calendar from the <http://www.ComEd.com> webpage, follow this path: My Account > My Service > Customer Choice > Customer Choice > Residential or Non-Residential. The meter reading calendar is listed under Resources.

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METERING

Metering includes the appropriate meter and distribution facilities for the accurate measurement of how much electricity the customer uses.

❖ Meter Ownership

For those customers with ComEd metering service, ComEd continues to own, furnish, install, read, control, and maintain the metering equipment.

ComEd continues to test and maintain the equipment according to applicable Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) rules in 83 Illinois Administrative Codes 280 and 410 to help ensure accuracy.

Customers may install, own, and maintain meters “downstream” (on the customer load side) of ComEd’s meter subject to:

- Safety and reliability standards defined in the National Electric Code and municipal regulations
- At the customer’s expense and maintenance

However, electric usage measurement is based on the readings obtained from ComEd’s meters.

If an MSP is providing metering services, the MSP must follow the processes specified in the Metering Service section of ComEd’s Rate MSPS- Metering Service Provider Service.

❖ Meter Types

Examples of various meter configurations include:

1. Watt Hour
2. Cumulative Demand
3. Advanced Meter Installation (AMI)
4. Interval Data Recorder (IDR)
5. Automated Meter Reading (AMR)
6. Generator
7. Check Meter
8. In/Out with Flow Through

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❖ Metering Options

Customers or Retail Electric Suppliers may opt to have other equipment installed. A list of metering equipment is provided in Rider ML. ComEd will charge the customer or the Retail Electric Supplier (whoever made the request) for the optional equipment.

Standard Meter

If the maximum demand at the customer's premises is or is expected to be equal to or greater than 100 kilowatts, based upon either actual or estimated 30 minute maximum demand, an IDR meter is considered the standard.

If the customer's load is or is expected to be less than 100 kilowatts, IDR metering is not the standard.

ComEd is currently in an extended program to install AMI meters at customer premises. The AMI meter is considered as the standard meter when installed.

Meter Leasing

The RES or the customer can request metering equipment different from or in excess of a standard metering installation. In this case, metering equipment can be installed and leased from ComEd in accordance with Rider NS – Nonstandard services and facilities for meter exchange charges and Rider ML for meter rental charges.

Either the customer or the RES can request the installation or removal of additional metering equipment. The customer should call 1-877-4-ComEd-1 (1-877-426-6331) to make this request. The RES should contact the appropriate ESSD Account Manager. The customer or the RES will be billed for this equipment, in accordance with Rider NS and Rider ML.

❖ Meter Changes, Failure, Replacement, Tampering and Found Meters

- **Meter Changes** – To request any metering changes, the customer should call the ComEd Business Solutions Center and the RES should contact an ESSD Account Manager. ComEd notifies the active RES of meter changes via EDI 814 Change requests. The new meter information is provided to customers on their next delivery services bill.
- **Meter Failure** – ComEd investigates when metering data has been lost. Meters found to be defective or damaged are exchanged and sent for testing and/or repair. ComEd

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estimates usage in accordance with procedures in effect and approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

- **Replacement** – In the normal course of business, meters may need to be replaced periodically.
- **Tampering** – ComEd's has practices regarding tampering in accordance with Illinois Administrative Code Part 280. ComEd investigates the situation and informs the customer of the findings. If ComEd determines that an unsafe condition exists, ComEd disconnects the customer's service, as outlined in 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 280. ComEd retains the right to discontinue electric service and to remove its property from the customer's premises if tampering has occurred.

The customer is required to pay the amount of the revenue ComEd has lost because of the tampering, plus any other applicable expenses and/or deposits, as outlined in 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 280.

- **Found Meters/Closed Loops** - ComEd investigates when meters are found at a premise where metering data has been found and never recorded. If tampering is found in addition to this condition, the rules outlined above are also applied.

❖ Meter Status Changes

ComEd notifies the RES when a customer's meter status changes from active to inactive or vice versa. The RES is notified through an EDI 814 Change when the meter status change occurs.

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METER READING

ComEd follows a billing cycle of 28-35 calendar days. The meter reading schedule is based on a 21-business day cycle. ComEd attempts to read all meters on a monthly basis. Customers must provide continuous access to meters for ComEd to obtain meter readings; otherwise, the customer will receive an estimated bill for that month. The installation of AMI meters do not require meter reading access as the meters are read remotely. The AMI meters should help reduce the number of estimated bills.

Each account has a meter bill group number that corresponds to a meter reading date. RESs can obtain the meter bill group number for each non-residential customer from the ComEd.com web site when requesting summary data with a valid account number (*see Chapter 3 Information about and for Residential and Non-Residential Customers*).

The meter reading schedule is also posted on the ComEd.com web site. The meter reading schedule identifies, by bill group number, the next scheduled meter reading date.

All metering equipment must be readily accessible to ComEd employees for reading, testing, or exchanging such equipment. Applicable fees may be charged for requests including but not limited to special meter reads.

❖ Data-retrieval Methods

Depending on the meter, meter data is retrieved manually or remotely. ComEd uses three methods for retrieving meter data. The standard method is to collect metered data manually although the standard method is transitioning over to remote data retrieval as more AMI meters are installed at customer premises. Alternatively, remote data retrieval is also achieved by using Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology.

❖ Estimated Reads

ComEd estimates usage according to procedures in effect and approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission if meter data is lost because of meter failure or damage to metering equipment or if meter readings can not be obtained.

❖ Electronic Data Interchange Transfers

The RES must be able to accept meter reading data from ComEd through EDI 867. See Chapter 5 in this guide, *Electronic Communications Requirements and Procedures*, for more

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information on electronic data interchange transfers and the testing procedures utilized for certification.

❖ Billing Determinants for Retail Electric Suppliers

ComEd provides validated billing determinants, by meter, so that RESs can calculate customers' electric supply charges. Billing determinants are mainly focused on usage, but may include other information about how the bill is determined. These measurements are used in calculating both delivery services and electric supply charges.

❖ Metering Data Adjustments or Corrections

The meter data related to billing determinant corrections are used to recalculate ComEd delivery services charges. Corrections to the billing determinants are sent via EDI in most cases to the RES. There are instances when the correction cannot be performed through EDI and a spreadsheet with the corrected data will be provided to the RESs via e-mail.

Adjustments and corrections are done in accordance with Illinois Administrative Code Part 280.

In cases where Rider MMS – Market Settlement Service applies, ComEd settles the supply portion of the adjustment directly with the customer and does not provide the corrected billing determinants to the RES. The RES can acquire the corrected billing determinants from ComEd by submitting a request for the data via comed.com or through submitting an 867 HIU.

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