

BRINGING A SMARTER GRID TO NORTHERN ILLINOIS

ComEd is modernizing the electric system to build a stronger, more reliable infrastructure. We also plan to install new technologies to create a smart grid that ultimately provides customers with better service, more choices and greater control over their electricity usage.

In the same way that today's "smart phone" technology merged the power of computers with cellular phones, smart grid technology merges the power of computers with the electric utility grid.

In total, our efforts to modernize the grid will create thousands of full-time equivalent jobs at the peak investment period, help prepare Illinois to meet the growing energy demands of the 21st century economy and help attract companies that place a high priority on a modern electric system. We also will partially fund the \$22 million Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation trust. This trust will underwrite grants for projects that foster energy innovation and support high-growth, energy-related Illinois companies.

IMPROVED RELIABILITY AND BETTER SERVICE

ComEd's grid modernization will enhance overall system reliability, reduce the number of outages and improve power restoration. To accomplish these tasks, we will:

- Replace or refurbish thousands of miles of underground cable
- Replace or reinforce thousands of utility poles
- Strengthen equipment in areas historically vulnerable to weather-related damage



As part of our commitment to improve the electric system, we pledge to meet a set of specific performance standards that include a 20-percent reduction in the number of customer interruptions and a 15-percent reduction in the length of outages. These goals are filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission, which can assess financial penalties if ComEd does not meet these standards.

More 

ComEd Grid Modernization

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A SMARTER ELECTRIC SYSTEM

To create a smart grid, we will install thousands of distribution automation devices, doubling the amount of devices on the grid. These devices will help us to monitor the flow of power over the lines and automatically reroute power during an outage to minimize the number of customers impacted.

A smarter grid also includes the eventual installation of more than 4 million smart meters across our service territory. Once installed, a smart meter will provide customers with more control over their energy use by providing access to more information about energy consumption. Smart meters also will provide access to special pricing options that reward customers for voluntarily reducing consumption during designated peak usage times.

ComEd's grid modernization work is already underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION WORK

UNDERGROUND RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION (URD) CABLE

- ✓ Refurbish or replace more than 4,100 total miles of URD cable

MAINLINE UNDERGROUND CABLE

- ✓ Assess, refurbish or rebuild all manholes as necessary

INSIDE CHICAGO: more than 23,000 manholes

OUTSIDE CHICAGO: more than 5,000 manholes

- ✓ Test more than 3,250 miles of mainline cable and replace more than 500 miles

WOOD POLE PROGRAM

- ✓ Inspect an average of 133,400 poles per year
- ✓ Replace or reinforce an average of 3,000 poles per year

STORM HARDENING

- ✓ Utilize engineered solutions to "harden" circuits against storms

DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATION

- ✓ 2,500 12-kV system automation switch installations
- ✓ 100 34-kV system automation switch installations

SMART SUBSTATION UPGRADES

- ✓ 10 stations, analog to digital upgrades

SMART METERS

- ✓ Install approximately 4 million meters in all homes and businesses over a 10-year period

For information, visit ComEd.com/SmartGrid or e-mail ComEd's Economic Development department at Edward.Sitar@ComEd.com.