



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2012

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**MAYOR EMANUEL AND COMED ANNOUNCE MORE THAN 2,400 JOBS TO BENEFIT CHICAGO
THROUGH \$1.1 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

*Utility Training Center Coming to Chicago; \$22 Million Economic Development Fund Established as
Part of Smart Grid Development*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and ComEd President and COO Anne Pramaggiore announced today key elements of a \$1.1 billion electric system infrastructure investment plan. Under this plan, the portion of ComEd's electric system that serves Chicago will be modernized, starting this year, creating more than 2,400 jobs for Chicago. ComEd will directly create nearly 1,000 jobs associated with this investment that benefit Chicago, including 350-400 jobs this year.

ComEd's planned system enhancements in Chicago are being undertaken as a result of the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA) enacted by the Illinois General Assembly this past fall. As authorized by the EIMA, ComEd will inject a total capital investment of \$2.6 billion into the Illinois economy, creating 2,000 jobs across ComEd's northern Illinois service territory at the peak of the program in 2014, about half of which directly benefit Chicago.

The company anticipates that Chicago will benefit from another 1,500 jobs stemming from various programs associated with the bill that are separate from the infrastructure investment program. Among them are new energy efficiency and peak-time rebate programs, distributed generation that will boost the solar rooftop market and new tech start-up companies financed through an economic development fund.

"We're modernizing Chicago's electric infrastructure and building a Smart Grid that will bring significant economic opportunity for the City, adding jobs and creating new facilities that will train Chicagoans to contribute to Chicago's growing green economy and help Chicago families save money on electricity," said Mayor Emanuel.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

ComEd's infrastructure modernization program will include \$1.3 billion to upgrade its electric system by replacing thousands of miles of cable and thousands of poles, and upgrading substations and other equipment. The utility will spend another \$1.3 billion to digitize the system, including installation of distribution automation devices that will re-route power around problem areas, smart meters for residential customers and utilization of additional smart grid technologies to improve service and provide customers with more tools to manage their electricity usage.

"Of the \$2.6 billion investment created by this legislation, \$1.1 billion will benefit Chicago in many ways over the next 10 years," Pramaggiore said. "This investment will create jobs and establish new opportunities for manufacturers and suppliers while also enhancing the performance of the electric system for all Chicagoans." Pramaggiore added that the 350-400 jobs that will benefit Chicago in 2012 will include ComEd employees, contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of material and equipment.

New opportunities for renewable energy projects are also included in the law and will expand existing conservation programs throughout the state. The new policies are expected to be a boost for rooftop solar and wind projects, and to help residential and small business customers save money by saving energy.

"The smart grid means new opportunities for clean energy companies, and new tools for residents to take control of their power consumption," said Jack Darin, director of the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter. "Mayor Emanuel is leading Chicago away from the dirty energy sources of the past to a brighter future, and the smart grid will help Chicagoans breathe cleaner air and provide new job opportunities in the new energy economy."

Key Energy Infrastructure Investment Initiatives

ComEd is pursuing a host of initiatives designed to move the infrastructure modernization program forward. These include:

- ComEd is affirming its original selection of Silver Spring Networks for the design and deployment of the smart grid networking platform and communications system and will submit its plan for review in April. Subject to review by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), the Silicon Valley-based company will establish an office and operations center in Chicago to support the deployment of the smart grid infrastructure. It will employ people in sales, marketing, project management and field engineering positions. "We are thrilled about the opportunity to open an office and Network Operations Center that will bring



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

smart grid jobs to Chicago,” said Scott Lang, Chairman, President and CEO of Silver Spring. “These jobs will provide valuable training, skills and technical experience – and will serve as a permanent foundation for real economic growth in Chicago. And that’s just the beginning. Over the next few years, our work with ComEd will not only create an electrical grid for the 21st Century, but also create many more jobs in the long term and position Chicago to be a leader in the clean energy economy.”

- Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company, a Native-American-owned distributor and manufacturer based in Michigan, will provide ComEd with power tools, safety and protective equipment in conjunction with the utility’s grid modernization program. It will establish a distribution center in Chicago, where it will employ 20 people by the end of the first quarter.

ComEd is working with several companies on electric grid modernization projects that will be conducted through June. These companies will be invited along with other firms to bid on additional long-term assignments related to smart grid work. These include:

- Aldridge Electric
- Meade
- Gaffney’s PMI
- Intren
- Osmose
- MJ Electric
- UtilX

"I applaud the City of Chicago and ComEd for maximizing the value of these infrastructure upgrades and ensuring it creates opportunities for union members to get high-paying, quality jobs," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

ComEd also will select a manufacturer to provide the smart meters it will begin installing in the fourth quarter of this year. The manufacturing contract could create as many as 50 jobs for the winning bidder.

On Jan. 6, ComEd will submit to the ICC its 10-year investment program, with infrastructure upgrades beginning throughout its service territory this week. The company will announce details regarding this work in various communities in the coming weeks.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

Utility Worker Training Center

To ensure a robust pool of skilled workers as its infrastructure modernization program moves forward, ComEd plans to locate a new training center on Chicago's southwest side. Several locations are under consideration.

The training facility will contain classrooms, office space, new technology exhibits, conference rooms and student break areas. It also will feature 20 indoor underground cable-splicing bays, a weather-protected pole yard, overhead conductors, distribution automation equipment, manholes and substation equipment for use by trainees.

In addition, ComEd will conduct a competition among Chicago architecture students, who will have the opportunity to design the training facility. Winners will be eligible for internships at a Chicago-based architecture firm selected to manage the construction of the facility. Participating schools include the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), the University of Illinois-Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The training center will be built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications. The construction of the center will involve partnerships with local labor unions, whose apprenticeship programs will help identify trainees and create new jobs for journeymen.

\$22.5 Million Economic Development Fund to Be Created

To broaden its impact on job creation and economic development, the EIMA includes the creation of a first-of-its-kind, utility-funded Science and Energy Innovation Trust that will support entrepreneurs by providing early stage investment to advance energy innovation.

The initial \$22.5 million investment, which will be funded by ComEd and St. Louis-based Ameren, will be used to provide financial and technical support to public and private entities in Illinois for projects that support, encourage or employ innovative technologies to modernize the grid. Eligible participants include state and local governments, educational institutions, corporations and community organizations.

"We applaud the formation and support being provided to fund the Science and Energy Innovation Trust," said Emanuel. "It will greatly help area entrepreneurs with ideas for innovative products, services and technologies that the smart grid will bring to life."

Community Youth Program



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

The legislation also will give rise to the ComEd Smart Youth Ambassador Program, through which more than 70 students will work part-time over the next several years on community outreach efforts relative to smart meter and energy efficiency issues. ComEd will work with many community groups, including the Chicago Urban League, the United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) and the Chinese American Service League, to identify students for the program.

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), one of the nation's largest electric utilities with approximately 5.4 million customers. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.8 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.

#