

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY :  
 :  
Petition to determine the applicability of : No. 08-0044  
Section 16-125(e) liability to events caused :  
by the December 23, 2007 storm front. :

Direct Testimony of  
**THOMAS R. PIAZZA**  
President, CEO,  
and Chief Meteorologist  
Murray and Trettel, Inc.

1 Q. What is your name, title, and business address?

2 A. My name is Thomas R. Piazza. I am President, CEO, and Chief Meteorologist of Murray  
3 and Trettel, Inc. My business address is 600 First Bank Drive, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

4 Q. What is Murray & Trettel, Inc.?

5 A. Murray and Trettel, Inc. is a private meteorological consulting company. Founded in  
6 1946, we are one of the oldest and most respected private meteorological consulting  
7 companies in the United States. Murray and Trettel is a long-standing corporate member  
8 of the American Meteorological Society, of which I personally am also a member, and  
9 the Snow and Ice Management Association. Over the past half century, we have received  
10 many awards including the American Meteorological Society's Award for Outstanding  
11 Services to Meteorology by a Corporation.

12 Murray and Trettel's mission is to provide sound advice, information and service  
13 to our clients on past, current, and future weather conditions; on meteorological and air  
14 quality instruments and measurement; and on numerical simulation of the atmosphere.  
15 We accomplish this through traditional weather analysis and forecasting, ambient and in-  
16 situ measurement, instrument services in the field, remote data acquisition, studies, and  
17 reports. Our Weather Command® Operational Forecast Division operates 24 hours a  
18 day, 365 days a year, and employs a total of sixteen professional meteorologists on staff  
19 at Weather Command®.

20 Q. What is your personal professional experience?

21 A. I have a BS in Meteorology and have more than 35 years of experience as a professional  
22 meteorologist. I joined Murray and Trettel in 1975 after four years of experience as a  
23 Weather Officer in the U.S. Air Force. In 1987, I was named President of the

24 Operational Forecast Division, in 1991 Executive Vice President of the company, and in  
25 2001 President and CEO. In addition to my executive responsibilities, I retain the role of  
26 Chief Meteorologist and continue to manage the Operational Forecast Division. A  
27 resume is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.01.

28 Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?

29 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present to the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”)  
30 a report prepared by Murray and Trettel, under my direction and control, that describes  
31 the weather conditions at the time that the storm system of December 23, 2007 was  
32 moving across the northern Illinois service territory of Commonwealth Edison Company  
33 (“ComEd”). That report is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.02.

34 Q. What, in sum, does your report conclude?

35 A. Beginning late on December 22, 2007, a line of showers and thunderstorms moved  
36 through the Southern Great Lakes Region. The system intensified most rapidly as it  
37 moved northward from near Peoria into Wisconsin. In the early morning of  
38 December 23, the system moved through northern Illinois, producing widespread  
39 damaging winds (defined by the National Weather Service as winds of at least 58 mph).  
40 Based on an analysis of the storm system, and a review of the speed of the system and  
41 individual cells within it, it is my professional opinion that significant portions of  
42 ComEd’s service territory, including most of Will and Cook counties, experienced  
43 widespread wind gusts in the range of 58 to 73 mph and isolated gusts of 73 to 82 mph.  
44 From a climatological perspective, the 48-year record wind gust measured at O’Hare  
45 airport indicates the severity and rarity of this severe weather occurrence.

46 Q. Do you adopt the report as part of this testimony?

47 A. Yes, I do.

48 Q. Does this complete your direct testimony?

49 A. Yes.