

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

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY	:	
	:	
Petition to determine the applicability of	:	No. 08-0416
Section 16-125(e) liability to events caused	:	
by the May 30, 2008 storm system.	:	
_____	:	Cons.
	:	
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY	:	
	:	
Petition to determine the applicability of	:	No. 08-0434
Section 16-125(e) liability to events caused	:	
by the June 15, 2008 storm system.	:	

Direct Testimony of  
**KEVIN B. BROOKINS**  
Vice President,  
Distribution System Operations

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1 **I. Introduction**

2 **A. Identification of Witness**

3 Q. Please state your name and business address.

4 A. My name is Kevin B. Brookins. My business address is 2 Lincoln Centre, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
5 Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.

6 Q. By whom and in what position are you employed?

7 A. I am Vice President, Distribution System Operations for Commonwealth Edison  
8 Company (“ComEd”).

9 **B. Summary of Testimony and Conclusions**

10 Q. What subject does your testimony address?

11 A. I address ComEd’s response to the interruptions resulting from the storm systems that  
12 moved across ComEd’s service territory on May 30, 2008 and June 15, 2008 (“May 30  
13 Storm System” and “June 15 Storm System,” respectively).

14 Q. What, in summary, does your testimony conclude?

15 A. For both the May 30 and June 15 Storm Systems, ComEd was prepared and was able to  
16 dispatch the resources required to support a timely and effective restoration effort.

17 **C. Background and Qualifications**

18 Q. Mr. Brookins, what are your current duties and responsibilities for ComEd?

19 A. As Vice President of Distribution System Operations, I am responsible for operating  
20 ComEd’s electrical distribution system, which is one of the largest in the U.S., serving  
21 about 3.8 million customers throughout Northern Illinois.

22 Q. Prior to your current position, what other positions did you hold at ComEd?

23 A. Prior to becoming Vice President of Distribution System Operations in April 2008, I  
24 served in a number of key executive and managerial positions, including Vice President,  
25 Work Management & New Business; Vice President, Customer Field Operations, for  
26 both ComEd and PECO; Director of Construction and Maintenance in ComEd's Chicago  
27 Region; and Director of Regional Operations in ComEd's Southeast Region. In these  
28 positions, I was able to sustain and improve performance; increase the productivity and  
29 safety record of ComEd's meter reading, field services, and meter services organizations,  
30 and reduce interruption frequency in Chicago and the city's south suburbs.

31 Earlier in my career, I held various engineering positions and supervised design  
32 engineers, including reviewing and approving electric distribution facilities at Navy Pier  
33 and the United Center. I became a Customer Design and Construction Superintendent  
34 responsible for new service connections on the north half of Chicago including the  
35 downtown area. As Electric Supplier Services Manager, I negotiated retail access rules  
36 with suppliers, consumer groups, and other interested parties at the Illinois Commerce  
37 Commission in preparation for retail customers choosing a supplier other than ComEd.  
38 Finally, I began my career as a ComEd corporate planning analyst.

39 All together, I have spent my entire 25-year career working for ComEd and other  
40 Exelon Corporation business units in a variety of positions.

41 Q. What is your educational background?

42 A. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Howard University in  
43 Washington, D.C. and an MBA from Governors State University in University Park,  
44 Illinois.

45 **II. Restoration Efforts**

46 Q. Do you have anything to add to Mr. Donovan's descriptions of the weather conditions  
47 that occurred on May 30, 2008 and June 15, 2008?

48 A. Not to his descriptions of the storms themselves. I do, however, want to note that ComEd  
49 monitored these storm systems as they approached and moved across our service territory  
50 and that our response to both storm systems was enabled and informed by our access to  
51 both National Weather Service and private meteorological data. I certainly agree with  
52 Mr. Donovan that, based on our experience in the field, both the May 30 and June 15  
53 Storm Systems were severe and caused damage to our systems that reasonable and  
54 prudent action could not have prevented. The appropriate response was effective and  
55 efficient restoration.

56 Q. Was ComEd prepared to respond to the outages resulting from the May 30 and June 15  
57 Storm Systems?

58 A. Yes. With respect to the May 30, Storm System, ComEd was able to deploy its own  
59 crews as well as four Trench-It crews from Wisconsin to respond. ComEd deployed: 144  
60 overhead construction crews, 77 other construction crews, 115 overhead electrician  
61 specialists (first responders and overhead facility trouble shooters), 131 vegetation  
62 management crews, 274 line patrollers and wire watchers, and 62 contractor crews. With  
63 respect to the June 15 Storm System, ComEd deployed the following: 180 overhead  
64 construction crews, 95 overhead electrician specialists (first responders and overhead  
65 facility trouble shooters), 85 other construction crews, 95 line patrollers and wire  
66 watchers, and 72 contractor crews as well as 153 crews vegetation management crews.  
67 ComEd also used 9 contractor crews from Wisconsin and Michigan. While we must

68 always meet the challenge of deploying our resources well as a storm develops, perhaps  
69 in unexpected ways, we did not experience shortages of manpower or equipment during  
70 the restoration efforts.

71 Q. How does ComEd ensure the competency of foreign crews?

72 A. According to existing contracts, contractors are required to provide competent and  
73 qualified personnel, which is defined as

74 Contractor shall employ and cause each Subcontractor to employ  
75 competent, appropriately trained, and experienced employees for the Work  
76 to be performed. Contractor shall have full responsibility for the conduct  
77 of all employees employed on or in connection with the Work (including  
78 employees of any Subcontractor) and will ensure that there is adequate,  
79 daily supervision of all Work. Contractor shall be familiar with and  
80 observe established and accepted labor practices, procedures, and project  
81 agreements.

82 Furthermore, they are required to maintain “all professional qualifications,  
83 licenses, permits, certifications and skills and appropriately complete all training required  
84 by applicable Laws or advisable to perform [such work].”

85 Q. How did ComEd dispatch crews in response to the May 30 and June 15 Storm Systems?

86 A. ComEd prioritizes its dispatch of crews and equipment during extreme weather using an  
87 established process, as detailed in its Storm Restoration Process Procedure, EP-ED-1001.  
88 Once ComEd’s Call Center receives an outage report from a customer, an outage ticket is  
89 created. Outage tickets are assessed by Operations Control Center and prioritized.  
90 Outage tickets for potential electrical contact, structure fires, and other hazardous  
91 conditions were dispatched first. The larger plan allowed for restoring feeder lockouts  
92 first and then device, transformer and service outages.

93 Q. Did ComEd continue to employ procedures designed to minimize overall outage  
94 duration?

95 A. Yes. In accordance with its procedures, ComEd followed a “cut & run” process whereby  
96 first responders restore customers by cutting wire in the clear, closing breakers at the  
97 station and field switching to pick up load. Field patrols were performed to determine  
98 more extensive damage on the remaining portion of the circuit/feeder that is not restored  
99 to identify damage and materials needed. Vegetation crews were dispatched to remove  
100 trees and limbs and Construction crews to make repairs as needed.

101 Q. What other efforts did ComEd undertake to speed the restoration process?

102 A. Due to the number of crews that were called in, additional dispatching and work package  
103 preparation capabilities were required to keep crews actively restoring customers.

104 Q. Was ComEd’s response to the interruptions resulting from the May 30 Storm System  
105 timely and effective?

106 A. Yes. ComEd responded to the interruptions in a timely and effective manner. 84% of the  
107 approximately 108,245 customers affected were restored within 10 hours from losing  
108 power and 91.8% within 12 hours. Given the nature and scope of the damage, this was  
109 an effective and timely restoration effort.

110 Q. Was ComEd’s response to the interruptions resulting from the June 15 Storm System  
111 timely and effective?

112 Yes. ComEd responded to the interruptions in a timely and effective manner. 54.8% of  
113 the approximately 139,000 customers affected were restored within 8 hours from losing  
114 power and 95.4% within 24 hours. Again, given the nature and scope of the damage, this

115 was an effective and timely restoration effort. I also note that the June 15 Storm System  
116 was the fifth major storm to move through ComEd's service territory in the ten preceding  
117 days. I am even more proud of our crews' accomplishments in restoring customers after  
118 the June 15 storms given that circumstance.

119 Q. Does this complete your direct testimony?

120 A. Yes.