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BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
LEONARD TAYLOR )  
v ) No. 12-0189  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY )  
Complaint as to billing/ )  
charges in Chicago, Illinois. )

Chicago, Illinois  
May 8, 2012

Met pursuant to notice at 1:30 p.m.

BEFORE:  
MR. JOHN RILEY, Administrative Law Judge.

APPEARANCES:  
MR. LEONARD TAYLOR  
702 East 89th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60619  
appeared pro se;

MR. MARK L. GOLDSTEIN  
3019 Province Circle  
Mundelein, Illinois 60060  
appeared for Respondent.

SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by  
Teresann B. Giorgi, CSR



1 JUDGE HAYNES: Pursuant to the direction  
2 of the Illinois Commerce Commission, I call  
3 Docket 12-0189. This is a complaint of  
4 Leonard Taylor versus Commonwealth Edison Company as  
5 to billing and charges in Chicago, Illinois.

6 And, Mr. Taylor, it's my understanding  
7 you're proceeding without an attorney at this point.

8 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I am.

9 JUDGE RILEY: And you're at 702 East 89th Street  
10 in Chicago?

11 MR. TAYLOR: That is correct.

12 JUDGE RILEY: And that's the service address  
13 you're complaining about.

14 MR. TAYLOR: That is correct.

15 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Goldstein, can I get an  
16 appearance from you.

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

18 For Commonwealth Edison Company,  
19 Mark L. Goldstein, 3019 Province Circle, Mundelein,  
20 Illinois 60060. My telephone number is  
21 847-949-1340.

22 With me this afternoon is Erin

1 Buechler of ComEd.

2 JUDGE RILEY: Thank you.

3 And at this time, Mr. Taylor, it looks  
4 to me that your complaint is pretty straightforward.  
5 Simply you're alleging that Commonwealth Edison  
6 simply isn't reading your meter. Do I understand  
7 from that you're just getting bills based upon  
8 estimated readings?

9 MR. TAYLOR: That is correct, sir.

10 JUDGE RILEY: When is the last time you received  
11 an actual --

12 MR. TAYLOR: That would have been August of '11.

13 JUDGE RILEY: So they have done nothing but  
14 estimated readings since last August.

15 MR. TAYLOR: Nothing but estimates.

16 There's a 6-foot fence around the  
17 property. I had to put the fence up due to gang  
18 activity and drug activity. The fence is all the  
19 way around the property. The back is locked and the  
20 front is locked. The only thing I have asked them  
21 to do is ring the doorbell, I would let them in to  
22 read the meter. It's a 4 minute process. And no

1 one has done this here.

2 JUDGE RILEY: Is this a single-family home?

3 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, it is. No dogs. No nothing  
4 to disturb them from getting in.

5 JUDGE RILEY: Is the meter on the inside of the  
6 home or on the outside?

7 MR. TAYLOR: It's on the outside.

8 JUDGE RILEY: So it's in the yard.

9 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. And it cannot be seen  
10 because of the back -- the garage covers the back  
11 part of the house. You can't see it.

12 JUDGE RILEY: Did Commonwealth Edison give you  
13 any reason why they're just doing estimated  
14 readings?

15 MR. TAYLOR: No, they did not. The supervisor  
16 came out in January and he told me that there's no  
17 reason that they shouldn't ring this bell to get  
18 access to read the meter. But they're just not  
19 doing it.

20 JUDGE RILEY: Are you alleging then that the  
21 billings that you receive are somehow erroneous  
22 because they're not doing readings?

1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I am.

2 JUDGE RILEY: What makes you think that the  
3 bills are erroneous?

4 MR. TAYLOR: Because I have read the meters in  
5 February and in March. It's altogether different.  
6 They have meter readings that they've been getting,  
7 and I have the readings. And any time they're  
8 supposed to read the meter and don't my bill seems  
9 like it goes up higher.

10 JUDGE RILEY: One thing I would note, the front  
11 of your complaint says, My meter is not being read  
12 since 2002 and up until 2012.

13 MR. TAYLOR: That is correct.

14 JUDGE RILEY: And you said the last actual  
15 reading --

16 MR. TAYLOR: The last actual reading is when I  
17 called and talked to a supervisor. He sent someone  
18 out to read the meter. That's the only time they  
19 came out.

20 JUDGE RILEY: Was that last August?

21 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

22 JUDGE RILEY: August, 2011. And they've all

1 been estimated readings since that time?

2 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

3 JUDGE RILEY: When did you move into this  
4 property?

5 MR. TAYLOR: In June of 2001.

6 JUDGE RILEY: And you've been getting estimated  
7 readings --

8 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

9 JUDGE RILEY: -- since 2002?

10 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

11 JUDGE RILEY: Except for that one supervisor --

12 MR. TAYLOR: Outside of the one supervisor.

13 JUDGE RILEY: Do you have any idea how much  
14 you've been overcharged, do you know?

15 MR. TAYLOR: No, I don't. Since the rates have  
16 gone up, I don't have any idea. I'm in the blind,  
17 really.

18 JUDGE RILEY: Okay. Mr. Goldstein, what's  
19 Commonwealth Edison's response?

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, at least since July of  
21 2011, except for one estimated readings, they've all  
22 been regular reads on this meter.

1 JUDGE RILEY: Is Commonwealth Edison using an  
2 ERT?

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, there's no ERT, but I don't  
4 have enough information here to tell you how they  
5 are -- we assume that the meter is being read via  
6 binoculars by a meter reader. The Company does not  
7 have remote reading devices on the meters.

8 JUDGE RILEY: You said there's a fence around  
9 the property?

10 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir, all the way around it.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: There's must be some way they  
12 are --

13 MR. TAYLOR: For example, say your desk there is  
14 that fence, where that border is downhill, you can't  
15 see over that fence, due to the fact if you're in  
16 the back on the left or if you're in the back on the  
17 right, you cannot see because the garage is directly  
18 in back of the back of the building. It's  
19 impossible. I even tried it with binoculars. You  
20 cannot do it.

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

22 MR. TAYLOR: And if you go into my neighbor's

1 yard, in 700, you'll get shot. The same thing  
2 before in '06, they had 2 Rottweiler dogs out there.  
3 That is one of the main reason I asked them to ring  
4 the bell so I could let them in to read the meter.  
5 They're not doing it, sir.

6 JUDGE RILEY: And, yet, Commonwealth Edison says  
7 that somehow there are actual reads being taken.

8 MR. TAYLOR: Well, "somehow" is not good enough.

9 JUDGE RILEY: Do you have any bills with you?  
10 Any copies of your actual bills?

11 MR. TAYLOR: May I approach?

12 JUDGE RILEY: Certainly.

13 MR. TAYLOR: (Indicating.)

14 JUDGE RILEY: This is an activity statement.

15 MR. TAYLOR: Right.

16 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Goldstein, would this say one  
17 way or the other --

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It would say regular bill on the  
19 activity statement, Judge.

20 JUDGE RILEY: One of the things I want to point  
21 out, Mr. Taylor, this is a bill, this is very  
22 recent. Okay, amount due on May 12, but it says

1 your previous reading was an estimate there --

2 MR. TAYLOR: Uh-hum.

3 JUDGE RILEY: -- and this is an actual reading  
4 here.

5 MR. TAYLOR: They say that it is an actual  
6 reading, but if you cannot see the meter, how do you  
7 read it.

8 JUDGE RILEY: Well, that's the question.

9 MR. TAYLOR: They can say anything, if they're  
10 reading it with binoculars, but if you cannot see  
11 it, you're not reading it. Ray Charles can tell you  
12 that, if he can't see it, he ain't going to read it.

13 JUDGE RILEY: Let the record reflect, however,  
14 that they are 2 bills in this collection of  
15 papers -- documents that the Complainant has handed  
16 to me. And on one where it says the amount due on  
17 May 29, 2012, there was an actual reading and the  
18 previous reading was an estimate. And I see that  
19 the other bill is just a duplicate of the one I just  
20 read. So there is, at least, one actual reading.

21 MR. TAYLOR: But they will say they are actual  
22 readings because of the simple fact they don't want

1 ComEd to know that they are not doing their job.

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I can say, Judge, and I'm just  
3 looking at the meter reading history for  
4 Mr. Taylor's account that, at least, for the last  
5 several months, say September of last year, the  
6 readings are progressive in nature and they look in  
7 pretty much in line every month with, you know,  
8 usage, that the usage is consistent over that period  
9 of time, also.

10 I guess what we can suggest to do,  
11 since we don't know how they're reading the meter,  
12 perhaps what we ought to do is continue this matter  
13 a couple of months and see if we can get the meter  
14 reading supervisor for the south region, or whatever  
15 it's called out there, to go out there and give us a  
16 report. We don't know how they're reading the  
17 meter. We can't tell from the information that we  
18 have --

19 JUDGE RILEY: Right.

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: -- how they're reading the  
21 meter. And I think that's a fair question, you  
22 know, particularly since Mr. Taylor described his

1 fencing in the area and his aggressive neighbor.

2 JUDGE RILEY: Mr. Taylor, is that acceptable to  
3 you?

4 MR. TAYLOR: That would be the only thing that  
5 can be done.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I also would be happy, Judge, to  
7 sit down with Mr. Taylor now, off the record, and  
8 try to discuss some kind of settlement with him. I  
9 doubt it would work. I think he's more interested  
10 in getting regular readings.

11 MR. TAYLOR: I know that they're reading my  
12 meter and I'm using the service, but I want my  
13 actual reading. That's what I want, is someone to  
14 come out each and every month, ring the bell and  
15 come in and read the meter and then go about their  
16 business. This is all I want.

17 JUDGE RILEY: You want a personal appearance  
18 from somebody from Commonwealth Edison.

19 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

20 May I show you this, Judge?

21 JUDGE RILEY: Okay.

22 MR. TAYLOR: (Indicating.)

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Let me suggest this also to  
2 Mr. Taylor.

3 MR. TAYLOR: This is the fence around the yard.

4 JUDGE RILEY: Right, I see it.

5 MR. TAYLOR: There's no way he could read it.

6 JUDGE RILEY: Okay.

7 MR. TAYLOR: And I'll show it to you  
8 (indicating).

9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Certainly.

10 MR. TAYLOR: All the way around, sir.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Here's what I suggest, Judge, in  
12 addition, perhaps when the meter reading supervisor  
13 goes out there, obviously, we're going to take  
14 pictures, too, and maybe what we also should do is  
15 contact Mr. Taylor prior to this person going out  
16 and make arrangements for them to be together as  
17 they go through, you know, the process.

18 JUDGE RILEY: Okay. Mr. Taylor, you are home  
19 most weekdays?

20 MR. TAYLOR: Most of them. The only time I'm  
21 not at home where I have doctors' appointments or  
22 like this here, I have to take care of business,

1 that's the only time I'm not home. But if I'm not  
2 home, leave me a message and your number and I will  
3 call you back as soon as I walk through that door.

4 JUDGE RILEY: And, Mr. Goldstein, what was your  
5 last comment?

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: You know, I think whoever goes  
7 out there to the premises should meet personally  
8 with Mr. Taylor and go through how they're reading  
9 the meter and so forth and so on.

10 JUDGE RILEY: Did you also want to have a moment  
11 with Mr. Taylor to talk about a settlement in this  
12 matter? You had indicated earlier that you did.

13 MR. TAYLOR: That would be fine with me.

14 JUDGE RILEY: Would that be all right?

15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

16 JUDGE RILEY: All right. Why don't I step out  
17 of the room and I'll let the parties speak freely.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Okay.

19 JUDGE RILEY: We're off the record.

20 (Whereupon, a discussion  
21 was had off the record.)

22 JUDGE RILEY: Back on the record.

1                   The parties have conferred with each  
2 other and without going into any further details  
3 we'll just say that the parties and the ALJ have all  
4 agreed to continue this matter from today's date to  
5 July 8 at 1:30 p.m. for status --

6           MR. GOLDSTEIN:   July 10th.

7           JUDGE RILEY:   Excuse me, I'm sorry, July 10 at  
8 1:30 p.m. for status.

9           MR. GOLDSTEIN:   Thank you, Judge.

10          JUDGE RILEY:   Thank you.

11          MR. TAYLOR:    Thank you.

12                               (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
13                               matter was continued to  
14                               July 10, 2012, 1:30 p.m.)

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