

Direct Testimony  
of  
Edmund W. Bliler  
Finance Department  
Financial Analysis Division  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
  
Commonwealth Edison Company

Docket No. 00-0200  
Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

August 15, 2000

1 **Q: Please state your name and business address.**

2 A: My name is Edmund W. Bliler. My business address is 527 East Capitol,  
3 Springfield Illinois 62701.

4 **Q: What is your current position with the Illinois Commerce Commission**  
5 **(“Commission”)?**

6 A: I am presently employed as a Senior Financial Analyst with the Finance Department  
7 of the Financial Analysis Division.

8 **Q: Please describe your qualifications and background.**

9 A: I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from Millikin  
10 University in Decatur, Illinois. I have been employed by the Commission since  
11 February 1990. I have previously testified before the Commission on financial  
12 issues.

13 **Q: Please state the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding.**

14 A: On March 2, 2000, Commonwealth Edison Company (“ComEd”) filed its petition for  
15 issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the proposed  
16 construction of an electric circuit in Lake County, Illinois pursuant to Section 8-406 of  
17 the Illinois Public Utilities Act (“Act”). The purpose of my testimony is to present my  
18 evaluation of the proposed construction under Section 8-406(b)(3) of the Act.

19 **Q: Please explain the requirements in Section 8-406(b)(3) of the Act.**

20 A: Section 8-406(b)(3) of the Act requires a utility to demonstrate that it is capable of  
21 financing proposed construction without significant adverse financial consequences  
22 for the utility or its customers.

23 **Q: Please summarize your findings.**

24 A: Having reviewed ComEd's petition in this proceeding, all supporting filings, and  
25 additional data provided, I believe ComEd is capable of financing the proposed  
26 construction without significant adverse financial consequences for the utility or its  
27 customers.

28 **Q: Describe the proposed construction and estimated cost.**

29 A: ComEd proposes to construct an electric circuit necessary to provide Indeck-  
30 Libertyville, L.L.C. ("Indeck") with access to the ComEd transmission system. The  
31 total estimated cost of the entire interconnection project is \$1,500,000. The  
32 estimated cost of the proposed construction for which a Commission certificate is  
33 required is approximately \$530,000.<sup>1</sup>

34 **Q: Will the cost of the proposed construction be financed by ComEd?**

35 A: Yes, but only for the period between invoicing by ComEd and payment by Indeck for  
36 the cost of the proposed construction. Invoices are due "net 30" per the terms of an  
37 Interconnection Agreement between ComEd and Indeck.<sup>2</sup>

38 **Q: How does the estimated cost of the proposed construction compare to**  
39 **ComEd's existing electric utility assets and revenue?**

40 A: As reported in ComEd's 1999 FERC Form No. 1, total utility plant for electric  
41 operations at December 31, 1999, was \$11,275,842,227. Total utility revenue for  
42 electric operations for the twelve months ended December 31, 1999, was  
43 \$6,766,892,026. The estimated cost of the proposed construction is \$530,000, or

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachments 1, 2, and 4 (ComEd answers to Commission staff data requests FD-1, FD-2, and FD-4 respectively).

<sup>2</sup> See Attachment 3 (ComEd answer to Commission staff data request FD-3).

44 approximately 0.0047% of total utility plant for electric operations and 0.0078% of  
45 total utility revenue for electric operations.

46 **Q: Have you assessed ComEd's ability to finance the proposed construction?**

47 A: Yes. As previously indicated, the cost of the proposed construction is to be  
48 reimbursed by Indeck. In addition, the estimated cost of the proposed construction  
49 is quite small in comparison to ComEd's total utility plant and revenue for electric  
50 operations. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that ComEd is capable of  
51 financing the proposed construction without significant adverse financial  
52 consequences for the utility or its customers.

53 **Q: What is your recommendation?**

54 A I recommend the Commission find that ComEd is capable of financing the  
55 proposed construction without significant adverse financial consequences for the  
56 utility or its customers.

57 **Q: Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

58 A: Yes, it does.