

Significant Electric Grid Modernization Work Under way in Park Ridge

ComEd is making infrastructure improvements benefitting the Park Ridge area – as part of its ongoing investment in the electric system and a result of the recently-enacted Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act.

In fact, ComEd has plans to treat or replace more than 6,000 feet of underground residential distribution (URD) cable in the fourth quarter of 2012. This cable will either be refurbished or replaced where necessary to reduce the number of customer service interruptions due to cable failures. This work will occur near Greenwood Avenue and Greendale Avenue; Dee Road and Woodland Avenue; and near Delphia Avenue and Greendale Avenue.

ComEd also installed one distribution automation device designed to improve performance and reduce interruptions. Distribution automation devices allow the utility to automatically detect issues on the system and re-route power around the problem, often with no noticeable interruption in service. This technology minimizes the number of customers affected by an outage by isolating the problem area and making automatic, real-time adjustments to the electric grid. This equipment was installed near Camp Ground Road and Parkview Lane.

ComEd has installed seventeen automatic fuse devices to improve reliability. These devices are used in place of a traditional fuse to minimize the number of interruptions caused by trees, wildlife, lightning, and other weather related outages. Examples of where these were installed are on Oakton Street near Busse Highway; near the intersection of Arthur Street and Greenwood Avenue and near Elliott Avenue and Habberton Avenue. Furthermore, ComEd installed additional devices near Peterson Avenue and Prospect Avenue; Stewart Avenue and Clifton Avenue and Gillick Street and Courtland Avenue.

ComEd also replaced approximately 1,600 feet of overhead cable with spacer cable as part of their storm hardening program. The locations of where this work occurred are along Home Street and Gillick Street to the west and south and north to Devon Avenue.

The work is part of ComEd's effort to provide even better reliability for area customers, prepare its system for the new demands of the 21st century economy and provide new ways for consumers to save on their energy bills.

Because the Illinois Commerce Commission is not fully funding the grid modernization program as required by the law, ComEd is forced to make modifications to its program to align the deployment of key infrastructure with the ICC decision. ComEd must delay installation of additional smart meters until 2015 as a result of the ICC ruling in May of 2012.