

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ComEd completes \$1.1 million in underground cable work to improve reliability for customers in SW suburban Cook County**

*To benefit customers in Midlothian, Oak Forest, Palos Heights and Palos Park*

**PALOS PARK, Ill.** (Dec. 11, 2009) – ComEd has completed a \$1.1 million project to replace or reinforce more than 7 miles of underground distribution cable in four suburban Cook County communities. The investment will improve reliability and reduce outage frequency for approximately 500 area customers directly served by those underground lines.

Underground cable can be damaged in many ways ranging from lightning striking the ground where the lines are buried to general wear and tear over time. Because the lines are buried underground, they can take longer to repair when a portion is damaged.

Throughout the year, ComEd proactively replaced more than 5 miles of cable in Midlothian, Oak Forest, Palos Heights, and Palos Park. On another 2 miles of underground cable, ComEd utilized a new “injection” technique that can add 20 years to the life span of existing cable. The cost-effective method involves injecting a silicone-based material directly into an underground line to help fill cracks in the insulation and improve cable life.

“This work was part of a systemwide \$26 million effort this year to proactively replace and reinforce more than one million feet of underground cable on our system,” said ComEd President and Chief Operating Officer Anne Pramaggiore. “This work will continue throughout 2010 and will cost-effectively benefit tens of thousands of customers for years to come in the form of less frequent underground outages.”

Some of the longest lengths of locally replaced and reinforced underground lines were located along 159<sup>th</sup> Street and Thomas Lane in Oak Forest, 131<sup>st</sup> Street and Harlem Ave. in Palos Heights, and 131<sup>st</sup> Street and LaGrange Road in Palos Park.

“These investments also reflect ComEd’s long-term commitment to improving our system and maintaining reliability for all customers. For example since 2001, ComEd has invested more than \$6 billion to expand and upgrade our transmission and distribution systems,” said Executive Vice President of Operations Terence Donnelly.

These investments have resulted in a 39 percent reduction in the frequency of customer interruptions since 1998, and a shortening of outage duration by 34 percent in the same period.

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*Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), one of the nation's largest electric utilities with approximately 5.4 million customers. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.8 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.*