



**For Immediate Release**  
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ICC Approves Bronzeville Community Microgrid, Nation's Most Advanced  
*Commission's decision emphasizes integration of renewables and battery storage*

Chicago, IL.... The Illinois Commerce Commission on Wednesday approved Commonwealth Edison Company's (ComEd) request to construct a full-sized, utility-scale microgrid in Bronzeville, a historic community located on Chicago's South Side.

Microgrids are small, localized electric grids that can operate independent of the main electric grid, providing redundant power in emergencies and supporting distributed generation facilities, such as community solar generation.

As proposed, the Bronzeville Community Microgrid will interconnect with an existing, fully functional microgrid at neighboring Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), creating one of the first microgrid clusters in the nation. The cost of the project is approximately \$25 million. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has committed \$5 million in federal grant funds for the project.

The project, which relies on integrated solar, battery storage and other renewable energy resources, received support from advocacy groups like the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). The microgrid will distribute electrical service to approximately 1,060 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Bronzeville, including the Public Safety Headquarters of the City of Chicago, housing the Chicago Police Department, and a medical facility, allowing the facilities to remain operating when disconnected from the rest of the grid in the event of extreme weather, natural disasters, or cyberattacks.

"With passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), the State of Illinois has expressed strong support for the development of carbon-free sources of energy including robust targets for distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, wind, and battery storage, especially in low-income areas," said ICC

Executive Director Cholly Smith. “Among the most important drivers of this project should be experience in the design and operation of distribution resources that allow high-penetration of DERs. We are requiring ComEd to consult with ICC staff to explore using more generation from distributed solar and batteries and less diesel generation, while balancing the cost of the resources necessary for the project.”

The Illinois Attorney General, CUB, EDF, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Vote Solar, the Illinois Competitive Energy Association, and Direct Energy participated in Docket No. 17-0331, offering technical and legal analysis.

The order also requires ComEd to submit reports to the ICC on the value and cost benefit of the project, including annual reports on the status of the project over the next 10 years; a Phase 1 report at the end of 2019; an initial metrics/cost benefit report in 2020; and a final report at the end of 10 years.

If you are interested in learning more about the Commission’s Final Order, click [here](#).

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#### ***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission’s Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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