



**For Immediate Release**

July 2, 2018

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## **ICC Requests Utilities to Share Price to Compare on All Electric Bills**

Chicago, IL...In order to better educate consumers about the price they are paying for their electricity supply, the Illinois Commerce Commission is calling for more prominent disclosure of the electric Price to Compare. The Commission's Office of Retail Market Development (ORMD) is requesting that regulated utilities, including ComEd and Ameren, display the Price to Compare on monthly electric bills for residential and small commercial retail customers.

This call to action is part of the ORMD annual report to the General Assembly and Governor issued Monday. In its eleventh year, the report is a requirement of the Retail Electric Competition Act of 2006 to describe in detail Illinois' retail electric choice market.

The Price to Compare, which reflects the charge for electric supply per kilowatt hour (kWh) that a utility charges a typical customer, is a key component to understanding an electric bill. In its report, ORMD also recommends that Alternative Electric Retail Suppliers (ARES) include the utility Price to Compare on any marketing materials that mention price per kilowatt-hour to residential or small retail commercial customers. Currently, the Price to Compare is available on the Commission's [pluginIllinois.org](http://pluginIllinois.org) website.

"Illinois consumers should know their current electric cost as they consider switching from ComEd or Ameren to an alternate supplier. The ICC wants to make this information as easy to find as possible, and the most efficient solution is for the Price to Compare to appear on all consumer electric bills – every month," said Jean Gibson, ICC Director of ORMD.

Consumers are responding as the average price of supply by ARES has increased. The number of customers being served by an alternate supplier has decreased almost 6% since last year. As of May 2018, about 1.77 million residential customers were on ARES service, compared to about 1.88 million customers a year earlier and over 3 million customers four years ago. Across the state, 38.5% of residential customers are taking supply from an ARES, down 2.4% from last year. Within the ComEd service territory, 32.4% of this same market have switched to an ARES, down almost 3% from the year

before. In the Ameren Illinois service territory, 59.1% of residential customers receive power supply from an ARES as of May 2018, which is very close to the customers served as of May 2017 (60.2%).

Statewide, customers spent \$195.3 million more than the utility PTC by taking ARES supply service in 2018, which is a 24.1% increase over 2017. Of that total, ComEd customers paid \$123.3 million more than the PTC in 2018, down from \$131.3 million in 2017. Last year, ARES customers in the ComEd territory on average paid 1.289 cents more per kWh than the PTC. Customers in Ameren territories spent approximately 1.073 cents/kWh more than the PTC by switching to ARES in 2018, which translates to total of \$72 million for the year, up from \$26 million in 2017. It should be noted that these spending levels are based on average supply costs as reported to the ICC by ARES.

The ORMD also recommends research on additional methods to better understand value-added incentives offered through the retail choice market, as well as overall market participation.

To read the full report visit: <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/reports/report.aspx?rt=22>

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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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