FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCC Statement: ComEd Continues Telling Half-Truths

Asks Ratepayers to Pay for a Substation That's Too Big and in the Wrong Place

CHICAGO, IL, Nov. 5, 2026 – Unsurprisingly, in its brief on exceptions to the Illinois Commerce Commission, ComEd asks the Commission to overturn the administrative law judges' recommendation against its proposed substation at 1111 W. Diversey Pkwy because they believe the judges' misunderstood what ComEd had filed—the DCC knows this does not pass muster required in this proceeding. The Attorney General, the Citizens Utility Board and the City of Chicago all filed in support of the judge's recommendation.

The Diversey Community Coalition (DCC) issued the following statement in response:

"The judges looked at the evidence and recommended against this substation as proposed. ComEd's answer is more of the same claims that do not hold up against its own testimony on the record.

Here is what ComEd says in their filing, and what it leaves out:

- **"The judges misunderstood our request." They did not.** ComEd says the judges evaluated five transformers when it only asked for three. The order addressed the three-transformer request and found it unsupported anyway. ComEd's own filing says it chose the Diversey lot because it can hold up to five, and that it typically plans for four to five. Customers are being asked to approve the first step of a five-transformer project and we agree with the judges that a substation of this size is not needed.
- **ComEd's own numbers undercut its urgency.** ComEd warns that a smaller project would run out of room around 2033. By its own account, that is how far two transformers would carry the area. The Attorney General and CUB point out that area growth has fallen by about half, to roughly 1% a year, and that 17 of 18 local substation terminals operate within capacity limits. Even the Commission Staff concedes the area will not reach 95% of capacity until 2033.
- **ComEd already owns a lot that fits two transformers.** ComEd rejected 2741 N. Clybourn, a vacant industrial lot it owns next to its existing Diversey substation, because it is too small for more than two transformers. If two transformers are enough, that lot is back on the table, with no river crossing and no new land purchase needed.
- **ComEd never did its homework on the alternatives.** In its Oct. 8 letter to Alderman Knudsen, ComEd admitted it did not evaluate all fourteen sites proposed by area elected officials and the DCC for cost. It refused to produce an alternatives matrix in discovery over the summer. It now tells the Commission that the alternatives would require tunneling under the Chicago River. None of the 14 sites that neighbors and our aldermen proposed requires a river crossing. Some ComEd called "not for sale" are actively marketed by commercial brokers and are for sale, again demonstrating they are not evaluating alternate sites earnestly.
- **Ratepayers should not carry the land.** ComEd bought the Diversey lot in 2020 and has held it since without an approved project. A parcel does not become the right site because a utility bought it first,

next to homes and an elementary school. Intervenors have asked the Commission to classify the lot as non-operating property, so customers are not billed for holding costs and taxes on it.

- **The Lincoln Yards record is still uncorrected.** ComEd's January filing said Lincoln Yards would use about 62% of the added capacity, while its public FAQ says that referred to an option it did not pursue. ComEd has yet to reconcile the two on the record. The City of Chicago has asked why ratepayers are subsidizing private developer loads.

This is the Wrong Site, Not No Site. We support a stronger grid, and we have shown ComEd where it can be built without putting homes, a school and a transit-oriented lot at risk. We are asking the Commission to uphold the judges, to require any smaller project to go through the full grid planning process at an alternate site, and to hold ComEd to the standard of showing its work before ratepayers are asked to pay the $253 million bill."

For more information and to file a comment on the ICC docket, please visit diverseycc.org.

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