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# City of Chicago Annual Summer Preparedness Hearing - Opening

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# David R. Perez

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



## Profile

David Perez is responsible for leading ComEd's overall performance in the areas of service reliability, operations, engineering, construction, safety, customer satisfaction, financial management and smart grid development.

ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC). ComEd delivers electricity to more than 4 million residential and business customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.

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## Professional History

Perez joined ComEd in 1995 and has held several roles of increasing responsibility during his more than 30 years at the company. Prior to his current role, Perez served as senior vice president of Distribution Operations, where he oversaw Distribution Operations for ComEd's more than 11,000-square-mile service area, including New Business, Construction and Maintenance, Field Operations and Regional Engineering. Other previous roles held at ComEd include vice president of Transmission and Substation — where he was responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of nearly 5,800 miles of transmission lines and over 2,300 substations — and vice president of Distribution Operations for the Chicago and Maywood regions.

Before joining the Operations team, Perez served as vice president of Work Management and New Business at ComEd, where he was responsible for more than 500 employees who managed construction and maintenance work plans and provided engineering and construction services for customers.

Across his more than 30 years of experience in the energy industry, Perez has also held managerial positions in Construction, Maintenance, Operations, Work Management and Technical Investigations at ComEd.

## Civic Involvement

Perez is a board member emeritus of the National Latino Education Institute, and an advisory board member of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Engineering and the Chicago Commons Governing Board. Perez also serves on the board of trustees for Lincoln Park Zoo, and the boards of directors for the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

## Education

Perez earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Good morning Chair Hadden, Vice Chair Knudsen and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your leadership on issues that are so central to the lives of Chicago residents.

Your leadership, engagement, and commitment to Chicago's communities are deeply appreciated.

I come before you not only as a utility executive, but as a partner who understands that reliable service, affordability and trust are deeply personal issues, ones that affect every household, every family, and every neighborhood across our city.

We recognize that the reality many of our customers are facing today is increasingly challenging. Rising costs for food, healthcare, housing and other essential goods are placing real

pressure on households. For far too many families, this has meant making difficult choices – between paying utility bills, purchasing medication or putting food on the table. We do not take this reality lightly. Over the past several weeks, our leadership—including Ajit Apte, our SVP Customer Operations—has met directly with multiple aldermen and ward teams to hear firsthand how affordability pressures are showing up in their communities. Those conversations, especially around seniors and low-income residents, are shaping how we think about programs, planning, and engagement heading into this summer.

ComEd's affordability work focuses on two goals: keeping costs we can control as low as possible through efficient operations and connecting customers to bill-support and energy-management tools when costs rise or circumstances change.

In 2025, in response to rising energy costs resulting from the recent Capacity Charge increase, brought on by the 2024 PJM auction, ComEd introduced the Customer Relief Fund, a one-time, \$10 million fund to support low-income residential customers and nonprofit organizations. ComEd estimates more than 13,000 customers in Chicago received a total of nearly \$4.6 million from the fund.

As of **Jan. 1, 2026**, ComEd's Low-Income Discount (LID) program provides qualifying customers a **percentage-based discount** on their monthly electric bill. ComEd estimates more than one-third of its more than 3.7 million residential customers could qualify. So far, more than 250,000 customers across our system have enrolled in the LID program. More than 122,000 of those are from Chicago. Through Q1, customers on LID have saved \$29.8 million.

Year-round, ComEd promotes a suite of programs that address both immediate bill concerns and long-term cost reduction. These include flexible payment arrangements, as well as tools that help customers anticipate and control usage. ComEd helps customers reduce consumption through its award-winning Energy Efficiency Program, which has saved customers more than \$13 billion since its introduction in 2008. In addition, ComEd works with community partners through resource fairs and outreach to connect customers to available support in one place. ComEd participated in 57 community events across Chicago, reaching more than 27,000 customers with information on consumer protection and scam prevention, energy management, solar energy, beneficial electrification and financial assistance programs.

We are also looking at programs to help small and medium-sized businesses who are in arrears to ensure they can continue to be a vital part of the community.

For ComEd, the best example of how we are being good financial stewards is our attention to providing reliable energy.

Chicago's electric system continues to perform at historically strong levels. In 2025, the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), which measures the average outage duration experienced by customers, reached 28 minutes. The System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), which measures how often customers experienced outages, was 0.32, which is the equivalent of one interruption every three years. Notably, more than 1.2 million Chicago customers experienced either no interruptions or just one interruption across the entire year. Since ComEd started implementing smart grid improvements in 2012, it has improved overall reliability by over 75%, helping customers avoid more than 27 million customer interruptions and saving more than \$5 billion in outage-related costs.

We are very clear-eyed that reliability is not static. That is why we continue to work with the City to explore additional collaboration opportunities, including:

- Aligning maintenance schedules with City construction to reduce disruptions
- Coordinating restoration priorities during major weather events
- And improving real-time situational awareness and communications before, during and after outages.

In January 2026, ComEd filed its next multi-year Grid Plan, covering 2028–2031. This plan reflects extensive technical analysis and stakeholder engagement, including collaboration with the City of Chicago.

The Grid Plan focuses on foundational investments, including:

- Modernizing and expanding substation capacity
- Replacing aging underground and overhead infrastructure

- Expanding grid automation and monitoring capabilities

It is designed to ensure that the electric system can continue to safely and reliably support Chicago's needs—today and in the future.

As demand grows from data centers, transportation electrification, advanced manufacturing, and residential electrification, the grid must be prepared. Infrastructure investment is what makes that possible.

While ComEd is fundamentally a poles-and-wires company, we understand our role extends far beyond infrastructure. We are one part of a broader ecosystem of support, and our impact is greatest when we collaborate. That is why our continued partnership with the City of Chicago is so essential.

Summer readiness is not a short-term exercise or a checklist completed in late spring. It is the result of **year-round planning, investment, and coordination**, and it is inseparable from our partnership with the City of Chicago.

That preparation includes infrastructure inspections, preventive maintenance, predictive risk analysis, crew training, materials staging and emergency response coordination. Just as importantly, it includes advance alignment with City departments, Aldermanic offices, and others—so that when work is required or when storms occur, roles are clear and information flows quickly.

A cornerstone of our partnership is ComEd's embedded presence within the City's Office of Emergency Management and Communications. This embedded liaison model—the first of its kind nationally—allows for real-time coordination during major events, ensuring that critical facilities, medical customers, and public safety priorities are clearly identified and addressed.

In closing, ComEd enters the summer season prepared.

That readiness reflects sustained investment, disciplined planning, data-driven operations, and—most importantly—strong collaboration with the City of Chicago.

We appreciate the Committee's oversight and engagement, and we look forward to continued dialogue throughout the summer and beyond.

We're happy to take any questions.

Thank you.

