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## BUSINESS

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## Big building owners fight ComEd hike

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI Business Reporter

Owners of large Chicago buildings like the Sears Tower fear that a proposed delivery rate increase for ComEd could increase their electric bills by 28 to 45 percent in 2007.

Patrick Giordano, a lawyer for the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago, said buildings face a "triple whammy" -- a hike in the delivery cost, an expected increase in the cost of power after 2006 and the end of a

discount for electric-heated buildings. BOMA represents 270 buildings, of which more than 100 are heated by electricity.

The delivery rate increase for business customers was proposed Aug. 31 to the Illinois Commerce Commission, which takes about 11 months to consider increases.

ComEd wants to charge customers in a "very fair way" so that those who incur more costs for delivery have to pay

more, according to Paul Crumrine, ComEd's director of regulatory strategies and services.

Crumrine said most of ComEd's 340,000 business customers will have a delivery rate hike of 2 to 5 percent. He said 40 of the largest customers would see delivery costs increase bills by up to 25 percent, because they are not served off high-voltage lines and cost ComEd more to serve.