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August 9, 2006

Mr. Kevin Burke
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, New York 10003

Dear Mr. Burke,

As reports begin to emerge about the condition of the distribution system in Western Queens, it appears to me that we still have more questions than answers.

I understand that the useful life of transmission cables is 40-50 years, and that some of the components that failed during the blackout were as old as 67 years. Further, in your report to the Mayor, you advised that the average age of the components that failed was 31 years. To me this indicates that the system in Western Queens is very near the end of its useful life.

In order for me to understand the nature and breadth of problems in Western Queens, I would appreciate it if you would respond to the following concerns:

1. Please provide an itemized list of Con Edison's equipment (including cables and transformers) in Western Queens that is older than 30 years old, specifying age, type and location.
2. What is Con Edison's timetable for replacing equipment in Western Queens?
3. What is the design load for your system in Western Queens under normal operating conditions? What is your contingency?
4. How close did the system in Western Queens actually come to the design load during July and August 2004, July and August 2005 and July 2006?
5. What is the emergency rating for Western Queens? How long can Con Edison operate in Western Queens at that emergency rating?
6. If you reach the limit on your overload, what is your load shedding procedure?
7. What was the load at the time the power outage began on July 17, 2006? What was the load as it accelerated during the rest of the week?
8. What is the load under normal operating conditions?
9. What is your maintenance protocol?
10. How does your current maintenance protocol differ from the maintenance protocol that

- was in effect 10 years ago? 20 years ago?
11. How often do you check the equipment in your system?
 12. Is your official maintenance schedule being followed?
 13. Do you have a plan in place to replace older cables and other ancillary equipment? Is the plan being followed generally? Is the plan being followed in Western Queens?
 14. Do you have a list of equipment in a central location where it is easily accessible by your key planners and engineers?
 15. How many maintenance employees did Con Edison have in 1990? How many maintenance employees does Con Edison have now?
 16. What percentage of your maintenance employees have more than 10 years experience? What percentage of your maintenance employees have less than five years experience? What percentage of your maintenance employees have less than one year of experience?
 17. What has been the load growth in Western Queens over the last 20 years?
 18. What is your projected load growth in Western Queens for the next 10 years?
 19. How are you planning to handle are growth over the next 10 years?
 20. Have there been any changes in load distribution in Western Queens?
 21. Are there any plans to build a new substation in Western Queens?
 22. What changes, if any, has Con Edison made with respect to its distribution system to deal with load growth or changes in load distribution?
 23. I understand that Con Edison reported the system in Western Queens recorded breakdowns 71 times in 2005 and 60 times in 2004, more than any other Con Ed underground network in both years. Further, in 2000-2003, Western Queens ranked in the top four worst networks in the city. I am told that in the last rate case, Con Edison was permitted over \$1 billion for maintenance. What is the exact amount Con Edison was supposed to spend for maintenance this year? What amount has been spent this year prior to July 17, 2006? What amount was spent this year to upgrade Western Queens prior to July 17, 2006?
 24. Prior to the power outage, was Western Queens considered a priority for maintenance by Con Edison? If not, why not?
 25. What repairs is Con Edison planning to do in Western Queens in the next year? Five years?
 26. Are these repairs consistent with Con Edison's pre-existing maintenance schedule or is this a change from the pre-existing maintenance schedule? If it is a change, what is the change?
 27. How much of the maintenance funding from the last rate case is being spent in New York City? What amount is being spent outside the city?
 28. How much of the maintenance funding is being spent to upgrade the aging distribution system?
 29. New Yorkers were shocked to learn that Con Edison has no way of determining that they are without power, and that they have to call your office to tell you that the power is out. Even then, Con Edison was refusing to take action. During the early days of the power outage, my office was advised to tell Western Queens customers that they had to have their own electricians determine whether the lack of power was their fault before Con Edison would send workers out to repair the power outage. What is being done by Con Edison to ensure that in the future it will have a way of determining which of its

- customers are without power?
30. What is being done by Con Edison so that in the future it will be able to identify precisely where power failures are occurring?
 31. I understand that Con Edison knew that it would take at least a week before power was restored to many customers, but it did not notify the community. This had extremely costly consequences for businesses who did not take steps to minimize their costs by obtaining generators, foregoing deliveries or sending employees home. What changes in policy are being made so that customers will receive accurate information about how long repairs will take?
 32. What is Con Edison doing to ensure that in a future power outage, there are sufficient generators available for customers who are without power?

Thank you for your prompt response to these inquiries.

Very truly yours,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY

Member of Congress

CBM/mre

Please reply to:
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