

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case 09-E-0428 – Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. for Electric Service Reliability Performance Mechanism – Outage Restoration Performance

**REPORT OF
CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.
CONCERNING SERVICE OUTAGE RESTORATION
FOR OCTOBER 29-30, 2011 STORM**

The Reliability Performance Mechanism approved in the Public Service Commission’s “Order Establishing Three-Year Electric Rate Plan,” issued March 26, 2010 in this proceeding (“2010 Rate Order”), contains a Restoration Metric that measures Con Edison’s restoration time for radial system outage events classified in the Company’s Emergency Response Plan.¹ The Restoration Metric provides for Con Edison to “file a compliance report with the Commission within 30 days following any restoration period for which the restoration mechanism applies, detailing its performance relative to the restoration mechanism, and noting any exceptions that would apply.” In compliance with this requirement, Con Edison is providing the following information regarding the storm that affected the Company’s service area beginning October 29, 2011.

On October 29, 2011, Con Edison’s service territory experienced a historic nor’easter which produced a heavy, wet snow of unprecedented depth for so early in the season across southeastern New York State. Snowfall amounts reported by the National Weather Service ranged from 0.5” - 6.0” in New York City to 6.5”- 12.5” in Westchester County. Many trees still possessed much of their foliage on October 29. The leaves collected large amounts of the heavy, wet snow which produced excessive stress on trees, causing many trees and large tree limbs to fall on power lines. Damage began to occur to trees with as little as one inch of wet snow. Wet snowfalls, which usually occur later in the fall or winter when fewer leaves are on the trees, have not historically produced as much tree damage as experienced in the October 29 storm.

¹ 2010 Rate Order, Joint Proposal, App G, pp. 10-11.

Light rain began to fall in New York City before dawn on Saturday. As heavier precipitation began to fall during the late morning, the rain quickly changed over to heavy, wet snow with temperatures falling to 33-34 degrees. Snow accumulated across the City from late morning into the afternoon. Over Westchester, precipitation began as light snow in the late morning, and quickly became heavy during the afternoon; and it continued throughout the evening. The storm produced moderately strong winds: generally sustained winds of 15-25 mph with peaks gusts in the 30s (37 mph at LGA, 35 mph at JFK, and 33 mph in White Plains). In addition to the extensive tree and tree limb damage, the precipitation and cold temperatures caused hazardous icing conditions on roadways throughout the northern reaches of our service territory, abating only in the early morning hours of October 30th, and coinciding with our “end of storm” determination at 05:00 hours.

The storm interrupted service to 135,913 customers representing approximately 4,098 lead tickets that included one or more individual restoration jobs in New York City and Westchester County. Due to the widespread nature of the storm (19,482 customer outages in New York City and 116,431 customer outages in Westchester County), an estimated time of restoration (ETR) was established for each area: New York City – October 31 at 23:59 hours (43 hours after the end of the storm) and Westchester County – November 2 at 23:59 hours (91 hours after the end of the storm). The Westchester County ETR corresponded with the “global” ETR for the Company’s entire service area.

The Company’s global estimated time of restoration of 23:59 hours on November 2 for the restoration of service to the majority of customers impacted by the storm was accurate in that 90.9% of the service outages (123,545 customers) were restored within that period. By November 3 at 15:23 hours (106.5 hours from the end of storm), 95% of the service outages throughout the entire service area (about 129,117 customers) had been restored. Substantially all customers (99.99% or 135,900 customers) were restored by 13:00 hours on November 5 (152 hours from the end of storm). The final 13 customers, all located in Westchester County, were restored by 01:00 hours on November 6. All New York City customers were restored by 14:00 hours on November 4.

Based on the system damage and number of customers out of service, Con Edison classified this storm as a “3 – Full Scale” overhead event. The Standard Storm Emergency Classification Matrix in Con Edison’s Emergency Response Plan classifies “3 – Full Scale” storms as causing catastrophic damage to the electric system involving over 1,000 restoration jobs. For this event, the restoration involved approximately 4,098 lead tickets that included one or more individual restoration jobs. For 3 –

Full Scale events, Con Edison's Standard Storm Emergency Classification Matrix provides a restoration goal of a period exceeding four days (96 hours) based on the applicable circumstances. Con Edison restored service to 94.6% of customers within 96 hours (4 days) and substantially all (99.99%) customers within 152 hours (6.3 days).

The Restoration Metric contains an "Overhead Events" matrix that provides target time periods for service restoration ("Restoration Targets") for six categories of outage events ("Emergency Levels").² The Overhead Events matrix provides a Restoration Target of four days from the end of a storm for a "3B - Full Scale (Tropical Storm)" Emergency Level and seven days from the end of a storm for a "3B - Full Scale (Hurricane Category 1-2)" Emergency Level. Con Edison restored service to 94.6% of customers within four days of the end of the storm and to 99.99% of customers within 6.3 days. The Company met the restoration target for this event.

Dated: December 2, 2011

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² 2010 Rate Order, Joint Proposal, App G, pp. 10-11.