



1                   7/10/2025 - Public Statement Hearing - 25-E-0072,  
2   25-G-0073

3 (The hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m.)

ALJ KERSEY: I call cases 25-E-0072,  
and case 25-G-0073, Proceedings on motions of the  
Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules, and  
Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New  
York, Inc., for electric and gas service.

9 My name is Tara Kersey, and with me is  
10 Chief Administrative Judge, Dakin Lecakes. I, along  
11 with Judges James Costello and Judges (sic) Nicholas  
12 Planty, have been assigned for the Department of  
13 Public Service to these rate cases. Chief  
14 Administrative Judge Lecakes is with me today to  
15 preside over this public statement hearing held on  
16 behalf of the New York State Public Service  
17 Commission regarding the proposed changes in the  
18 electric and gas delivery rates and practices of the  
19 Con Edison Company.

20                   Before we begin, we would like to say  
21           thank you to New York State Senator Comrie's office  
22           for helping arrange the location for tonight's  
23           hearing.

24 Con Edison filed amendments to its  
25 electric and gas tariff schedules on January 31st,



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3           on Con Edison's proposals for the Commission's  
4           consideration.

5 In making its decision, the Commission  
6 will consider the evidentiary record in these cases  
7 and the comments made at this hearing.

8                   The Public Service Commission has  
9           seven members -- the chairperson, Rory Christian, and  
10       six commissioners, James Alesi, David Valesky, John  
11       Maggiore, Uchenna Bright, Denise Sheehan, and Radina  
12       Valova.

13                   Statements that you make today will  
14           become part of the record. The court reporter here  
15           will prepare a transcript of the hearing, which will  
16           be included in the record of these proceedings, so  
17           that your comments can be considered by all members  
18           of the Commission. When it is ready, the transcript  
19           will be available for public view on the Department  
20           of Public Service's website.

21 Today's hearing is not a question-and-  
22 answer session; we are here only to listen to your  
23 comments. However, if you do have any questions or  
24 concerns related to your particular bills, Con Edison  
25 has staff, and they have materials here. They have

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3 provided a dedicated phone number and email for  
4 customers to get information and to speak directly  
5 with, regard to customer service and billing  
6 complaints. You can obtain those materials. They're  
7 on that table right there.

8 We have members of our Consumer  
9 Service's staff for the Department of Public Service.  
10 They're here as well, and they can assist you with  
11 questions or complaints regarding your utility  
12 service.

13 If you do not wish to speak at today's  
14 hearing, but you would like your views included in  
15 the record, there are other ways to comment. You can  
16 submit comments on the Department's website by  
17 regular mail or by phone. Information regarding  
18 these other methods are available from the  
19 Department's Office of Consumer Services staff, who  
20 are seated right here.

21                   Regardless of how the comments are  
22           submitted, whether you state them here or by the  
23           other -- the other means that I just mentioned, all  
24           comments are given equal consideration. According to  
25           the Secretary's notice for this event, comments must

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3           be received by November 21st, 2025, to ensure that  
4           the Commission is able to consider them prior to  
5           their final decision.

6                   If you would like to make a statement  
7           here tonight and you have not done so already, again,  
8           please fill out a registration card. The cards are  
9           available with our outreach staff right here. I'm  
10          going to call speakers up one by one, using the cards  
11          that have been filled out, in the order in which they  
12          were received. Please speak slowly and clearly so  
13          that the court reporter can accurately capture your  
14          statement for the record. Please be respectful when  
15          delivering your comments. Finally, I'd ask that  
16          everyone silence their phones.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. I  
18 don't know if I'm allowed to -- if I am allowed to  
19 ask a question? Can I ask a question?

20 ALJ KERSEY: You can ask a question  
21 right now, but it's not really a forum for questions  
22 and answers. Go ahead.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

24 Senate representative for Con Edison?

25 ALJ KERSEY: Con Edison has customer

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3 service folks that are here. But this is not -- we  
4 are not here to -- we are not here as an information  
5 session. This isn't an information session.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So in other  
7 words, (indiscernible) here, I want to know why  
8 they're arranging -- why they're quoting an increase.

9 ALJ KERSEY: You're here --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

11 of the increase, so what is -- what is --

12 ALJ KERSEY: You're here to discuss --  
13 that information is on the Department of Public  
14 Service's website, all of the information concerning  
15 that. So this is for you to --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
17 (Indiscernible).

18 ALJ KERSEY: -- this is for you to  
19 make your comments heard about the proposal that's in  
20 front of us. So if you'd like to say something about  
21 the proposal, please fill out a card and come on up  
22 here and make your comment on the record. We'd be  
23 happy to hear from you. That's why we're here.

24                   PETER:     I hope those are anonymous.

25 ALJ KERSEY: So our first speaker --

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3                   PETER:     And I hope -- I hope if I  
4       say something, that it's somewhat anonymous.  You  
5       have my name --

6 ALJ KERSEY: Typically, we put these  
7 on the record because you're making a public comment.  
8 So I would now say what your name is and say that  
9 you're able to come up here and speak.

10 PETER: I noticed that the names are

11 (indiscernible) --

12 ALJ KERSEY: Do you want me to just  
13 say your first name?

14 PETER: Yes.

15 ALJ KERSEY: Would you like me --

16 okay. Absolutely.

17 PETER: I would like that.

18 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. No problem. So  
19 our first speaker is Peter.

20 PETER: Okay. Thank you.

21 ALJ KERSEY: Okay?

22                   PETER: Thank you.

23 ALJ KERSEY: Sure. Now, if you don't  
24 mind, just so the court reporter can get it down.  
25 Okay. Thank you.

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3 PETER: Hello. I can't tell you how  
4 worked up I am to have the opportunity to speak to  
5 Con Edison in person. In past years, I've sought out  
6 these hearings, but they've often been in very  
7 inconvenient places, Upstate, et cetera. I only  
8 found out about these hearings today -- yesterday,  
9 actually, on a New York-run television station. I  
10 noticed that there's nothing about the hearings on  
11 the ConEd.com website, or at least it is very  
12 difficult to find.

13 I'm here because I'm frustrated,  
14 particularly in the winter, by bills exceeding 750  
15 dollars for a single family home that I'm not even in  
16 half the time. I noticed that the supply charges are  
17 only half of the cost. The rest of it is for  
18 delivery, 300 or 400 dollars a month, even when my  
19 system is working perfectly.

20 My home does not require any special  
21 attention, but the money is collected every month for  
22 me, and a similar percentage from others like me,  
23 this excessive amount. I'm a senior citizen and  
24 there are a lot of other senior citizens in worse  
25 positions than I am. How many times has a neighbor,

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3        or somebody I know, turned to me, when we see work  
4        being done on our street by Con Ed, and there's one  
5        Con Ed worker in a hole, and there are five others  
6        standing around at the rim of that hole talking to  
7        each other.

8                         Although the CEO, I'm sure, is being  
9         paid a ridiculously exorbitant amount and probably  
10        will be getting paid more, I think that the average  
11        worker is probably overpaid as well.

12                   Is anybody holding Con Ed to account?

13           It feels like a renegade company able to do whatever

14           it wants. Are they not our employees? What are

15           they? Are they public or are they private? If

16           there's a public aspect, then they are our employees.

17           Are any of our lawmakers digging deep into the cost

18           numbers that Con Ed shares, the confusing numbers

19           that nobody understands?

20 And now, more money is wanted for  
21 infrastructure and of supposed changes to greener  
22 energy, or something like that. I feel that the  
23 increases that Con Ed asked for are unwarranted.  
24 They shouldn't get any kind of increase. The prices  
25 are too high, high enough, if not too high. I fear



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ends meet. Many of us are already experiencing significant increases in our electric and gas bills, simply due to the cost increase because of unusual weather patterns that we've been experiencing throughout the year, specifically hotter summers and colder winters. There are many families which are working two and sometimes three jobs, simply to keep up with all of the bills that they're now faced with.

The reality is that while Con Edison is calling for an eleven percent rate hike, few, if any of us, have the luxury of having our salaries increased by eleven percent. I would further suggest to you that in many instances, were it not for balanced billing, many households would simply be in significant arrears or would have received shutoff notices on their utility bills.

Con Edison provides service to over 3.6 million customers, and gas service to approximately 1.1 million customers in New York City and Westchester. In addition to paying for the delivery of gas and electric service, we also pay for the actual amount of gas and electric used, both of which has continued to increase at a rate beyond the

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3 cost of living.

4 In addition to paying these increases,  
5 along with them are increases in the amount of taxes  
6 being paid to New York State, New York City, an MTA  
7 surcharge, and other surcharges. I do not simply  
8 blame the PSC for the financial pain being inflicted  
9 upon many families throughout our city and state. I  
10 also hold our elected officials complicit and  
11 responsible for this crisis.

12                   The truth is that the governor and the  
13           State, and City-elected officials are ultimately --  
14           ultimately responsible for imposing these taxes and  
15           fees, and they have never seen a fee or a tax that  
16           they did not like. I would, for once, like to see  
17           them roll back or eliminate a tax or a fee. But of  
18           course, that's wishful thinking. While I encourage  
19           the PSC to reject any rate increase, I also encourage  
20           my fellow residents to join me in going to the polls  
21           in 2025 and 2026 and use their voice to -- use their  
22           vote to voice their displeasure.

23                   Let's stop continuing to vote for the  
24           same old elected officials over and over again, and  
25           instead vote them out and replace them with people





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3                   So I want to know, with inflation,  
4           with wages being stagnant, with people being laid  
5           off, with being squeezed for health care -- some  
6           people will no longer get the coverage that they  
7           had -- with property taxes increasing -- and actually  
8           the property taxes in the area that I live in,  
9           Cambria Heights, is actually higher than what it  
10          should be when you look at comparable neighborhoods.

11                   So I'm wondering, with all of this  
12           converging on us at the same time, how are we  
13           supposed to endure a double-digit hike in electrical  
14           prices. So what we're actually going to see, we're  
15           going to see more deaths in the winter as well as the  
16           summer. You're going to see deaths of people who are  
17           dying from heat stroke, overheating, because they're  
18           afraid to put on the air conditioning. You're going  
19           to see deaths in the winter through people freezing  
20           to death because they are afraid to put on their  
21           heating. This is the reality.

22                               And this is -- it doesn't matter  
23           whether you are working or not. I think we're all  
24           enduring the same pressures, economic pressures. And  
25           I feel that with things have been ratcheted up on us,





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3 always serving us.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's true.

5 MS. DOLLY: They serve the people who  
6 fund them.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

8 MS. DOLLY: Who is funding us? Who is  
9 looking out for us? We're the majority, but no one  
10 is listening. And so this is why we're frustrated.  
11 This is why we're here. And I can guarantee if more  
12 people knew about this, this place would be packed.  
13 You wouldn't be able to fit them in here. No one  
14 wants another hike in a vital resource, energy. You  
15 might as well cut off our air and our water. You  
16 might as well do that, because that is what it is.  
17 These are vital resources. We cannot do without  
18 heat, without cool in the summer. We can't do  
19 without these things. So this is not a game for us.  
20 This is real.

21 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you. Thank you for  
22 your comments.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's on the  
24 record, yes.

25 ALJ KERSEY: Our next speaker is

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3 Claudia Gray.

4 MR. GRAY: Hello, everybody.

5 IN UNISON: Hello.

6 MR. GRAY: How are you doing? I am  
7 late, so I don't have the privilege or the advantage  
8 to know who are sitting at the table, but I think I'm  
9 being told you're not Con Ed.

10 ALJ KERSEY: I am an administrative  
11 law judge with the Public Service Commission. My  
12 name is Tara Kersey. This is our chief  
13 administrative law judge at the Public Service  
14 Commission, Dakin Lecakes. And this is our court  
15 reporter who is taking all of the comments down for  
16 the record.

17 MR. GRAY: So are you representing us,  
18 or you are a neutral body?

19 ALJ KERSEY: The Public Service  
20 Commission is the decision maker when it comes to the  
21 Con Ed's rate proposals, the ultimate decision maker.

22 MR. GRAY: So you are representing us?

23 ALJ KERSEY: We represent the Public  
24 Service Commission.

25 MR. GRAY: The people, the residents?

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3 (Cross-talk)

4 MR. GRAY: I'm not clear.

5 ALJ KERSEY: We represent -- we  
6 represent a state agency that represents the  
7 Governor's Office.

8 MR. GRAY: So the answer is, no,  
9 you're not representing us?

10 ALJ KERSEY: You're representing you  
11 here tonight.

12 MR. GRAY: Okay. Okay. I'm not  
13 clear, but it's not important at this moment.

14                                Good afternoon. Thanks for the  
15                                opportunity to provide feedback on Con Ed's proposed  
16                                price increase, which we, from the 210 Street Block  
17                                Association. object to. It's simple, not affordable.

18 Con Ed's Annual Reports brags: Con  
19 Ed, Inc. is one of the nation's largest investor-  
20 owned energy delivery company with approximately 15  
21 billion in annual revenues, 15 billion in annual  
22 revenues. The Company's revenue for the -- for the  
23 twelve months ended March 31st, 2005, was over 15  
24 billion dollars, up by over 8.49 percent. We, the  
25 residents, cannot afford an increase.

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3                   On average, each year in New York  
4       State there are about 350 heat-related deaths in New  
5       York City. More than 500 New Yorkers die prematurely  
6       because of hot weather each summer, per the New York  
7       Health Department. We, the residents, cannot afford  
8       an increase.

9 The proposed increase would see an  
10 average increase of up to 95 dollars per month for  
11 the average QV household. Small commercial  
12 businesses could see an increase of over 203 dollars  
13 per month. Our income isn't keeping up with Con Ed  
14 escalated costs. Our salary increase, if we're  
15 lucky, is between zero to four percent. The average  
16 CEO salary is above 200,000 dollars plus bonus. The  
17 average executive salary of Con Ed is over 200 and  
18 1,000 (ph.) K per year, plus bonus, stock incentive,  
19 et cetera. Con Ed's CEO makes over 100 million  
20 dollars a year, twenty-six percent above the average  
21 CEO salary.

22                   Every company has operational costs,  
23       which include infrastructure improvements.  Con Ed,  
24       like most other businesses, must invest back into its  
25       company.  It's indeed offensive for them to imply

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3       they're doing improvements, which results in  
4       escalated costs to us, the residents. To reiterate,  
5       we just can't afford an increase and are actually  
6       requesting a reduction.

7 I am representing my block because we  
8 need a decrease in our bills. To the citizens in the  
9 room, I suggest to you, in October, one day per week,  
10 we just reduce our Con Ed usage. We can't really  
11 boycott Con Ed, but could we reduce our usage for one  
12 day per week. Would that impact their P&L, their  
13 eight percent increase on our backs?

14 Now, many people I spoke to responded,  
15 "It's such a waste of time. They always win. They  
16 do what they do. It's just so they can enter  
17 something in the public comment that the community  
18 had a chance to speak, and it's a done deal." Am I  
19 naive to think my representation tonight will impact  
20 the decisions, would actually reduce the -- would  
21 actually scale back the increase? Would actually  
22 consider it's expensive to live in Queens. It's  
23 expensive to live in New York. Most of us in this  
24 room are middle class, and I sound like I'm living as  
25 a homeless person. I feel like I have to beg.

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3 Now, I went to school and got my  
4 degree. I did everything I needed to do. I became a  
5 homeowner. Yet today, I feel like I'm begging. So I  
6 am begging the decision maker to actually reduce our  
7 energy bill.

8 I thank you for the time. Residents,  
9 citizens, we have more power than they think. I  
10 think we can respond by not using their energy or  
11 reducing their energy use. In October, they will  
12 feel that. Thank you for your time.

13 Claudia Gray, from 210 Street Block  
14 Association. I'd like to enter this into the record,  
15 it's rushed, so please forgive the mistakes.

16 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you.

17 ALJ LECAKES: Thank you very much.

ALJ KERSEY: So I just want to -- I want to take this moment to explain, because I know some people came in late, what our role is in this process. So the Public Service Condition -- Commission, excuse me, has to consider the utilities proposal. So the utility has come in -- Con Ed has come in, and they've made a proposal to raise the rates. Under New York State Law, the Public Service

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3           Commission is the organization that would adopt that  
4           proposal but could also modify it, adopt it, or  
5           reject it.

6                   So at this time, the Commission must  
7           decide these cases. There are two cases as I had  
8           mentioned earlier, 25-E-0072, and 25-G-0073. And on  
9           our website [www.dps.gov](http://www.dps.gov), there is a search box, and  
10          if you put those case numbers in, you can see all the  
11          filings that have come through, or that are going on,  
12          correspondence, things like that. You can make  
13          public comments on our website.

14 But at this time the Commission has to  
15 decide these cases by December 30th, 2025. That date  
16 may be subject to further extensions, but that's  
17 where we stand now.

18                   Regardless of how the cases proceed,  
19           the Public Service Commission will make the final  
20           decision regarding the Company's terms and conditions  
21           for providing the electric and gas service. And so  
22           this hearing was being held, and is being held, so  
23           that you, the public, can provide your comments on  
24           Con Edison's proposals.

25 As I had mentioned, there are other

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ways you can -- we would love to hear from everyone in this room, anyone who would like to speak. If you just want to come up and fill out a card, our Consumer Services Office will bring us that card and you can make a public statement. Otherwise, you can also put comments on our website, or by telephone. Our website, again, I'm sorry -- it's DPS -- it's [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) -- my apology on that. But you can get information on what our website is, and our information, we've got handouts up here, so that you can get that information so that not only can you make that comment today, but if you're not comfortable with public speaking, or want to think about it, or whatever, you can make your comments by email or by telephone as well.

18                   So we are going to -- does anyone else  
19       have a public comment that they would like to make?  
20       Would anybody else like to speak tonight?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, you

22 said 25-what?

23 ALJ KERSEY: Yes. Sure. The case  
24 numbers are, 25-E -- E stands for electric --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So E, that's

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3 25-E?

4 ALJ KERSEY: --0072.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 0072.

6 ALJ KERSEY: And 25-G, that stands for

7 Gas --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

9 ALJ KERSEY: -- 0073.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: These are the

11 proposals you said, right?

12 ALJ KERSEY: That's correct. That's

13 correct.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you,

15                    ma'am.

16 ALJ KERSEY: That's the information on

17           our -- on the website.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very

19                    much.

20 ALJ KERSEY: Yes, ma'am.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

22           ever, let us say, that Con Edison, is ridiculous, the

23 increases if you do not approve it, do you ever say

24 no, or it's just -- that's just a way to

25 (indiscernible), but it seems to me that it's a waste

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3 of time.

4 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. We're going to --  
5 we're going to go off the record.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You are going  
7 off the record?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're what?

9 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. We are going off  
10 the -- we are going to go off the record.

11 (Off the record)

12 (On the record)

13 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. So we are back on  
14 the record. And this is the continued recalled  
15 comment -- further comment, I should say, from  
16 Jacqueline Dolly.

17 MS. DOLLY: Yes, thank you.

18 ALJ KERSEY: Certainly.

19 MS. DOLLY: Yeah. So I wanted to make  
20 it clear to everyone that we went through a general  
21 election recently, presidential election, where there  
22 were promises made that energy costs -- one of the  
23 big promises made was that energy costs would come  
24 down. And we were inundated with the phrase, "Drill,  
25 baby, drill", and we had that drilled into our brains

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3 as the answer to energy costs coming down. We're now  
4 being subjected to the possibility of double-digit --  
5 double-digit hikes in the cost of energy after we  
6 were promised, energy costs would be lowered.

7                   That's coming on the heels of a bill  
8           that was just pushed through, which is going to  
9           impact us within the next twenty-four months. We are  
10          going to be witnessing the type of hardship people  
11          have not had in a long time, in multiple generations.  
12          We're going to be subject to that.

13                   And so this is like an -- this is an  
14           insult. On top of all of that, this is an insult to  
15           our intelligence, an absolute insult. And I see this  
16           as a battle of David versus Goliath. So we now have  
17           to weigh the benefits of whatever Con Edison is  
18           saying, the benefits that they're -- I'm sure they're  
19           going to come with infrastructural benefits. They're  
20           going to come with all of that, without even  
21           considering the human costs to these hikes. And  
22           believe me, they have put in the highest hike they  
23           can possibly put in -- that's what they're  
24           proposing -- with an understanding that it will be  
25           negotiated down.

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So I think that this is like three-card monte, where we are being told that there is an option for this to be off the table. I think that option does not exist. I think it is either we put it in -- so it's like we give you thirteen to eighteen-percent hike, or you negotiate down from that. So you compare thirteen to ten percent, ten percent looks better. Compare it -- thirteen to five percent, six percent, eight percent, it looks better. It doesn't feel better to us, though. It doesn't feel better. It doesn't feel better.

And so the reality is, is that they are strategizing to have a hike no matter what. They're not stupid. They're not going to come in without knowing that this is going to be negotiated down. They know that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What do they want?

MS. DOLLY: Right? We're between a rock and a hard place here. So it's either we are -- we are David, in this story, people. We are David. We're the boy, David. They are the Goliath.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Maybe one









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3       surcharge pricing during certain times of the day.  
4       From 8 a.m. to midnight, we are charged more for our  
5       electricity.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

7 MS. AYANNA KAALUND: And that's  
8 more -- they have to make their money, and I  
9 understand it's even more so in the summertime. So  
10 right now people are struggling financially, and it's  
11 not right to propose such a high hike in rates.  
12 There needs to be a middle ground or something that  
13 works for the common man. Thank you very much.

14 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Marelva Brison.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BRISON: Thank you for having me.

18 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you.

19 MS. BRISON: Thank you for allowing me  
20 the opportunity to speak. I'm an educator, a highly-  
21 educated citizen, and I have been living here in  
22 Queens Village for nearly thirty years. I'm at my  
23 retirement age. However, I'm not able to retire  
24 because all of our bills and obligations are rising  
25 much higher than our salary.







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3       should do -- Con Edison can be our target. Yeah. We  
4       can sit in our backyards, and fan, and do whatever we  
5       need to do, fan ourselves with -- by hand, so they  
6       will feel it. It won't be for long because they want  
7       that money. So I think that we should think about  
8       that, talk about that, and go public with it, and  
9       hurt them in their pockets. Thank you.

10 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you. Do we have  
11 anyone else that would like to speak this evening, if  
12 you would?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what I  
14 need?

15 ALJ KERSEY: Just fill out a card,  
16 yeah.

17 (Pause)

18 MS. FRANCINE KAALUND: Can I go right  
19 up there now?

20 ALJ KERSEY: Yes. You can go right  
21 up; you're right.

22 Okay. We're still on the record,  
23 folks. And our next speaker is Francine Kaalund.

24 MS. FRANCINE KAALUND: Good evening.

25 ALJ KERSEY: Good evening.

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MS. FRANCINE KAALUND: My name is Francine Kaalund. I didn't plan on speaking because I really wanted to just hear what was going on today. But as I'm sitting here, and I'm listening, and I listen to this -- this teacher. I'm a former teacher, and I'm on a retired teacher's salary. And let me tell you something -- it ain't -- it ain't all that great. If I didn't own my home, I would not be able to survive in New York because the rents in New York are crazy, 3,000 dollars a month, 4,000 dollars a month, who makes that kind of money; who does?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Con Ed.

MS. FRANCINE KAALUND: You can't survive. And you pick up Social Security, and so it helped you to survive, but for how long? With the increase in Con Edison, the increase in Brooklyn Union, et cetera, it's ridiculous.

I get my bill, and I look at my bill, my cost for carrying Con Edison and my other utilities are more, sometimes double or triple what I actually used in electricity, which makes no sense. Why should I have to pay you so much money just to use electricity, or to use gas, or any other utility

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3           that I have? It makes no sense.

4 And you want to charge me more? What  
5 do you want me to do, because you can't even buy dog  
6 food, because that's expensive. So what am I  
7 supposed to eat? What am I supposed to do about my  
8 hypertension medicine? What am I supposed to do if I  
9 have a heart attack? What am I supposed to do if I  
10 have diabetes? I'm supposed to not get my  
11 medication? Let's be real about this. People who  
12 are asking for these raises, they don't understand  
13 what the common person goes through.

14                   You have these people that wanted to  
15       speak -- and spoke of hundred -- how much money these  
16       companies' -- the executives are making, why are they  
17       making so much money? How come their salary can't be  
18       cut? How can they have all of that money? They  
19       don't live down here with us. They don't understand.  
20       It's expensive, and it's not a joke. And it's very  
21       serious. When you see your neighbors, especially  
22       senior citizens, can't make the bill. And we, who  
23       can get around, check up on them, and their house  
24       feels like an oven, an oven. You can't breathe.  
25       Some of them have COPD and other infirmities (sic)







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3 community with honor, and I will hope that I'll be  
4 able to continue to live in New York City, but with  
5 all the, you know, increases that New York City is  
6 now bringing forth to the residents.

7                   So with that being said, I also have a  
8           mother and my three aunts that own homes here in  
9           Queens. This increase and that also in-between '74  
10          and '85, three homes between us -- well, four with  
11          mine, this proposed increase is going to affect the  
12          seniors in our neighborhood in such a detrimental way  
13          where they can barely afford their mortgages now on  
14          their fixed incomes.

15                   My siblings and I, we all still live  
16           in Queens, and it's affecting our whole community.  
17           We have family dinners, the discussion around the  
18           table is that -- the rising cost of everything. So  
19           with this proposed eleven percent increase, is going  
20           to hurt working American families of Queens, and all  
21           of New York. So please, hopefully, someone will  
22           consider that this increase doesn't need to happen at  
23           this rate, at this time.

24 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you. Is there  
25 anyone else who wishes to make a statement? We will

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3            sit here.

4 (Conferring with Judge.)

5 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. We have someone  
6 else who wants to come and make a statement in about  
7 ten minutes. Senator Comrie will be here in ten  
8 minutes and would like to put a statement on the  
9 record. So we're just going to go off the record for  
10 ten minutes, and we're going to wait for the senator  
11 to come and make a public comment

12                                If anybody else would like to speak,  
13            though, in the meantime, please, come fill out a  
14            card; we would love to hear from you.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: While people  
16 decide to speak, is there an economist in the room?

17 ALJ KERSEY: We're just going to --  
18 we're going to go off the record, though, until the  
19 senator -- the senator gets here, or we receive any  
20 more cards.

21 (Off the record)

22 (On the record)

23 ALJ KERSEY: Okay. We are on the  
24 record, and we have another speaker this evening,  
25 Senator Comrie.

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SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you. Good evening, everyone. I want to thank the Commission for coming out to Queens and being out here at the Charles Mixon Center here in Queens Village. It's an opportunity for the public to come out.

I am State Senator Leroy Comrie. I represent this area in the 14th Senate District, and I chair the Corporations, Authorities and Commission in the State Senate. And we wanted to thank you again for creating another opportunity for the public to offer input to the impending decision regarding Con Edison's rate case.

Earlier this year, we hosted a roundtable with stakeholders, including parties to this rate case, to give legislators more insight into the rate case process, and some of the challenges seen by parties of the rate cases.

New York is frequently cited as one of the most unaffordable states to live in, and this is an opportunity to make everyone aware of how utility increases affect constituents and the fact that the Department of Public Service has an obligation to make sure that this feedback is considered in the



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3           limitations are hindering the best possible outcome  
4           with rate cases and need to be addressed is  
5           legislatively.

6                   During this year's session, my  
7           colleagues and I sponsored legislation that would  
8           create a (audio interference) Commission that is  
9           acting on behalf of the public. We passed out -- we  
10          put out a Rate Hike Notice Senate Bill, 5555-B, which  
11          would be straightforward, and it requires that if  
12          utilities are going to raise your rates, they must  
13          tell you clearly, directly and in multiple formats  
14          before it happens.

15                   It's unacceptable that many customers  
16           only find out about a rate hike after they've already  
17           been hit with a higher bill. This bill would bring  
18           transparency into the process by requiring utilities  
19           to notify customers via text, email, and on their  
20           monthly bill. Also S2460, a Consumer Representation  
21           Bill, that we have legislation that would bring  
22           consumer voices back to the table by adding a  
23           representative from the Consumer Protection Stability  
24           Division's Utility Intervention Unit to the State  
25           Energy Planning Board, which would help make certain

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3       policy decisions that affect our wallets and well-  
4       being, should include the people who actually pay the  
5       bills, not just industry insiders or bureaucrats.

6                   We passed that bill. Unfortunately,  
7           it didn't make it to the Assembly. It's going to  
8           hopefully get passed this year. And there are  
9           other -- several other bills included in the Utility  
10          Affordability Package, and I hope that the Governor  
11          will sign those also. We want to do whatever we can  
12          to make sure that we do more to ensure that the  
13          Public Service Commission, when they look at these  
14          rate cases, look at really how it impacts people.

15                   They want -- I'm trying to stay on  
16       script to make my staff happy, but I want to jump off  
17       script for a minute. The issue with the rate cases  
18       and the public, and the way that the folks have an  
19       ability to access it is too unwieldy, it's too --  
20       it's too difficult, even for folks that are experts  
21       at it, to really impact these cases. It's truly  
22       unfair to the public. The system needs to be  
23       changed.

24 I just want to bring up another issue  
25 regarding Con Edison specifically and the fact that









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3        opportunity to have more impact on these rate cases,  
4        to understand them better, and to better help the  
5        Public Service Commission really help the public by  
6        lowering bills and not increasing them.  Thank you.

7 ALJ KERSEY: Thank you, Senator.

8 Thank you.

9 Do we have any other folks who would  
10 like to speak?

11                   Okay. I want to remind you again, you  
12           can submit comments on the Department's website,  
13           www.dps.ny.gov by regular mail or by phone. Again,  
14           information regarding these alternative methods is  
15           available from our Office of Consumer Services'  
16           staff. You can submit comments regarding these  
17           proceedings by these other means that I described,  
18           even if you spoke today, and you must do so by  
19           November 21st, 2025, for those comments to be  
20           considered.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Say again?

22 ALJ KERSEY: November 25th (sic),  
23 2025. Again, I want to thank you for your  
24 participation today. I want to thank you to Senator  
25 Comrie, and his office, and his staff for

(The hearing concluded at 7:56 p.m.)

