

August 14, 2020

To: Governor Andrew Cuomo
County Executive George Latimer

CC: PSC Commissioner John Howard
NYS Senator Peter Harckham
Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
County Legislator Catherine Borgia

On behalf of the residents of our communities, we are calling for decisive action to hold Con Edison accountable for its grossly unsatisfactory performance following Hurricane Isaias. Con Edison had nearly a decade to prepare for the next storm following Hurricane Irene (2011) and Superstorm Sandy (2012); however, the utility's response was as lackluster as it was then with thousands of customers without power for six days or more. We therefore ask that Westchester County, the State of New York or another public authority acquire Con Edison's assets through eminent domain OR Con Edison's license be canceled and its franchise given to another utility.

Con Edison has revenues in excess of \$12 billion, net income above \$1 billion and more than \$40 billion in assets. Although these resources exceed those of some countries, Con Edison's customers continue to be left in the dark.

After Superstorm Sandy, Con Edison announced a four-year, \$1B upgrade program. Despite this, the Public Service Commission identified 43 possible violations by Con Edison during an ongoing enforcement action regarding the utility's response to Winter Storms Riley and Quinn in 2018. After blackouts in 2019, the Governor stated: "Con Ed does not have a franchise granted by God — you can look through the Bible...We're getting to the point where Con Ed is going to have to deliver or we're going to have to find a different delivery mechanism."

Despite these warnings, after Hurricane Isaias struck, Con Edison failed to deliver the reliability it promised its customers. Even though Con Edison charges its customers the highest rates of any major investor owned utility, thousands of customers waited six days or more for restoration.

Following every storm, Con Edison leadership claims to have learned important lessons and vows to improve its performance for the next storm. Nearly every season, Con Edison lets its customers down.

It is time for us to end the charade and solve the problem once and for all. We need root and branch reform. We need Con Edison to be replaced by either a public power agency OR another qualified private utility.

All utilities in New York are licensed to operate by the state and regulated by the Department of Public Service's Public Service Commission. The state has the power to revoke a license. Under Section 360 of the General Municipal Law, municipalities may also acquire and operate utilities through eminent domain--a proposal championed by the late Westchester County Executive Alfred DelBello.

Investigations, fines and public condemnation have proven to be inadequate to give our constituents the utility service they deserve. After many missed opportunities for improvement by the incumbent utility, it is time to empower the public and put a new team in charge of our electricity.

Sincerely,

Linda Puglisi, Supervisor

Brian Pugh, Mayor

Gary Zuckerman, Supervisor

Greg Luisi, Mayor

Paul Feiner, Supervisor

Vincent Rossillo, Mayor

Matt Slater, Supervisor

Anthony Colavita, Supervisor

Tom Murphy, Mayor

Chris Burdick, Supervisor

Ronald Belmont, Supervisor/Mayor