

BEFORE THE
STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Consolidated Edison of New York Inc.

Case 08-E-0539

August 2008

Prepared Testimony of:

David S. Morrell
Utility Analyst 3
(Environmental)
Office of Electricity and
Environment
State of New York
Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

1 Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. David S. Morrell, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany,
3 NY.

4 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

5 A. I am employed by the New York State Department
6 of Public Service (DPS) as a Utility Analyst 3
7 (Environmental) in the Office of Electricity and
8 Environment.

9 Q. Please summarize your educational and
10 professional background.

11 A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in
12 Forest Resources Management from West Virginia
13 University in 1985. I have 20 years experience
14 in the utility regulatory industry. For the
15 last 17 years, while at the DPS, I have worked
16 on matters dealing with electric transmission
17 right-of-way (ROW) related items including
18 transmission siting, construction, monitoring
19 and ROW vegetation management. Specifically,
20 over the last 12 years, I have reviewed all
21 aspects of New York utility's electric
22 transmission ROW maintenance programs including
23 utility ROW vegetation management plans,
24 budgets, and vegetation management practices.

1 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this
2 proceeding?

3 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present my
4 recommendations addressing Consolidated Edison
5 Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison or the
6 Company) transmission ROW vegetation management
7 rate year expenditures.

8 Q. In your testimony, will you refer to, or
9 otherwise rely upon, any information produced
10 during the discovery phase of this proceeding?

11 A. Yes, I will refer to, and have relied upon, the
12 Company responses to Staff Information Requests
13 (IR's) attached as Exhibit___ (DSM-1).

14 Q. Have you reviewed Con Edison's proposed rate
15 year expenditures for transmission ROW
16 vegetation management?

17 A. Yes. The Company's proposed expenditures cover
18 a number of program areas such as routine ROW
19 maintenance activities, which include herbicide
20 applications, hand cutting and mowing; danger
21 tree removal, trimming and ROW edge reclamation.

22 Q. Do you support the expenditures proposed by Con
23 Edison?

24 A. Not entirely. There is one portion of the

1 proposed expenditure that I do not support.

2 Q. Please identify what portion of the Company's
3 proposed rate year ROW management expenditure
4 requires an adjustment in your opinion.

5 A. My adjustment concerns a proposed expenditure
6 identified in the Company's response to Staff IR
7 DPS-89 contained in Exhibit___(DSM-1). In that
8 response, Con Edison proposed an expenditure of
9 \$670,000 for Danger Tree work in the rate year.

10 Q. Is this forecasted expense reasonable?

11 A. No. In Exhibit___(DSM-1), the Company states
12 that the actual amount of Danger Tree work for
13 the rate year is not known. Hence, it is not
14 reasonable to forecast an expense of \$670,000
15 when the amount of work is unknown.

16 Q. What is your rate expenditure recommendation
17 regarding this part of the program?

18 A. Since the Company is not sure of the actual
19 amount of work that needs to be completed, if
20 any at all, I recommend that this expenditure of
21 \$670,000 be adjusted to zero.

22 Q. Do you recommend any other adjustments to the
23 Company's filing?

24 A. No.

1 Q. Does this conclude your testimony at this time?

2 A. Yes.