



LOCAL 1-2 UPDATE

Thursday, June 26, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRIKE LOOMING AT CON EDISON

- Labor Chief Charges Con Edison with forcing a labor dispute.
- Labor mediator called in as Saturday (June 28) midnight deadline draws near.

Utility Workers Local 1-2 President Harry J. Farrell has charged that Con Edison has made zero movement on crucially important issues and has treated the negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement in a cavalier, blasé fashion. “It certainly seems Con Edison wants to provoke a labor dispute and has not been bargaining seriously,” said Local 1-2 President Farrell. The Local represents 9000 Con Edison utility workers in New York City and Westchester County, including linemen, underground cable splicers, meter readers and clerical employees, among others. These are the people who keep the lights on, make sure your air conditioners and computers are able to operate and arrange for you to have power at your new home if you are about to move. Farrell said, “If the Company tells you it can handle all emergencies during a labor dispute, it is not being candid with you.”

With the contract expiration date staring it in the face, Con Edison still has proposals on the table that it knows full well that the Union cannot accept and, unless they are withdrawn, will assure there will be no deal. One of those proposals would have injured employees have to pay for their own workman’s compensation benefits out of their pensions. This proposal is not only illegal, it is also unethical and immoral, the Union contends.

The people who will be most affected by Con Edison’s intransigence will be the good people of New York City and Westchester County, especially the elderly and infirm. “With just a little over 48 hours to go to hammer out an agreement, it does not look promising,” said Farrell.

**UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
LOCAL 1-2, AFL-CIO**