1	3/4/2025 -	Public Service Commission
2	25-E	-0072 and 25-G-0073
3	S	TATE OF NEW YORK
4	PUBLI	C SERVICE COMMISSION
5	25-E-0072 - Proceed	ing on Motion of the Commission as
6	to the Rates, Charg	es, Rules and Regulations of
7	Consolidated Edison	Company of New York, Inc. for
8	Electric Service	
9	25-G-0073 - Proceed	ing on Motion of the Commission as
10	to the Rates, Charg	es, Rules and Regulations of
11	Consolidated Edison	Company of New York, Inc. for Gas
12	Service	
13	Тес	hnical Conferences
14	DATE:	MARCH 4, 2025 at 11:05 AM
15	LOCATION:	Webex
16	BEFORE:	ALJ JAMES COSTELLO
17		ALJ TARA KERSEY
18		ALJ NICHOLAS PLANTY
19		
20		
21		
22	Reported by Cassidy	Holland
23		
24		
25		

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3	(The hearing commenced at 11:05 a.m.)
4	ALJ KERSEY: Good morning again
5	everyone. We will now commence with the technical
6	conference portion of today's events. As was
7	described in the February 6th notice, Con Edison will
8	provide an overview of the electric and gas rate case
9	filings. The parties will be afforded the
10	opportunity to ask questions so that they may become
11	better informed about the scope and nature of the
12	rate filings. A transcript of the conference will be
13	prepared, but understand that the presenters are not
14	under oath, and in conformance with the Department's
15	procedural rules, any facts outlined this morning are
16	privileged. 4.4(b) of our rules state, "Facts
17	disclosed in pre-hearing conferences shall be
18	privileged. Except by agreement, they may not be
19	used against participating parties unless proven by
20	independent evidence." Con Edison's presentation is
21	meant to assist the parties in understanding its
22	filing, but the conference does not replace the
23	discovery process, and it should not be treated as
24	such.

With that, I will turn things over to

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Con Edison.
MR. KONECNI: Thank you, Your Honors.
I'm going to turn it over to Kelly McLaughlin, our
assistant controller, to begin the presentation.
THE COURT REPORTER: I'm so sorry,
Judge. I don't know who that was
MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Good morning,
everyone.
THE COURT REPORTER: that just said
that. I'm sorry, Judge.
MR. KONECNI: Oh, I'm sorry. That
was Joshua Konecni.
THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. KONECNI: And I'm going to be
turning it over to Kelly, K-E-L-L-Y, McLaughlin.
MS. MCLAUGHLIN: McLaughlin. And the
spelling is on the slide on the screen.
MR. KONECNI: Oh, yes.
THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Good morning
everybody. As Josh said, I am Kelly McLaughlin,
assistant controller here at Con Edison. And I am
kicking off the tech conference, and you will see the

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3	agenda on the slide right now on the screen. I have
4	a few of my colleagues here with me to dive a little
5	bit deeper into the respective investments that we
6	have underlying our revenue requirement request.
7	We have tried to summarize hundreds of
8	pages of testimony and exhibits and white papers into
9	an hour presentation here in about 20 slides. We've
10	culled out the information we think will be helpful
11	to summarize our requests at a high level and provide
12	some context around some key projects and
13	initiatives.
14	Please feel free to ask questions as
15	we move through the material, although we may have to
16	keep moving at points to keep us on schedule here.
17	So I will kick us off summarizing the financial
18	highlights, and then I will pass it along to my
19	colleagues to go into a bit more detail. With that,
20	Cheryl, can you go to the next slide, please?
21	The proposed electric revenue
22	requirement. As you can see, the request for rate
23	year one is \$1.6 billion, or an 11.4 percent total
24	bill impact. Now more than half of that increase
25	comes from components relating to our rate base and

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3	capital investments, including property taxes, which
4	makes up about 25 percent of the increase. Financing
5	costs comprised 210 million, being driven by a 10.1
6	percent ROE. We included a lower ROE ask in our
7	filing below what our expert testimony supports in an
8	effort to mitigate the total rate request.
9	Pensions and OPEBs are a bit of a
10	tricky one. There's some accounting nuances in that
11	bar there. They actually provide an offset to total
12	revenue requirement because it is a credit. However,
13	in comparison to what is in current rates, there is a
14	decrease in that credit, resulting in an increase in
15	costs. The O&M increase is due approximately one
16	third to higher labor costs, mainly in customer ops
17	and IT. We have some increased FTE requests as well
18	as increased operational costs. And finally, the
19	forecasted revenue requirement has about a 3.2
20	percent increase in sales in our initial filing that
21	is helping to mitigate the revenue requirement
22	slightly. And I can if there's no questions on
23	electric, I can move on to gas.
24	For gas, the rate request for rate
25	year 1 is 440 million, or 13.3 percent total bill

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3	impact. And similar to electric, more than half of
4	that increase comes from components relating to our
5	capital investments. One item that is different in
6	acknowledging the life of the gas system will not be
7	as long as traditionally it had been due to State
8	policy goals. We proposed an accelerated
9	depreciation of gas assets, reducing useful lives by
10	five years. This adjustment accounts for about half
11	of the increase in the depreciation expense. Also
12	note that the property tax was 15 percent of the
13	revenue increase for gas.
14	Financing pension and OPEB and O&M are
15	the same story as electric. For sales, however,
16	there is a slight increase in the revenue requirement
17	due to a forecasted reduction in sales volumes in
18	rate year one of about three percent versus where we
19	currently are.
20	So in addition to these amounts
21	discussed directly reflecting revenue requirement,
22	our filing also requests the continuation of EAMs and
23	reconciliation provisions on property taxes, pension
24	and OPEBs, and as well as customer expenses
25	customer uncollectible expenses, I should clarify.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 2 3 MR. LANG: Hi. This is Kevin Lang. 4 On the gas depreciation, you said you guys were 5 seeking accelerated depreciation. Is that across the board on every account or just on certain accounts? 6 7 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: That's on every 8 account. 9 MR. LANG: So if you have some 10 account --11 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I'd have to -- let me 12 check. 13 MR. LANG: Yeah. Go ahead. I'm 14 sorry. 15 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Let me -- yeah. Hold 16 on. I have to phone a friend here. 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kevin, it's on the long list. It's on the longest-lived assets. 18 19 It's on the long -- the larger pipes and mains. 20 MR. LANG: Okay. So it's not on stuff 21 that has, like, a five- or ten-year service life 22 right now, right? 23 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Correct. 24 ALJ KERSEY: Hold on. This is --25 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: This is rate two.

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3	Okay.
4	ALJ KERSEY: Thank you. So this is
5	Tara Kersey. Please just remember to identify
6	yourself when you're talking for the court reporter.
7	Thank you.
8	MR. LANG: And one other question. In
9	what you have presented here, your shared services,
10	are those just allocated between electric and gas?
11	And could you tell us what the percentages are that
12	you're using in this case, because I don't remember
13	seeing them.
14	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: So for the O&M
15	expense, is that what you're referring to, Kevin?
16	MR. LANG: Well, you have shared
17	services
18	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: You're just O&M.
19	MR. LANG: I mean, I think there's
20	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. The shared
21	MR. LANG: capital shared services
22	and there's O&M shared services.
23	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: So capital does not
24	get allocated to steam. They're separate
25	interdepartmental rent charges that go through for

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3	capital. But for the O&M expenses for shared
4	services so IT, cust ops, finance, facilities,
5	that is 77 percent it changes up slightly
6	depending on kind of which bucket whether or not
7	it's an ANG (phonetic) or customer account. But it's
8	about 77 percent electric, 16 percent gas, and 7
9	percent steam.
10	MR. LANG: Okay. And to the extent
11	like, for example, your buildings for Irving Place
12	that you have caused those are in what you just
13	showed in the last two pages, those are included in
14	the electric and gas, right? They're not being dealt
15	with separately?
16	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: That's correct.
17	MR. LANG: Okay. Yeah. The reason I
18	was asking is I saw in a filing that you guys just
19	made on capital improvements, you actually had pulled
20	out shared services and were treating them
21	differently from electric CapEx and gas CapEx, which
22	I hadn't remembered seeing before. And I just wanted
23	to make sure that what we're looking at here are
24	totals.
25	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm not sure is

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3	that the long-range planning filing you're referring
4	to, Kevin?
5	MR. LANG: No. It was a year-end
6	report I just looked at yesterday. I think it was
7	your electric capital, but it showed shared services
8	treated separately.
9	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Maybe if we move
10	to if there's no other specific questions on O&M,
11	maybe if we move to the next slide on capital, that
12	might help too.
13	MR. LANG: Yep.
14	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: So here's a summary
15	of the three-year ask for capital. So you'll see for
16	electric it's 14.6 billion, gas is 3.1 billion, and
17	then I did not include in the buckets but I noted at
18	the below the common, which is 3.9. And that gets
19	allocated 83/17 between electric and gas
20	respectively. So the common is embedded in the
21	revenue requirement ask that you saw in the first two
22	slides. And you can
23	MR. LANG: Okay, but
24	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: maybe give a go
25	ahead.

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3	MR. LANG: Yeah. This is Kevin Lang
4	again. Just wanted this is actually the other
5	place I had seen it where you have the common capital
6	investments at the bottom. Are those
7	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Uh-huh.
8	MR. LANG: divided between core
9	clean resilience and multi-value? Or how are those
10	allocated amongst the different categories?
11	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: In the interest of
12	time to submit the slides to everyone last week, I
13	did not include the breakout, but we can follow up
14	with a breakout for the common investments.
15	MR. LANG: Okay. So there is a
16	breakout. They don't all fall in one category, I
17	guess, is all I was looking for.
18	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, that is
19	correct. So to maybe help describe the categories
20	that we're highlighting on the slide here a little
21	bit. So core, we use that to really talk about the
22	investments that maintain safe electrical safe and
23	reliable electric and gas systems, providing the
24	strong foundation for the business as a whole. So
25	traditionally what we've always called a lot of our

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3	investments.
4	And then we have clean and climate
5	resilience. So those are investments, as we're
6	seeing these emergency policy goals in energy
7	infrastructure, that deliver clean energy, meet
8	customer electrification needs, and are resilient to
9	climate change. And multi-value the hard thing
10	with putting these buckets together is that there are
11	a lot of investments that really serve multiple
12	purposes, right? They are part of our core business,
13	but there is also an element of clean and climate
14	resilience to them. So those we have bucketed into
15	this multi-value category.
16	So as you can see in these pie charts,
17	for electric, 46 percent of the investments are in
18	the core business. And for gas, that's 54 percent
19	over the three-year amounts we're including in our
20	rate filing. And then when you add in the multi-
21	value investments, 95 percent of our capital is in
22	between core and multi-value. And for gas, it's
23	virtually at 100 percent. And just in case you're
24	wondering, the clean piece for gas is the methane
25	detector program.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 2 3 So that summarizes the capital and the 4 revenue requirements slides. If there's no 5 additional questions, I can --MR. LANG: Yep. No, I'm sorry. 6 This 7 is Kevin. I have --8 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. 9 MR. LANG: -- one other one. So --10 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Sure. 11 MR. LANG: -- going back to 2013, Con 12 Edison proposed post-Sandy to spend \$1 billion on 13 resilience, and they got approval for that, and they 14 did so. And commencing probably in 2016 continuing 15 into 2019 and then 2022, we pushed very hard that 16 resilience considerations be a core consideration for 17 all of your capital investments in the same way that 18 reliability is. And it's been our understanding that 19 we actually got agreement from the Company on that, 20 and that resilience is now one of those 21 considerations so that when you're doing any of your 22 designs or your construction, you don't only consider 23 reliability, but you consider resilience aspects. 24 But now we get to this case, and you 25 have this category, which if I'm reading the colors

225-E-0072 and 25-G-00733right, that you have \$475 million specific to4resilience. Does that mean the Company is now5retracted and is no longer considering resilience in6its core planning as it has agreed to do in prior7rate cases?8MR. KONECNI: This is Joshua Konecni.9No, Kevin, that's not what that means.10MR. LANG: Then how is there a11separate I mean, this has been our point for ten12years, that resilience should be just part of your13thinking and your design. So we don't understand how14there's this separate half a billion dollar category15for resilience.16MR. KONECNI: Again, this is Joshua17Konecni. Kevin, I believe that that amount refers to18the amount that the Commission required or the19Legislature required us to file a resilience plan.20The Commission approved the resilience plan and then21directed us to include those investments in the rate22case.23MR. LANG: So that's over and above24what you are normally doing now?25MR. KONECNI: Those are the	1	3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission
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23 MR. LANG: So that's over and above 24 what you are normally doing now?	21	directed us to include those investments in the rate
24 what you are normally doing now?	22	case.
	23	MR. LANG: So that's over and above
25 MR. KONECNI: Those are the	24	what you are normally doing now?
	25	MR. KONECNI: Those are the

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 2 3 investments that the Commission directed us to 4 include in the rate case. 5 MR. LANG: I don't remember the 6 Commission directing you to make any specific 7 investments in any prior order. 8 MR. KONECNI: I would refer you to the 9 Commission's order, which I believe it was in 10 November, on the Company's resilience plans. 11 MR. LANG: All right. 12 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. With that, I'm 13 going to pass it off to my colleague Steve to go 14 through -- start us off with the electric 15 investments. 16 MR. PUPEK: Great. Thank you, Kelly. 17 Good morning, everybody. I'm Steve 18 Pupek. And thank you all for the opportunity to 19 present some key elements of our plans for the 20 electric system. 21 Building a grid that delivers safe and 22 reliable service is the first priority of our 23 engineering and planning teams. We have a robust and 24 comprehensive plan to ensure that the grid continues 25 to deliver world-class reliability, and this provides

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3	a strong base upon which to build out the grid
4	further, to be resilient to the impacts of climate
5	change, and to support the State's clean energy
6	goals. I'm going to present some highlights of our
7	capital plan that support this core mission. Next
8	slide please. Yeah. That's correct.
9	Our investment falls into six
10	investment categories. System expansion and new
11	business. This category addresses forecasted load
12	changes and new connections on the Company's
13	electrical system. You will see projects and
14	programs in our plan that address load increases and
15	constraints at the system level, all the way down to
16	the specific customers as part of the new business
17	program.
18	We continue to see load growth
19	throughout the service territory driven by continued
20	development, as well as customers transitioning to
21	electric heating and transportation. We're also
22	ensuring that the system can accommodate change to
23	the generation mix as the energy system continues to
24	evolve. An example of this is with our Jamaica load
25	relief project, where we have it's a three-part

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3	project in eastern Queens, where we have a 345 kV $$
4	transmission substation to supply the Idlewild area
5	station and network split of the Jamaica network to
6	create the new Springfield network.
7	Next on our list is the risk reduction
8	and reliability. This category focuses on
9	maintaining the operation and performance of the
10	electrical system through proactive replacement and
11	upgrade strategies. Our engineers analyze forecasted
12	loads, system and equipment performance, and other
13	operational data, as well as other pertinent data, to
14	identify underperforming parts of our system or areas
15	where we expect performance to decline. They design
16	solutions to leverage the latest technology and
17	innovative designs to continue to provide safe and
18	reliable service.
19	For example, in our non-network
20	reliability area programs, we focus on the

20 reliability area -- programs, we focus on the 21 following areas: installation of sectionalizing 22 SCADA equipment to isolate faults and restore 23 customers automatically, circuit reconfigurations, 24 installing loops-sectionalizing circuits that add 25 redundancy to feeders. We look at replacing open

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3	wire with aerial cable, which provides a more
4	that's a circuit that's more resistant to tree
5	damage. Breakaway surface connectors breakaway
6	rather than breaking the cable and doing more
7	extensive damage, allowing for faster repair and
8	preventing customer outages.
9	Next category is replacements. In
10	this category
11	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Can I ask a
12	question?
13	MR. PUPEK: Sure.
14	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Can I ask a
15	question about that category, the last bullet?
16	MR. PUPEK: Yeah.
17	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: This is George
18	Diamantopoulos for NYCC. Is the Company doing
19	anything different in this category in terms of what
20	it has done in the past? In other words, are you
21	doing anything new? Are you adopting any new
22	methodologies, increasing costs which result in
23	increasing costs for this category?
24	MR. KONECNI: George, can you clarify
25	that question, please?

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3	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Sure. Are you
4	doing when you say you're reducing risk and
5	reliability and the Company is the Company doing
6	the same things that it has always done, or are you
7	adopting new methodologies and accelerating timelines
8	and things like that?
9	MR. PUPEK: We're generally
10	maintaining what we've been doing in the past
11	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Okay. Thank you.
12	MR. PUPEK: in this category.
13	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: That's what I was
14	trying to figure out. Thanks.
15	MR. PUPEK: Yep. Sure thing. Any
16	other questions? Okay.
17	MR. LANG: Yeah.
18	MR. PUPEK: The next category is
19	replacement
20	MR. LANG: Before you leave this page,
21	because
22	MR. PUPEK: Yep.
23	MR. LANG: you brought it up, so
24	I'm going to ask a follow up on it. On the prior
25	page, you had given us those pie charts of electric

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3	CapEx. The projects like the Idlewood [sic] project,
4	are they included in these CapEx budgets or are they
5	separate from it?
6	ALJ KERSEY: Can you please identify
7	yourself?
8	MR. LANG: I'm sorry. This is Kevin
9	Lang for the City again.
10	ALJ KERSEY: Thank you.
11	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Hi. This is Kelly
12	McLaughlin again. Yes. They are included in the
13	capital slide.
14	MR. LANG: Okay. Because I noticed
15	again in some other filings that you had a category
16	that you called surcharges, which were being treated
17	separately from things in rate base. So I didn't
18	know whether or not those surcharge categories, which
19	would include Idlewild, it would include Brooklyn
20	Clean Energy Hub. And I think there's probably a
21	half a dozen other large projects.
22	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. So Kevin, the
23	intention was, is once we went into the next base
24	rate filing to include them in that filing. So
25	that's what is reflected in the revenue requirement

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3	and CapEx numbers. It includes all those projects
4	that had been included in other Commission filings.
5	MR. LANG: Okay. So is it fair to say
6	that these are total numbers, then, that reflect
7	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.
8	MR. LANG: everything you're doing
9	in electric and everything you're doing in gas?
10	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: That is correct.
11	MR. LANG: Great. Thanks.
12	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yep.
13	MR. PUPEK: Okay. I'll move on. The
14	next category is replacements. In this category we
15	replace assets that have failed or are reaching the
16	end of their useful lives and cannot be further
17	repaired during regular operations. The examples
18	here are substation transformer replacement programs,
19	where we aim to proactively replace transformers that
20	are at risk of failure or near the end of their
21	useful lives. Other examples are our open mains
22	program, where we're replacing secondary mains that
23	have burned out in the system. And then finally
24	equipment replacements where we're looking at
25	distribution transformers on the network and overhead

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3	system that are having issues. Next slide please.
4	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: So just one
5	question. This is George Diamantopoulos again. So
6	is the answer to the previous question I asked the
7	same here, that the company is essentially doing the
8	same thing for replacements that it has always done,
9	and has not accelerated timelines or done anything to
10	change what is done in the past here?
11	MR. PUPEK: Yes. That's correct.
12	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Okay. Thank you.
13	MR. PUPEK: Okay. Moving on. Our
14	next category is storm hardening and resiliency.
15	Here we mitigate potential electrical system damage
16	and customer impacts from severe weather events.
17	These are the programs that were approved by the
18	Commission order for the resiliency proceedings.
19	Examples include the substation storm hardening,
20	which is the resurrection of a program from the
21	Superstorm Sandy where the stations are strengthened
22	to FEMA plus five standards. Included is also our
23	selective undergrounding program, our unit substation
24	switchgear replacements, and our primary feeder
25	reliability and resiliency program.

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3	Next is our equipment
4	MR. KRAMER: Let me just stop you
5	right there. Hi. This is Steven Kramer with the
6	Department of Public Service. I just want to point
7	out and the Commission's order on hardening and
8	resiliency speaks for itself, but while those
9	projects were addressed in that order, the timing and
10	cost of the projects will be reviewed in these cases.
11	So I just wanted to make that clear. Thank you.
12	MR. PUPEK: Thank you for that. Our
13	next category is equipment purchases. In this
14	category, we purchase necessary critical equipment
15	such as transformers, network protectors, and
16	switches. And the example is our transformer
17	purchasing equipment purchases that are used
18	throughout all of our different programs in electric
19	ops.
20	Next is our environmental category.
21	Here we reduce the environmental impact and comply
22	with environmental requirements. This includes
23	programs to prevent oil leaks from our oil containing
24	equipment from getting into the environment,
25	including regulatory required programs such as the

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3	Spill Prevention, Controls, and Countermeasures
4	program. Some examples are the New Distribution
5	Facility Spill Prevention, Controls, and
6	Countermeasures program, the 57 Block House program
7	that has storage for 1,320 gallons or more of oil.
8	This program is to put in place approximately
9	appropriate measures to prevent spills into the
10	environment. The other program is our Oil Minder
11	Environmental program that prevents oil from getting
12	out of our vaults by shutting down some pumps when
13	oil is present in the water. I'll pause for
14	questions.
15	MR. LANG: Hi. Yeah, this is Kevin
16	Lang again from the City. And I'm confused about
17	your descriptions. And this goes back to the concern
18	I raised earlier. Under the risk reduction and
19	reliability category, one of the examples you gave
20	were breakaway aerial cables so that during a storm,
21	if they're damaged, they've come down and can be very
22	quickly put back up. And yet you have a separate
23	category called storm hardening and resiliency.
24	If I go back to your resiliency
25	investments post-Sandy, those breakaway area cables

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3	were considered a storm hardening investment. Yet
4	now you're saying they're a risk reduction and
5	reliability. So that leads to the question, what is
6	the difference between risk reduction and reliability
7	and storm hardening and resiliency?
8	MR. LEARY: Hi Kevin. This is Jim
9	Leary from Con Edison. So the primary difference is,
10	in the resiliency filing there were specific
11	categories that we needed to fulfill in order to meet
12	the requirements of that order, and the plan that we
13	proposed did that. That doesn't exclude us from
14	continuing to build in storm hardening and resiliency
15	that we've sort of always done, as you've mentioned.
16	So you will see things that were considered by many
17	to be resiliency that are in our core plans, as well
18	as what you'll see in resiliency and resiliency
19	filing.
20	MR. LANG: Is there a reason I
21	mean, given the way that you guys are approaching
22	things and to be clear, I don't have an issue,
23	because you're doing what you should be doing. Why

25 this is all embedded into our normal everyday

24

didn't you push back to the Commission and say, hey,

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3	projects? We don't need a separate category. What
4	I'm concerned about is that either there's
5	duplicative or unnecessary spending going on, because
6	Con Edison, to be frank, was far and away beyond what
7	every other utility in the state was doing, which you
8	guys well knew.
9	MR. KONECNI: So Kevin, this is Joshua
10	Konecni. We agree that there is no duplicative
11	spending here. We were taking the state law as it
12	comes and, as you know, the State enacted legislation
13	directing us to file a resiliency plan.
14	MR. PUPEK: Okay. Any other
15	questions?
16	MR. KRAMER: I just have a quick
17	question. This is Steve Kramer from the Department
18	of Public Service. This bullet, equipment purchases,
19	reminded me to ask, is there a slide that addresses
20	the Company's proposal and I don't remember seeing
21	one, but I just might have forgotten since
22	Thursday whether there's a slide that addresses
23	the Company's proposal costs of equipment and such
24	that are impacted by tariffs.
25	MS. SU: Grace Su with the Company.

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3	There is no specific slide, but there is a proposal
4	within the accounting panel, which would clarify the
5	new law's provisions so that it is very clear that
6	those would apply in a tariff situation when we have
7	additional import tariffs.
8	MR. KRAMER: Okay. And I have read
9	the accounting panel testimony. I don't recall there
10	being a very specific way of being able to discern
11	the incremental costs of a piece of equipment. Does
12	the Company have a proposal there, or is it something
13	that will need to be fleshed out?
14	MS. SU: In terms of the tracking?
15	MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I mean, how are we
16	going to know for instance, you bought a
17	transformer or you're going to buy a transformer
18	in November of this year. Your rate filing shows a
19	cost that is based on current conditions. But now
20	this thing's coming from Canada, for instance.
21	That's easy, it could come from Mexico. And now
22	there's a 25 or more percent tariff on it. How are
23	we going to be able to discern the delta? Is that
24	just going to be based on if you're in the
25	Company's would you just do it based on the cost

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3	at the time that the Company filed the rate cases, or
4	is there some other way of tracking that? Just
5	thinking about it.
6	MS. SU: I think we're looking at
7	yeah, we're looking at both.
8	MR. KRAMER: Okay.
9	MS. SU: We're looking at impacts of
10	the cost at the time we knew them or we made the
11	initial forecasts. And there's an assumption that
12	cost changes after that can be largely attributed to
13	the tariffs. There are also going to be contracts
14	that are going to be renegotiated in certain
15	instances that may be able to clarify the tariff
16	input. We're looking at a lot of different options
17	for the tracking.
18	We just want to clarify that, in terms
19	of where this would go, we think it is covered by new
20	laws right now. What we wanted to do in terms of the
21	clarification and accounting panel was to think
22	through these issues so that we had the trackers in
23	place, and we knew exactly how it would flow through
24	on an accounting basis.
25	MR. KRAMER: Okay.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 THE COURT REPORTER: Can I get 4 clarification on who that was that just answered that tariff question? 5 6 MS. SU: Yes. 7 THE COURT REPORTER: Was that a Ms. 8 Hugh [sic]? 9 MS. SU: I'm sorry. That's Grace Su 10 with the Company. I apologize. 11 THE COURT REPORTER: No worries. It's 12 G-R-A-C-E, S-U-E? 13 MS. SU: Just S-U. 14 THE COURT REPORTER: S-U. Thank you. 15 MS. SU: Thank you. 16 MR. KONECNI: Thank you, Grace. 17 Appreciate your response. 18 MR. PUPEK: Any other questions? 19 MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Yes, George --20 MR. LANG: I have one if I could --21 MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Oh, okay. 22 Thanks, Kevin. George Diamantopoulos, NYCC. I was 23 just wondering, does the Company plan on addressing 24 the tariff issue that was just raised by Mr. Kramer 25 in its Company update on April the 10th?

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 MS. SU: Grace Su for the Company. 4 It's already addressed in the initial testimony. 5 It's in the accounting panel. The only thing that wasn't reflected -- as I said, there wasn't a full 6 7 slide on it in this deck. But the issue's been 8 raised. 9 MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Okav. Thank you, 10 Grace. 11 MR. LANG: Hi --12 MS. SU: Welcome. 13 MR. LANG: -- this is Kevin. Grace, I 14 have a different question on the same tariff issue, 15 though. As I understand the tariffs -- I mean, it's 16 a duty that's going to be collected by someone, we 17 may not know who, but then get remitted to customs. 18 And so there's going to be some kind of a document 19 trail that shows what that duty is. It's not --20 like, if the piece of equipment was \$1 million, it's 21 not suddenly 1.5 million. It's still \$1 million. 22 And then there's this 25 percent duty that gets 23 remitted to the government. So isn't there going to 24 be a way to very objectively and very clearly track 25 what the tariff costs are going to be, or am I

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3	missing something?
4	MS. SU: It's a variety of material
5	supplies, not just equipment. We expect a tariff
6	impact. I think at the highest level, you're right,
7	there should be a very clear 25 percent duty, for
8	instance. It's whether or not you can track that
9	through when we have contracts that bundle things
10	together. That's going to get a little trickier, and
11	we'll have to break that out and have enhanced
12	tracking so that we can show the difference between
13	what is currently in rates and what is incremental.
14	MR. LANG: Gotcha. Thanks.
15	MS. SU: Thanks. Okay.
16	MR. GOHIR: Hi. This is Arslan from
17	staff. I had a general comment, I think, on slide 7.
18	There's discussion on system expansion and new
19	business. When I look at the sales forecast, I think
20	the largest customer class, large commercial, is
21	actually forecast to decrease for the rate year one.
22	And I know there's some increase in small commercial,
23	but that only forms, like, a fraction of the total
24	load. So I'm curious about the system expansion and
25	new business, where that takes place.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 MS. SU: This is Grace Su for the 4 Company. Could you restate the question? We 5 actually had a lot of trouble hearing you. I 6 apologize. 7 MR. GOHIR: Okay. I'll try to speak a 8 bit louder. So this is Arslan from staff. My 9 question is, when I look at the sales forecast by 10 customer class, I'm looking at large commercial, 11 which forms the majority of the load for 12 (indiscernible). It's actually forecasted to 13 decrease by rate year one. And the load growth that 14 takes place in small commercial is only, like, a 15 fraction of the total load. And overall, I think 16 it's only a modest sales growth. So I'm wondering 17 where the system expansion and new business growth 18 comes from. 19 This is Jim Leary from the MR. LEARY:

Company. So our new business -- our new business program has been outpacing its budget for the past three years, and we expect that pace to continue. So that's where we see the cost for that program, and that informs our cost, and also the load letters that we see coming in.

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3	As far as system expansion is
4	concerned, a lot of it has to do with very specific
5	areas of growth. So in each of the networks, we see
6	our new load forecast. We apply that specifically to
7	each of our networks and to our equipment, all the
8	way up to the area substations. And we see overload
9	conditions are forecasted in those areas. And a lot
10	of the system expansion is there to cover those
11	specific constraints. And you will see that spelled
12	out in the white papers and also in our testimony.
13	MR. SCHULER: Hi. This is Rick
14	Schuler from staff. Is it the case that the actual
15	forecasted megawatt hours is lagging when the load
16	letters are causing the investments to be made?
17	MR. KONECNI: Hi Rick, this is Joshua
18	Konecni. I'm not sure that we have the person that
19	we would need on the call to answer that question.
20	MR. SCHULER: Okay. I just chimed in
21	because I I didn't understand Arslan's question to be
22	answered.
23	MR. KONECNI: Happy to follow up if
24	the
25	MR. SCHULER: Thank you.

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3	MR. KONECNI: staff has
4	information.
5	MR. SCHULER: Great.
6	MR. KONECNI: Okay. We'll hand it off
7	to Christine.
8	MS. CUMMINGS: Good morning. This is
9	Christine Cummings. I'm going to talk to you about
10	the (indiscernible)
11	MR. LANG: Wait, wait. I'm sorry,
12	Christine, before you guys
13	MS. CUMMINGS: Okay.
14	MR. LANG: leave electric
15	altogether, you had a proposal in your testimony to
16	move your control center out of New York City into
17	some remote location that's surrounded by fencing and
18	forests. Could you explain how is it that in an
19	emergency situation not just your employees but all
20	of the other people that normally would go to the
21	control center would get to this remote location?
22	MS. LEE: Hi. This is Selena Lee with
23	the Company. So we're not defining it as purely just
24	a remote location. We are scouting a location that
25	fits the security needs and setbacks that are

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3	required by the Company so that we can still maintain
4	all operations and controls and get to our backup
5	control center in due time. So it's not exactly a
6	remote location, but a location that is safe and
7	secure from security issues that we're currently
8	facing.
9	MR. LANG: Well, the way it was
10	described in the testimony was down a road with a
11	large buffer area, and I can't think of any place in
12	New York City that would meet the way it was
13	described there. And historically, when there's been
14	emergencies, not only have your employees been at the
15	control center, there's been City employees, there's
16	State employees, emergency management personnel. And
17	also the Company holds, depending on the nature of
18	the emergency, every hour, every four hours, every
19	six hours, press conferences or provides information
20	that then gets disseminated out from these varied
21	locations. And I'm trying to understand how that
22	happens when you're not where you have been
23	historically.
24	MR. KONECNI: This is Joshua Konecni
25	again. Kevin, I think you have some discovery

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 2 3 questions out, and we would consider -- certainly 4 welcome more if you have them. 5 MR. LANG: I'm just trying to understand it at a high level, because that's what 6 7 this technical conference is for. 8 MR. KONECNI: I don't think we have 9 anything to add to Selena's comment about it not 10 being remote in the sense of inaccessible. 11 MR. LANG: Well, I didn't say it was 12 inaccessible, but there is a concern that during an 13 emergency, when transportation systems may be blocked 14 or shut down, or there's huge delays, that it's going 15 to be very difficult for folks to get to this 16 facility, and that could in and of itself cause delays. And it's a very --17 18 ALJ COSTELLO: Mr. Lang --19 MR. LANG: -- substantial investment. 20 ALJ COSTELLO: Mr. Lang, this is -let me interrupt you. This is James Costello. 21 You 22 said you didn't see it in the testimony. They 23 responded to you on a high level. If you have 24 questions that go into further that need 25 clarification from the testimony, that's subject to

1	3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission
2	25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073
3	discovery, which it seems like you have discovery
4	outstanding. So let's please move on.
5	MR. LANG: Okay. I thought that's
6	what the purpose of the technical conference was,
7	Judge, but
8	ALJ COSTELLO: Let's please move on.
9	You can do your discovery questions. You're going to
10	detail beyond what the you just said, it's you
11	don't see it in the testimony. So if it's not in the
12	testimony subject to I'm not arguing with you.
13	I'm stating this. So let's move on.
14	MR. LANG: Okay.
15	MR. CARPENTER: Hello. This is Andrew
16	Carpenter with the Department of Public Service. You
17	stated that the movement of the facility is to meet
18	security requirements. By that, do you mean Con Ed's
19	internal security requirements or some regulatory
20	mandate security requirement of some form?
21	MS. LEE: We're meeting both on
22	security concerns all over. So regulatory as well as
23	Con Edison guidelines.
24	THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Judge.
25	I don't know who that was.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 I'm sorry --MS. LEE: 4 MR. CARPENTER: Andrew --5 MS. LEE: This is Selena Lee with the 6 Company. 7 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. 8 MR. KONECNI: Okay. On to Christine. 9 MS. CUMMINGS: So -- and good morning. 10 This is Christine Cummings for the Company speaking 11 about our gas investments. If you can go to the next 12 slide. 13 So the focus of the gas capital 14 investment is really on the safety and reliability of 15 our existing customers. We're going to speak a 16 little bit about this program, the Gas Infrastructure 17 Replacement and Reduction program, and that's largely 18 because it is our most proactive safety program. Ιt 19 removes leak-prone pipe from our inventory. The goal 20 here is to get it out of inventory, not necessarily 21 replace it. And so what we're trying to do in terms 22 of this program is really think about how we get rid 23 of the small diameter cast iron, wrought iron, 24 unprotected steel gas mains, the top-ranked risk 25 pipes, and really thinking about how we can mitigate

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3	the risk of a gas distribution event.
4	At the same time, the team is
5	committed to helping facilitate electrification,
6	working with our colleagues across the Company,
7	including the customer energy solutions team, and
8	electric, and really thinking about the ways that we
9	can remove the pipes from the inventory while still
10	supporting the electrification. And I think
11	sometimes that comes across as, well, they're in
12	conflict, and we really don't view them as such.
13	They are it's about that inventory.
14	And so this is the largest program we
15	have in terms of total expenditures. And again, it
16	is our primary proactive safety program, getting rid
17	of this pipe. Other pieces of the gas rate case are
18	focused around, again, things like natural gas
19	detectors, leak detection, and other things, with the
20	focus being on our current customer base.
21	So if there are questions about gas,
22	we can take those now. Otherwise, we can move on to
23	Allisyn Glasser, who's going to discuss the IT
24	investments.
25	MS. GLASSER: Well, good morning. My

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3	name is Allisyn Glasser. I'm the IT vice president
4	of engineering and operations. You can go to the
5	next slide, please. And today I'm going to discuss
6	three main areas: cyber security and physical
7	security, infrastructure and applications, and then
8	enterprise data and analytics. These are three main
9	focus areas in our rate filing.
10	So a core component of our strategy is
11	really focused on security, and this includes both
12	cyber and physical security. And we really approach
13	this from an enterprise perspective. And it starts
14	with a strong cyber posture and security focus within
15	our own organization, and then through training and
16	training and communication, we really expand that to
17	the enterprise. I apologize. My room's a little
18	dark right here.
19	Some of the key focus areas in this
20	space, really, include protecting assets through what
21	we call a defense-in-depth strategy. And really, all
22	that is, is layered technologies and layered
23	processes to really secure our networks, assets, and
24	systems. We're also looking to expand some
o =	

25 capabilities such as cloud security and network

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3	security and network segmentation. Again, that's a
4	key piece of the strategy. And we're also looking at
5	enhancing processes such as incident response.
6	We're also implementing new
7	technologies for something called insider threat.
8	And that is really threats posed from employees and
9	contractors. So it's looking at it from a different
10	lens, inside versus externally, attacking the network
11	and the assets. And we're also performing some
12	various threat assessments in this space as well.
13	MR. LANG: Allisyn, this is Kevin.
14	Kevin Lang, I'm sorry, for the City. Just a
15	clarification. In your second bullet, when I saw
16	network segmentation, you mean your IT networks, not
17	your because you do you actually guys call it
18	segmentation of your networks. That's not what
19	you're referring to here, is it?
20	MS. GLASSER: This is IT networks. So
21	for example
22	MR. LANG: This is just IT. Okay.
23	MS. GLASSER: Right. The
24	MR. LANG: I see.
25	MS. GLASSER: the technologies that

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3	operate the grid are on a higher value network is
4	what we call versus
5	MR. LANG: Yep.
6	MS. GLASSER: let's say where your
7	finance and supply chain reside. But these are IT
8	networks.
9	MR. LANG: IT, not the physical
10	networks that you have. Okay. Thanks.
11	MS. GLASSER: Yeah. In this slide
12	it's IT-related.
13	MR. LANG: Got it.
14	MS. GLASSER: The next key area that
15	we have a large investment is on the upgrade,
16	enhancement, and maintenance of things like our data
17	centers, our networks, applications, as well as
18	computing devices such as laptops. So similar my
19	business partners, right, in the operations side of
20	the house, redundancy, reliability, resiliency,
21	they're all a key part of our system design and
22	architecture, and a key focus area for us. So we
23	make continual investments to modernize old
24	applications and infrastructure. This is really key
25	for two main reasons.

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3	The first is prevents, obviously,
4	operational issues. The second, it prevents against
5	cyber risk. So vendors really only support
6	applications and hardware for a finite period of
7	time. So it's really important that we keep them
8	current, again so we get the appropriate patches, so
9	we prevent cyber risk. And then of course
10	operational issues as well. Upgrades also provide
11	some new business functionality to enhance the
12	processes within the business too.
13	And then the last area I'll focus on
14	is our data and analytics program. And the key here
15	is really for us to be able to make data-driven
16	business decisions. And we're looking to expand this
17	program. So we have similar to the application
18	side of the house that I just spoke about, we have
19	platforms that we manage and upgrade. But the key
20	here is that we're really trying to develop standard
21	processes, tools, and technology across the
22	enterprise that support all our various business
23	partners.
24	We have a couple of major programs on

25 the business side in the analytic space, asset

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3	management, electrification, clean energy, the
4	customer experience, and forecast and planning. And
5	the goal really, from an IT perspective, is that we
6	govern these programs, we understand the linkages,
7	and then we can really create reusability across the
8	different use cases. The overriding purpose of the
9	Company's IT proposed investments is to enhance
10	security as well as improve our business operations.
11	Any questions?
12	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Yes. George
13	Diamantopoulos for NYCC. Is the company realizing
14	any cost savings through the use of artificial
15	intelligence or any other of your other categories
16	here?
17	MS. GLASSER: Yeah, I would say
18	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: And is that
19	reflected in the filing as well?
20	MS. GLASSER: Yeah. I would say we're
21	kind of early in the use case development for
22	artificial intelligence. We have some, I'll call it,
23	like, machine learning type use cases. But we do
24	develop business cases as value models, and those are
25	all part of the filing.

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3	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: So any cost
4	savings?
5	MS. GLASSER: We basically analyze
6	each use case. If there are cost savings there's
7	generally more cost avoidance I would say, right,
8	than cost savings. Some of this stuff really just
9	allows us to kind of keep up with the demand. But
10	that would be included it's really analyzed per
11	specific use case and per specific program.
12	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Okay. But the
13	Company keeps records or could quantify any cost
14	avoidance or cost savings?
15	MS. GLASSER: Yes.
16	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: And does it also
17	expect to have future cost savings, say within rate
18	years two or three?
19	MS. GLASSER: So again, you'll
20	MR. KONECNI: So this is Josh
21	Konecni
22	MS. GLASSER: Go ahead, Josh.
23	MR. KONECNI: again. I think, as
24	Allisyn said, that information is in the filing.
25	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: In the cyber

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3	in the cyber testimony?
4	MS. GLASSER: That would be in the IT
5	panel. Well, we separated it out.
6	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: In the IT panel.
7	MS. GLASSER: Yeah. There's cyber
8	there's a cyber and a physical panel, and that's in
9	the IT panel.
10	MR. DIAMANTOPOULOS: Okay. Thank you,
11	Allisyn. Thank you, Joshua.
12	MR. LANG: Hi. This is Kevin Lang.
13	Just one from the City. Under the enterprise data
14	analytics piece of this, in some prior cases the
15	Company had talked about once it had essentially
16	finished its AMI build out, which you for all intents
17	and purposes have done, there was talk about being
18	able to leverage your data and your data analytics
19	and commercialize it and potentially sell it. And
20	did I miss something? Is there anything here in your
21	testimony about commercializing the data analytics?
22	I did see discussion of how you're using it to
23	leverage your own processes, which makes sense. I
24	just want to make sure I didn't miss something there
25	on using it for other purposes or selling it.

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 2 3 MS. GLASSER: No. We are not allowed 4 to sell our data, so this is all for internal use. I 5 think we all have some -- you may be familiar with 6 some external data sharing partnerships, specifically 7 with the New York State -- the Public Service 8 Commission and NYSERDA, the IEDR program. But we 9 cannot sell our data. 10 MR. LANG: Okay. 11 MR. CARPENTER: Hello. This is Andrew 12 Carpenter with the Department of Public Service. So 13 say that the --14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold it back and forth in the middle. Take it off, and then when 15 16 you go that way --17 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, 18 Andrew, just a little background noise. 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all 20 right. So yeah. That's --21 THE COURT REPORTER: Judge, I'm not 22 getting any of it. 23 ALJ KERSEY: I just want to remind 24 everybody to -- that's not speaking to be on mute, 25 please. This is Tara Kersey.

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3	Go ahead, Andrew.
4	MR. CARPENTER: Yep. Sorry. So you
5	say that these projects and the spending associated
6	with it is what is necessary to keep up with current
7	trends. And the trend is vastly increased spending
8	year over year. And I believe within testimony, you
9	note that the costs for data processing and so forth
10	is expected to also increase. So I guess I just
11	wonder how the cost avoidance year over year is
12	expected to interrelate with those increased costs.
13	MS. GLASSER: So I think the increased
14	cost there's costs from an IT perspective. And we
15	continuously look at managing our budgets, whether
16	it's cloud subscription, right, however we're going
17	to manage the costs associated with data and
18	analytics. And then from a business perspective
19	there's different types of value. There's enhanced
20	safety. There's cost avoidance, right? There's
21	productivity. There's different types of savings
22	that each of the businesses then gets from it.
23	And that's how we look to identify use
24	cases by developing that value model and
25	understanding what we want to prioritize as a

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3	company. So I think there's two different you
4	have the IT costs, but then you also have the
5	business value that we get out of the different use
6	cases.
7	MR. CARPENTER: Is that broken up in
8	any way within the white papers or testimony or
9	anything?
10	MS. GLASSER: Well, you'll see in the
11	IT white paper, you will see the spend and the cost
12	for the data and analytics programs. That's
13	definitely in the white papers.
14	MR. CARPENTER: But no separation
15	between the business value and the other piece?
16	MS. GLASSER: I'm sorry. That's
17	all so each program that I taught, like asset
18	management, clean energy, there's a separate white
19	paper for each one of those programs. And then we
20	have the larger enterprise spend. That's also in
21	there as well. So that's all in the white papers.
22	MR. CARPENTER: Okay. Thank you.
23	MS. GLASSER: Any other questions?
24	Okay. With that I'll turn it over to Mike. Thank
25	you.

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3	MR. MURPHY: Hey. Thanks, Allisyn.
4	Hello, all. This is Mike Murphy for the Company,
5	vice president of customer operations. Just to
6	highlight some customer experience investments.
7	Overall, we continue to make
8	investments focused on providing value to customers,
9	really meeting their rising expectations in what is
10	an increasingly complex environment. And our
11	investments really included in three buckets, which
12	we'll talk about today: expansion of our workforce,
13	continued capital investment in customer technology,
14	and a focus on our most vulnerable customers. So
15	you'll see that on each of these three slides, we'll
16	cover each of those areas.
17	So the first slide here around
18	expanding our customer ops workforce, the overall
19	primary driver for this expansion is historically
20	high customer arrears, which have grown since the
21	start of the pandemic to currently total 1.4
22	billion associated with approximately 500,000
23	customers. So our goal with these investments is to
24	overall improve and expand our engagement with this
25	larger group of customers in arrears, to prompt their

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3	payment, put them in a payment plan or agreement,
4	avoid a turnoff for those customers, and overall
5	avoid them from falling farther into arrears.
6	So to do that, this includes expanding
7	our capacity for outreach with these customers
8	through email and text, as well as making live calls
9	to customers, which is a new approach, all of which
10	have been proven and cost-effective based on our
11	current pilots. The investments also include
12	increasing our field staffing to engage customers in
13	the field where we would work with them on a payment
14	plan or take payment, and if we weren't able to do
15	that, we would turn off service as a last resort.
16	So this additional capacity allows us
17	to engage this larger group of customers in arrears.
18	And that engagement will also drive customer
19	inquiries. And so as we engage with these customers,
20	it's important we manage wait times at the call
21	center. We must work through payment plans with
22	those customers and reconnect their service. And so
23	we are scaling our call center staff and adding staff
24	to the team that manages escalated complaints so we
25	can manage response times and prevent backlogs.

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3	We're also proposing some investments in enhanced
4	training of this staff, so we can support these
5	complex customer interactions that again, we expect
6	to rise significantly.
7	Overall, we're seeking investments to
8	address the arrears situation because our arrears
9	balances impact not only those customers in arrears
10	but also the larger communities we serve. And they
11	impact really all customers. Every dollar we collect
12	through engagement with customers in arrears results
13	in lower borrowing costs and uncollectible bills,
14	both of which can put pressure on high bills for all
15	customers.
16	And because this is so impactful, we
17	have decided to address this issue with urgency
18	during the current rate plan. And as a result, we
19	began hiring staff requested in this rate request
20	early and incurring additional vendor communication
21	costs in '24 and '25. And we expect to hire a
22	significant number of the staff requested in the
23	first rate year of this case in '24 and '25. Okay.
24	Any questions on arrears?
25	I'm going to move to billing, the

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3	other area that we're expanding our workforce. So
4	we're proposing staff to continue our efforts on
5	resolving billing issues and other back-office work
6	more promptly. Over the past few years, as many of
7	you know, we've invested in all new AMI technology
8	for all of our customers, a new customer service
9	system, and we've facilitated great improvements in
10	billing accuracy and timeliness in this space. We've
11	seen a decrease from about 12 percent of estimated
12	bills on a monthly basis to one percent, and about a
13	60 percent reduction in aged, escalated, and delayed
14	bills just from the start of the current case through
15	all these improvements.
16	But there's more to do, and customer
17	and stakeholder expectations continue to be high. We
18	have new performance metrics approved in the last
19	case, and there has recently been new legislation
20	approved requiring resolution of delayed bills within
21	90 days. Both underscore the need for the company to
22	add resources to resolve timely and on an ongoing
23	basis the smallest percentage of overall accounts
24	that require action.
25	Overall, the investments in the

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3	billing space include investments in a couple areas.
4	Again, we mentioned billing exception resolution,
5	field staff to gain access to customer premises when
6	we need access to require resolution of these issues,
7	a dedicated team focused on governmental customers
8	served by the New York Power Authority due to their
9	complex billing scenarios and unique relationship
10	billing relationship with the company and NYPA, and
11	also their growing clean energy portfolios. We're
12	also making investments to support additional staff
13	for those the teams that support energy service
14	companies, rate consultants, and those that manage
15	escalated complaints.
16	So that's our efforts to expand the
17	customer ops workforce to address customer needs.
18	Are any questions there? I'll go to the next slide.
19	MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Mike. Hi. This is
20	Steve Kramer from the Department of Public Service.
21	I know in the past the Company has had to do some
22	manual billing in certain circumstances. Has a new
23	CSS eliminated that need, or are manual bills still
24	being rendered?
25	MR. MURPHY: There are no manual bills

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3	being rendered. Even our most complex bills are
4	produced through the system.
5	MR. KRAMER: Okay. Thank you.
6	ALJ KERSEY: Hi. This is Tara Kersey.
7	I just wanted to confirm that there is no proposal to
8	close any customer service centers?
9	MR. MURPHY: There is no proposal to
10	close any customer service centers at this time.
11	Correct.
12	ALJ KERSEY: Thank you.
13	MS. OSTROVSKAYA: Hi. Nora
14	Ostrovskaya, MTA. Can you elaborate on rate
15	consultant inquiry? Like, what exactly do you mean
16	by that? What kind of resources?
17	MR. MURPHY: So we have a team that
18	manages inquiries from rate consultants that work on
19	behalf of customers to identify issues with customer
20	bills. Really any kind of sort of third-party
21	manager that supports customers. Many of these
22	submit a lot of inquiries. They are something that
23	we manage and in some cases get those inquiries go
24	to the Public Service Commission and get worked under
25	the quick resolution process that that the Public

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3	Service Commission manages. Those have grown with
4	AMI metering. There's a lot more access to data that
5	these rate consultants have to question potential
6	bills that require review. And so we want to make
7	sure we have the staff to address those issues more
8	promptly.
9	MS. OSTROVSKAYA: Thank you.
10	MR. MURPHY: You're welcome.
11	MR. COLLAR: Hey, Mike. This is Gregg
12	Collar with you Gregg Collar. I don't think I
13	might be on the record. C-O-L-L-A-R, for Utility
14	Intervention Unit. I may have missed it, but could
15	you speak more to the increased field and back office
16	staffing? What is the is that more for is that
17	collection purposes, or is that some other work
18	that's being proposed to be performed, particularly
19	the field workers?
20	MR. MURPHY: So the majority of field
21	staff being hired is for collections purposes.
22	That's the first bucket. And then in the area of
23	resolving back-office issues, but primarily billing
24	exceptions, there is a part of the resources being
25	requested is a team to address no access to customer

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3	premises, particularly to work through a legal
4	process that we call replevin that where a court
5	can give us an order to get access to a premise.
6	This is required in mostly cases when customers
7	aren't paying us, but also when customers have not
8	allowed us in to resolve a meter issue, and we can't
9	bill that customer accurately. We're seeking some
10	field staff to work that as well.
11	And then the back-office staff that is
12	not field staff, again, is working on these escalated
13	cases, working on billing adjustments, all of the
14	work that we have today that we want to make sure
15	that we can do more promptly and address growing
16	amounts of that work.
17	MR. COLLAR: Thank you, Mike.
18	MR. MURPHY: Okay.
19	MR. LANG: Mike, this is
20	MR. COLLAR: Thank you.
21	MR. LANG: Kevin Lang. Can I just
22	ask a follow up to that, because I saw that in your
23	testimony and I just didn't understand it. So I get
24	you have situations where you have a a
25	malfunctioning meter or it's not communicating or

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3	there's some some issue. I always understood
4	replevin was where you are actually terminating
5	service and you want your meter back because that's
6	the way to terminate service. But where you have a
7	meter problem that has to be fixed, could you just
8	explain how does replevin work there, because
9	replevin is for you to recover your property. Does
10	that mean you're not putting a new working meter in
11	those locations? You're just cutting service
12	altogether?
13	MR. MURPHY: Yeah. I mean, I think it
14	could be a cut service and, you know, looking from
15	that perspective and then get access to replace the
16	meter, you know, through the customer. So I think
17	it's a tool to help us make sure we can get in.
18	These customers could be stealing service or made
19	other adjustments to the equipment that we need to
20	get in and look at. It could be safety issues. So
21	we do think that this is a process that we we will
22	use to get access to the meter. If anything, we can
23	shut off the service and it also opens up the
24	conversation to make sure we can get in and perform
25	the necessary changes so that we can continue to bill

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 those customers if they are still using energy. 4 MR. LANG: So is this a new use, because I don't ever remember you doing replevin for 5 this purpose before. Is this something new? 6 7 MR. MURPHY: I think we can get back to that part of discovery. I think -- I think we've 8 9 done some of this in the past, but we'll take a good 10 look and you can submit a discovery question on it. 11 MR. LANG: All right. I was just 12 trying to understand it. Thanks. 13 MR. KONECNI: Kevin, this is Joshua 14 Konecni. Just I would add, we do have instances 15 where we are required by regulations to go in and 16 change meters out, for example, specific timeframes. 17 And we do have instances where customers refuse us 18 access and in those moments we may have used replevin 19 to get the access to comply with the Commission 20 regulations. 21 MR. LANG: Okay. Thanks, Josh. 22 MR. CARROLL: Sorry, Mike. This is 23 Craig Carroll from the Department. Yeah, can we go 24 back to that previously? On the first couple buckets 25 here, if you're hiring them currently, can you tell

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3	us what percent of the proposed number of FTs have
4	been hired to date? I think you're doing arrears
5	management and contact center staffing currently.
6	MR. MURPHY: Yeah. Yeah. So overall
7	the request is approximately 800 people about 900
8	people. Excuse me. 600 of them will be hired. The
9	plan is to hire them in $'24/'25$ and we have hired
10	approximately 350 of those at this time.
11	MR. CARROLL: I'm sorry I missed that.
12	MR. MURPHY: All subject to yeah,
13	all subject so 896 of our 900 total is the
14	proposal in the rate base. 600 plan to be hired in
15	'24 and '25 and we've hired about 350 of them
16	already.
17	MR. CARROLL: Okay. And are you still
18	projected on track to get them hired before rate year
19	1?
20	MR. MURPHY: Yes.
21	MR. CARROLL: Thank you.
22	MR. MURPHY: You're welcome. Okay, so
23	as we look to address meeting customer expectations,
24	again, in this complex environment that we're in, we
25	have to expand our work force. Yep?

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3	MR. PASINELLA: Sorry for
4	interrupting. This is Mike Pasinella with Pipeline
5	Safety staff. If we could go back to the previous
6	slide? I had two questions on the no access issues.
7	The first question is, you mentioned approximately
8	900 incremental FTEs. How many of those 900 are
9	related to the no access issues?
10	MR. MURPHY: Approximately 25.
11	MR. PASINELLA: Approximately 25,
12	okay. Second question is, with the additional 25
13	incremental, approximately, FTEs to address no access
14	issues, does the company plan on improving upon its
15	current procedures in the sense of you're responding,
16	I think it says 45 days, to remedy accounts with no
17	access. Is the plan for Con Edison to continue
18	business as usual efforts or to improve upon that 45
19	day threshold with this request?
20	MR. ACEVEDO: Excuse me. This is
21	Enver Acevedo for the company. I believe what Mike
22	Pasinella is referring to is a proposal. Well, not
23	really a proposal. A position that staff had taken
24	with respect to addressing no access issues within a
25	certain period of time. What Mike is referring to

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and the FTEs he's referring to is the current, you
know, the current threshold or time amount for
addressing no access issues. What Mike, I think, is,
Mike Pasinella's referring to, is is further
decreasing and the additional FTEs that were proposed
for, or raised really, for further decreasing that
45-day threshold, that's different, separate, from
what Mike's talking about. So I just want to make
that clear.
MR. PASINELLA: So I guess my question
will be changed to, of those 25, what's being done
differently, I guess is my question.
MR. ACEVEDO: So again
MR. PASINELLA: With the additional 25
incremental FTEs.
MR. MURPHY: So this process that we
use when we need to get access to a premise and we've
exhausted our efforts to get access, we can go to the
court and get the right to work with a city marshal
and, you know, access the premises, right? So that's
the core process we use. We have staff that does
that today. That staff does this. That work staff
process for both collections and gas safety

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3	situations in active accounts specifically. The
4	staffing associated with those two buckets,
5	collections and staff, for that court-ordered,
6	working with a marshal, is not changing, and so the
7	additional 25 staff is now going to work on no access
8	cases that are resulting from filling these
9	exemptions. So we're adding staff but not changing
10	the staff currently in place to work on those
11	inactive gas cases. And so as a result, there's
12	no there's no proposal in this case to lower any
13	thresholds associated with addressing those.
14	MS. KERSEY: And this is Tara Kersey.
15	I just want to confirm that's Mr. Acevedo speaking?
16	MR. MURPHY: That was Mr. Acevedo
17	prior to me, and everything after that was Mike
18	Murphy.
19	MS. KERSEY: Oh, sorry. Sorry, Mike.
20	We just want to get it for the transcript. Okay, so
21	Mike Murphy. Thank you.
22	MR. PASINELLA: No further questions,
23	Mike. Thank you.
24	MR. MURPHY: Thank you. Okay, slide
25	15, capital programs. So again, we're investing in

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3	technology as well. There's really two categories
4	we're working to maintain and improve the systems
5	which support all the critical services we provide to
6	customers, so I'll go over that first.
7	You know, we have to we need to
8	make continued investment in our customer service
9	system, which we implemented in 2023. That's ongoing
10	spend to implement new regulatory and rate programs,
11	as well as ongoing enhancements to address emerging
12	business changes. So we have some some
13	investments allocated for that, all focused on
14	improving service to customers and implementing
15	regulatory initiatives.
16	In addition, the platform that we
17	implemented, which is a vendor product, is on a five-
18	year upgrade cycle, and as a result, a planned
19	upgrade to maintain the vendor support and security
20	of the product is proposed to begin in 2028. So
21	there's some funding there.
22	Also, we're looking to modernize
23	systems that we've been working on over the past
24	couple of years and go into this case as well. So
25	think about retail access systems that support energy

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3	service companies and allow customers to choose a
4	commodity provider, as well as our call center
5	technology, both to maintain and support vendor
6	support and also security in those systems.
7	So in addition to maintaining those
8	critical services, we have some investments planned
9	for enhancing service to our customers. We are
10	continuing to invest in a web portal for clean energy
11	developers and customers that are on value stack
12	rates to improve the experience for those customers,
13	continuing our efforts on automation of back office
14	work, supporting cost avoidance and fast resolution
15	for customers, and we are seeking investment in an
16	engagement platform for customers that would help us
17	bring all the information we have in our company
18	about customers into one key platform that our
19	employees can use to more quickly resolve inquiries,
20	which is a utility best practice and for the next
21	evolution after the customer service system.
22	Finally, we're making some investments
23	to address privacy and preferences of customers on
24	how we use their data and how we store it. It's
25	become an emerging issue that customers are really

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3	interested in and we need to comply with various laws
4	and regulations around that, and various continued
5	updates on digital channels for customers, such as
6	web and mobile apps to keep those viable and meeting
7	our customers' expectations.
8	Any questions here? Okay, slide 16.
9	And the last category of estimates is
10	our investments that support our vulnerable
11	customers. Again, three key areas here. First, the
12	outreach region and education. We've had a long
13	standing outreach and education program, which
14	incorporates us being in the community and also
15	supporting customers with communications, and so we
16	want to add more messaging in different languages for
17	these customers. We've been doing this for a number
18	of years, but we're seeking to do additional
19	languages and more content in various languages. So
20	that's detailed in our testimony.
21	We're also increasing one additional
22	staff member to meet increasing demand for community
23	events and, you know, our focus really there is to be
24	out more in the community. We have great demand for
25	that. Our community engagement is popular and we're

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3	getting more requests, so we want to be able to be
4	out in the community, specifically in the
5	disadvantaged communities.
6	We're also seeking some investments to
7	work with a vendor to use a tool to identify
8	customers that might be eligible for the EAP program,
9	the energy affordability program, where we provide
10	bill discounts to customers. So identifying them and
11	really engaging them to get on the program.
12	That's the outreach and education
13	request. In the energy affordability program
14	MR. LANG: I'm sorry, it's Kevin.
15	MR. MURPHY: Yes. Yes.
16	MR. LANG: Before you go beyond the
17	outreach and education, I just wasn't clear on when
18	you talked about the expanding languages. In, I
19	think it was the last case, the company agreed to
20	start putting out materials in, maybe, it was five or
21	six languages. So when you talk about expanding
22	languages, is it going beyond those to even more
23	languages?
24	MR. MURPHY: Yes, I think there's two
25	components of this. I mean, we talked about in our

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3	last case that it's really a journey for the company
4	to fund every communication in every language spoken
5	in New York City. It is extremely expensive.
6	MR. LANG: Right.
7	MR. MURPHY: So we were able to, with
8	the investments in the last case we had, we were able
9	to go to certain languages for certain material and,
10	you know, certain brochures in five or six languages.
11	With the additional investment we're seeking, we can
12	do more languages and more communications. So it'll
13	be a combination of adding some more languages and
14	targeting some additional communications for being
15	multilingual, if that makes sense.
16	MR. LANG: Yeah, no, that does.
17	Thanks for the clarification.
18	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a
19	question. (Indiscernible) Center for Justice Office.
20	Are you guys still doing out-of-the-house for these
21	services or in-house at this point? Or are you
22	thinking of going in-house for translation service
23	and material?
24	MR. MURPHY: So we use vendor services
25	primarily to do these these translations. In some

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3	cases we have in-house translators that we can we
4	can use for quick turnaround, but we do have robust
5	vendor relationships which help us do the translation
6	as well.
7	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
8	MR. MURPHY: You're welcome. Okay, in
9	the area of the energy affordability program, we're
10	proposing adjustments to support the program. Again,
11	this provides bill discounts to our most vulnerable
12	customers. Overall, the past few years, the program
13	has grown in scope and complexity and we need some
14	additional resources required to ensure that
15	customers are enrolled timely. So the program
16	enrollment occurs primarily through matching
17	municipal agencies. That process is performing as
18	designed. No issues there. But we've added over the
19	past few years, with the state working group, the
20	ability for customers to self-certify, provide
21	documentation that they are eligible. The company
22	must review those applications, look at the
23	documentation, and make a determination and
24	communicate with those customers about their
25	enrollment in the EAP. So this has grown and we need

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3	just a few employees a few additional staff
4	members to help us make sure that we can keep up with
5	these applications and avoid backlogs. So we think
6	that these investments will help us do that. Also,
7	we request proposing some small management staff
8	increases to make sure the program is operating
9	effectively and to support expansions of the EAP, you
10	know, working with the working group that is set up
11	across the state. So those are the EAP investments.
12	Questions there?
13	Okay, and the last one is an
14	affordable, multifamily electrification pilot. So
15	this is a pilot seeking to offset costs through bill
16	credits to tenants in affordable housing where there
17	is a cost shift that occurs when their buildings move
18	from fossil fuel heating that is not paid by the
19	tenant to decentralize in-unit heat pumps, which are
20	tied to tenant meters. So the program both supports
21	equipment incentives that will be funded through our
22	new efficiency New York funds which will help the
23	multifamily buildings install the heat pumps, but the
24	pilot is really focusing on what we call non-
25	regulated buildings, or naturally occurring

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3	affordable buildings, meaning they're not regulated.
4	They don't have the sort of regulations on rent, and
5	so as a result, these costs sort of immediately shift
6	to customers when these in-unit electrification
7	electrified heat pumps are installed. So we're
8	proposing to study this at the proposed bill credit
9	that can support mitigating those cost shifts in
10	these buildings. This would be eligible to customers
11	who are within those buildings who are on the energy
12	affordability program, but the credits would be, sort
13	of, separately and in addition to any EAP credits
14	they receive. The objective here is to make sure
15	that we can study this issue on a small scale, get
16	detailed information to inform the rest of the state
17	about heating cost shifts as we electrify multifamily
18	buildings, and really support the development of
19	policy solutions. We're seeking a six-year pilot
20	here, focusing on 400 units in 50 buildings.
21	All right, any questions for me
22	overall about customer experience investments?
23	MR. RATH: This is John Rath with New
24	York Geo. Can you tell me if those heat pumps are
25	air source or ground source?

1 3/4/2025 - Public Service Commission 2 25-E-0072 and 25-G-0073 3 MR. MURPHY: These are air source heat 4 pumps. 5 MR. RATH: Thank you. MR. MURPHY: You're welcome. All 6 7 right, I'll turn it over to Bill Atzl for the last 8 piece. 9 I'm Bill Atzl, director of MR. ATZL: 10 rate engineering for the company and I'll take you 11 through some rate and tariff information. Next 12 slide, please. 13 So this slide highlights the main 14 redesign proposals for electric and gas which balance 15 cost-based rates with customer bill impacts. To 16 start with electric, we addressed the class revenue 17 surpluses and deficiencies that were identified in 18 our embedded cost of service or heat cost study. To 19 mitigate bill impacts, we propose to realign rate 20 year revenues based on one-third of those surpluses 21 and deficiencies in a revenue neutral manner. Our intent is to further realign revenues based on the 22 23 remaining surplus and deficiency amounts in 24 subsequent years. 25 We proposed increases in customer

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3	charges to move them closer to customer costs as
4	determined in the heat cost study. For demand built
5	classes, we evaluate high tension/low tension
6	differentials and reset them in certain classes to
7	better align those differentials with the results of
8	the heat cost study.
9	We've updated our seasonal rate study
10	and reset seasonal differentials in certain classes.
11	Also, in demand built classes, we applied revenue
12	increases to fixed and demand rates to reflect the
13	fact that our system costs are mainly fixed and
14	demand related.
15	And then in our last rate case, we
16	agreed to implement a price guarantee for a limited
17	number of heat pump customers who take service under
18	our optional demand based rate. That's known as the
19	SC-1 rate four in our tariff. In this case, we're
20	proposing to extend that price guarantee and to
21	eliminate current participation caps.
22	With respect to gas, similar to
23	electric, we addressed the class revenues, surpluses,
24	and deficiencies identified in the heat cost study.
25	In gas, however, we are realigning revenues based on

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3	one-sixth of the surpluses and deficiencies due to
4	the splitting of the SC-3 residential class, which
5	I'll touch on in just a couple of minutes.
6	We've proposed increases in minimum
7	charges to move them closer to customer related costs
8	determined in the heat cost study, and we're
9	continuing a ten-year phase out of declining block
10	rates in SCs 2 and 3 that began in our last rate
11	case. So the rate year in this proceeding, 2026,
12	will represent the fourth year of that effort.
13	Then also, as agreed to in the last
14	case, we've made a proposal to establish separate gas
15	delivery rates in the SC-3 residential heating class.
16	So it's separate rates for buildings with one to four
17	dwelling units, and more than four dwelling units.
18	This is based on a heat cost study in which these two
19	groups of customers are costed separately.
20	The results of that heat cost study
21	are a revenue deficiency in the one to four dwelling
22	unit customers and a revenue surplus for buildings
23	with more than four dwelling units. We're proposing
24	to realign revenues based on one-sixth of these
25	values to mitigate customer bill impacts.

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3	Moving on to the next slide. This is
4	an overview of the rate increases for all three rate
5	years and as Kelly had mentioned, we have the
6	proposed 1.6 billion increase in electric revenues,
7	and 440 million increase in gas revenues for rate
8	year one. The electric increase equates to about
9	11.4 percent increase on a total bill basis, and to
10	determine that, we also include estimated supply
11	costs for both full service and retail access
12	customers, and that equates to an 18.1 percent
13	increase in delivery revenue.
14	In gas, the revenue increase is a 13.3
15	percent increase on the total bill basis, also
16	including supply costs for both full service and
17	retail access customers, and that equates to an 18.8
18	percent increase in delivery revenue. And then in
19	addition to the one-year rate proposal, the company
20	has provided financial information, including revenue
21	requirements, for the subsequent two years to
22	facilitate discussions regarding a multiyear
23	settlement. The rate year two electric revenue
24	requirement is 930 million, and rate year three is
25	880 million, and the total bill and delivery

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3	percentage increases for those two years are provided
4	as well. We've also determined that these increases
5	could be implemented on a levelized basis over a
6	three-year rate plan at about 1.26 billion per year,
7	which would serve to smooth out the customer impacts.
8	Similarly for gas, the rate year two
9	revenue requirement is 265 million and rate year
10	three is 165 million. Again, the total bill and
11	delivery percentages for those two years are provided
12	and the three-year levelized increase is 335 million.
13	Any questions before I turn it back
14	over to Josh? Okay, Josh.
15	MR. LANG: I have one question that
16	probably goes to you because it sort of covers
17	everything. Mike Murphy talked about approximately
18	900 additional FTEs for his units collectively. I
19	know in going through testimony, even though Atzl in
20	his group had talked about some additional FTEs,
21	certainly there was some in gas and electric. Do you
22	guys by any chance have a total number of additional
23	FTEs that you're seeking that's readily handy? If
24	you don't, I can follow up. I just figured I'd ask
25	if you had the number.

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3	MR. KONECNI: We might. Give us one
4	second. Kevin, I think you're going to have to ask a
5	follow-up question on that. I don't think we have
6	that readily available.
7	MR. LANG: Okay. All right. I figure
8	I'd ask if you have it. Thanks.
9	MR. KONECNI: Thank you. Your Honor,
10	that concludes the company's presentation.
11	THE COURT: Thank you, Josh. Thanks
12	to Con Edison for the presentation and to everyone
13	for their participation today. We look forward to
14	working with you all.
15	And with that, the conference is
16	adjourned. Have a great afternoon everybody.
17	(Off the record)
18	
19	(The hearing concluded at 2:22 p.m.)
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3	STATE OF NEW YORK
4	I, MELANIE BERRY, do hereby certify that the
5	foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the
6	time and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at
7	Page 1 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten
8	transcription consisting of pages 1 through 77, is a
9	true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
11	subscribed my name, this the 9th day of March, 2025.
12	
13 14	Milanie Perry MELANIE BERRY, Reporter
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