



HEAT WAVE ON THE WAY LOCAL 1-2 UPDATE

DIVIDEND KING KEVIN BURKE HAS HIS \$18 M DEFINED PENSION, AFTER 70 YEARS HE'S TELLING HIS WORKERS THEY CAN GO IT ALONE IN RETIREMENT

Con Edison Chairman and CEO Kevin Burke has a defined pension benefit of \$18 million, settled on him by the ratepayers of New York City and Westchester, but when it comes to 8,500 of the Con Ed workers who keep the lights on, he's drawn a line in the sand telling them that when they retire, they can go it alone.

During collective bargaining talks with Local 1-2 of the Utility Workers Union of America, which represents the men and women who keep the system operating, Con Edison has refused repeatedly to enter into meaningful bargaining with the Union. The Union Members have authorized a strike for midnight June 30, when its current Collective Bargaining Agreement expires.

Harry J. Farrell, President of Local 1-2, said, "We know there's a heat wave on the way this weekend and my Members are dedicated to serving the people of New York City, but at some point we have to stand up for the Middle-Class. We have to tell the corporate 1%, like Chairman Burke, whose wealth has grown even in these economic times, that enough is enough, when are hard working men and women going to be treated fairly? We're being told we should thank Con Ed for having a job."

Farrell said when the heat arrives this weekend his members will be working round the clock but warned the public that it could come to a sudden halt if Kevin Burke forces a job disruption by his demands to strip Local 1-2 Members of their health and pension plans.

Farrell said, "My Members are the workers who have the expertise and experience to keep the lights on. The public should know, especially in Brooklyn and Queens, that if Kevin Burke persists in failing to engage in meaningful discussions and forces a work disruption, the system shows every indication that it will not be able to hold up in another heat wave. There will be outages and Con Ed will not be able repair the damage." So far, Burke has declined to participate in negotiations.

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