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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 9, 2006

ZERO RATE IMPACT NEGOTIATED BY ACTIVE PARTIES FOR TWO YEARS OF CON EDISON STEAM RATES ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

The New York Energy Consumers Council, Inc. (“NYECC”) is very pleased to announce that a settlement, a/k/a a Joint Proposal (“JP”) has been reached among the majority of the active parties in the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (“Con Ed”) steam rate proceeding pending before the Public Service Commission (“PSC” or “Commission”) in PSC Case 05-S-1376. The JP will be presented to the Commission for its consideration. The JP representing consensus among the Active Parties, who are signatories, was filed with the Commission on June 2, 2006.

Active Parties, such as NYECC, invested several hundred hours reviewing original and supplemental documents filed in this case and in multiple rounds of negotiations. NYECC is confident that the outcome of these efforts has appropriately served the interests of consumers of Consolidated Edison's steam system.

NYECC is also pleased to note that, despite a prohibition against rate escalation during this two-year rate plan, the JP incorporates a provision for the Company's annual capital investment of \$45 million into the steam system, as well as retaining a commitment to critical Operational and Maintenance investments during the two-year rate plan.

Steam Consumer value is further seen both directly and indirectly in the terms of the JP as follows:

First, the financial merit of the JP is seen in the contrast between the rates requested by Con Ed and the rates set forth in the JP. Con Ed's original filing incorporated base rate increases of \$102.1 million (to have been repeated in the second year) and an additional base rate increase of \$15.1 million in the second year. Although some of that \$219.3 million increase during the next two years was anticipated to be offset by reductions in the Fuel Adjustment Charge (“FAC”), the JP memorializes a significant accomplishment over the two years, namely, the absence of any change in base rates. Although some costs currently recovered in the FAC will still be transferred into base rates in the second rate year of the JP, the net impact on consumers will nonetheless remain flat. Unfortunately, of course, consumers can still anticipate increases in their costs of steam, which are driven by rising fuel costs that are outside the control of Con Ed.

Second, and perhaps even more importantly, the JP incorporates the Con Ed's affirmation of its ongoing and long-term commitment to its Steam Business. The past several rate cases have documented consumer concerns about the rising costs of steam service and the threat those increases represent for the ongoing viability of the steam system. In 2005, members of the Steam Business Development Task Force, which was established by the previous Con Ed steam rate case, issued a Steam Business Development Plan that noted, among other points, that, "The fundamental barrier to development of the New York City steam system is steam's cost relative to other heating and cooling options." Not only does the zero rate increase incorporated into this JP help address this fundamental barrier, the multiple commitments identified in other sections of the JP effectively document the strength of Con Ed's commitment to maintaining and developing its steam business unit.

Several of the Con Ed commitments in that section warrant additional comment. First, the JP memorializes a broad-based commitment to expanding the summertime (off-peak) use of steam to supplement customer cooling requirements. Second, the JP incorporates a requirement to conduct energy audits of those 30 customers whose steam consumption and load profiles represent the best opportunities for energy efficiency improvements; the commitment also includes a provision to incorporate lessons learned from those energy audits into a series of best practices that will be made available to all of Con Ed's steam customers. Third, Con Ed confirms its commitment to meeting with and responding to the concerns of its steam customers; and in tandem with such meetings, Con Ed commits to expanding its ability to respond to customer requests for assistance on multiple levels – including expanded use of its existing Account Executives and the establishment of new points of contact and advocacy for all steam customers. Fourth, the Con Ed commits to implementing and/or expanding its existing steam repair service program, a microturbine demonstration project, and a district energy study. In order to ensure that it better understands the needs of its steam customers, the JP recognizes Con Ed's commitment to implementing customer focus groups and customer survey instruments. Equally important, the JP commits Con Ed to the continued collaboration with customers and other key market participants in the ongoing Steam Business Development Task Force, which will meet quarterly during the two years of the rate plan.

Also of critical importance to steam consumers is language that stipulates and memorializes a commitment to further investigation of several rate provisions to ensure that all customers are treated fairly and actively encouraged to remain as customers of the steam system. These provisions include further consideration of Con Ed's existing Negotiated Steam Fuel Cost Option and potential for enhancement and expansion of that option; development of guidelines to help customers complete the SC 5 template form to qualify for special negotiated rates, as applicable to preserve customer base; development of formal, written technical specifications and interconnection procedures for Combined Heat and Power ("CHP") facilities; and, most importantly, the implementation of a collaborative study designed to review and potentially improve the designs of rates for steam customers who will be facing demand rates in the second year of the rate plan, as well as customers seeking standby service, and all customers.