

**OPENING STATEMENT
BRUCE J. WALKER
NOMINATION HEARING
UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, members of the Committee, and Professional Committee Staff, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability at the Department of Energy.

It is truly an honor to be before this Committee and I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Perry for displaying their confidence in me by nominating me to this important position. If I have the distinct honor of being confirmed by the United States Senate, I look forward to working with each of you and your respective staffs to address energy issues and opportunities within my role at the Department. As we have recently witnessed, significant events like hurricanes are indiscriminate regarding whom they impact, and it is in the preparation and response to these types of events that we can identify opportunities to address the security and resiliency of the electric grid for the safety and health of the American public.

I would like to introduce my family to the Committee. With me today are my wife of twenty-five years, Lisa, our three children, Bryce, Lahra and Greyson, and my parents; Joseph and Dorothy. My brother Matthew is also here, having just flown in at midnight from Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

Though I am a lawyer, my career in the electric industry began when I was a junior at Manhattan College. I began an internship with the local utility - Consolidated Edison of New York - where I also worked upon graduation, and continued to work for eighteen years, in increasing levels of responsibility. Throughout this time, I primarily focused on the electric power system. As a Field Engineer, I was responsible for designing, inspecting construction and integrating the largest customers within Con Edison's electric power system. I was also part of the Environmental Response Team and a member of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Response Team - preparing for and responding to significant events that impacted the electric power system in New York City.

In addition to gaining hands-on experience in the field, I was a key contributor to the merger of Con Edison and Orange and Rockland Utilities with responsibility for the organizational structure and regulatory integration for several departments, namely; Gas Operations and Engineering, Transmission and Distribution Electric Operations and Engineering, Research and Development, Legal and Regulatory and Control Centers. Upon completion of the merger, I assumed the role of a control center manager where I had responsibility for gas and electric operations. In this capacity, I worked with System Operations to consolidate the control of the generation/transmission system with the distribution system, and developed and implemented

modernization and resiliency strategies, including the use of software programs to improve the reliability and response to system emergencies. As the control center manager during the 9/11 World Trade Center Attack and the 2003 Blackout, I am keenly aware of the need for preparedness and response plans as well as building a secure and resilient electric power system.

After five years managing the control center, I was selected to lead operation specific aspects of the first rate case since New York State de-regulated the electric industry. In this capacity, I acted as a subject matter expert and attorney for the regulatory team regarding capital and operational and maintenance investments to ensure the reliability of the electric power system. Following the electric rate case, I developed the Corporate Coastal Storm Plan based upon the disaster realized during Hurricane Katrina. This detailed and complex plan was designed for the worst case scenario which was realized by New York City during Hurricane Sandy. This Corporate Coastal Storm Plan was successfully utilized during Con Edison's response to Hurricane Sandy. This plan established industry leading practices such as pre-emptively de-energizing portions of lower Manhattan and asset specific evaluations and remediation strategies for critical infrastructure necessary to maintain the integrity of the energy systems.

As a result of the failure of the Long Island City underground secondary network, which at the time was one of the largest underground secondary networks in the world and one of the most logistically critical networks in New York City, I was placed in charge of interim operations of the network and developed a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction program. Coincident with managing this recovery effort, I was made the Director of Con Edison's Corporate Emergency Management. In this position I developed, implemented and secured regulatory approval for the Corporate Emergency Management Strategy, master plan and organizational structure including gas, electric and steam operations.

Following my career at Con Edison, I became the Vice President of Asset Strategy and Policy for National Grid. In that capacity, I oversaw the development of asset strategies and policies for a \$3 billion, five-year capital investment plan in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. These asset strategies focused on making investments that modernized the grid – thereby improving reliability, resiliency and security of the electric power systems.

With our recent witness of the massive destruction and death caused by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria we can appreciate the critical nature of resiliency and preparedness plans that are crucial to establish and maintain normalcy – especially as they relate to the availability of electric power. The Department, specifically the Office of Electricity, is uniquely positioned to facilitate emergency preparedness and response plans throughout the Nation. Moreover, the Department can further its efforts to facilitate the advancement and modernization, in every form, of the electric power system throughout the United States by working with the States and their respective utilities and energy partners. If confirmed, I will lead the Office of Electricity by leveraging my twenty-five years of electric power industry

experience to improve the reliability, security (physical and cyber), and modernization of the Nation's electric power system.

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee as an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Energy. I look forward to answering your questions as you consider my nomination.