

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

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CON EDISON GAS EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

— Public Process Set for Thorough Review of Tragic Queens Gas Incident —

Albany, NY—05/14/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today received an initial briefing from Department of Public Service Staff in the matter of the natural gas explosion in Queens last month within the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. service territory.

“Department Staff were on the scene of the tragic gas explosion in Floral Park which cost the life of one person shortly after it occurred, and they have been actively involved in investigating the explosion and Consolidated Edison’s response to the event,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “The Commission intends to fully investigate this matter. Whether the company’s emergency response procedures were effectively carried out and whether there is any need for improvement will be matters considered as part of our overall investigation.”

On April 24, 2009, a natural gas explosion occurred at 80-50 260th Street in Queens, New York. One individual died and several others sustained injuries. The Commission initiated a proceeding to investigate this matter and it has established a public process to be followed to ensure an opportunity for the public to participate in the proceeding and comment on the issues raised by this event.

Pursuant to Commission rules, Con Edison is required to submit its initial report on the incident within 30 days after its occurrence. The report, due May 26, will include a detailed description of the incident, Con Edison’s response, and results and findings of Con Edison’s investigation.

After the Department Staff reviews the Con Edison report and completes its own investigation, the Department will prepare a separate report and make it available to the public on its Web site. Once these reports are available, an administrative law judge will convene a Public Statement Hearing to, among other things, take oral and written public comments or statements on Con Edison's reports, the Department Staff's report, and any other matters relating to this case.

After evaluating the reports, public comments and input to the Secretary to the Commission, and Department Staff's recommendations, the Commission will make any further determinations required for the disposition of issues which may be associated with this matter.

The Commission's notice regarding the gas explosion and other related documents may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.state.ny.us and entering Case Number 09-G-0380 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number." Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).