STATE OF NEW YORK Public Service Commission

William M. Flynn, Chairman

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 Further Details: (518) 474-7080 http://www.dps.state.ny.us FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

06043/06E0894

URGENT: MEDIA AND CONSUMER ALERT NEW LOCATION AND TIME FOR PSC POWER OUTAGE HEARINGS ON AUGUST 3rd AND 9th

Albany, NY—7/31/06—The New York State Public Service Commission today announced location and time changes for its August 3rd hearing and August 9th hearings to take statements from affected customers and other interested parties on issues related to the Long Island City power outage. The revised information for the hearings to be held at the new location – **Public School 234 in Astoria** – is as follows:

Thursday, August 3, 2006 **NEW LOCATION: Public School 234** 30-15 29th Street Astoria, N.Y. Wednesday, August 9, 2006 NEW LOCATION: Public School 234 30-15 29th Street Astoria, N.Y.

6:00 p.m.

NEW TIME: 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please note that there is no change to the previously announced hearings on August 10 at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

The Public Service Commission is particularly interested in comments from customers that address the following questions:

- How, exactly, were you affected by the outages?
- Do you think you received timely, accurate and adequate information from the company or otherwise about what was happening before, during and after the service outages?
- Did you attempt to contact the company for information or assistance immediately before, during or after the outages, and did you get what you were requesting?
- What are your overall impressions about how the company responded to the outages and your reasons for those impressions?
- What are your recommendations about actions you believe the company should or should not have taken before, during and after the service interruptions?

• What actions do you recommend the Commission take in light of all that you know about these events?

It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance in order to speak. Speakers will be called after completing a card requesting time to speak when they sign in at the door. All public statements will be transcribed by a stenographer. It is not necessary to submit written statements, and all statements—either written or oral—will be included in the formal record of the investigation for consideration by the Commission. The hearings will remain open for at least one hour and will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements are made.

Disabled persons who may require special accommodations should contact the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Management Office at (518)-474-2520.

Other Ways to Comment

Interested persons not wishing to attend or who are unable to attend the public statement hearings may comment (in English or Spanish) on the Long Island City power outage by mailing their written statements to: Honorable Jaclyn A. Brilling, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Statements should reference "Case 06-E-0894—Order Instituting Proceeding and Directing Staff Investigation" and should be received as soon as possible.

Other alternatives available for submitting comments for consideration include:

Toll-free Opinion Line: Interested persons may call a special toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This phone line is set up to receive comments about the proceeding from instate callers, 24 hours-a-day. Callers should select English or Spanish and press "1" to leave comments about the Con Edison case.

Internet: Comments also may be submitted via the "PSC Comment Form," in the "Contact Us" file, accessed through the homepage of the Commission's Consumer Web site. The Web site address is <u>http://www.AskPSC.com</u> and comments are downloaded regularly. Many libraries offer free internet access.

All statements and comments received will be considered by staff in its investigation and will be placed in the public case file and made available for public inspections in the Commission's file room.

On July 26, 2006, Public Service Commission Chairman William M. Flynn issued a onecommissioner order to initiate a formal proceeding and investigation (Case 06-E-0894) to examine thoroughly all issues associated with the power outages in Consolidated Edison's Long Island City network that began on July 17, 2006. A copy of the Commission's written order instituting its investigation of the customer outages in Queens (Case 06-E-0894) can be obtained from the Commission's Web site at <u>http://dps.state.ny.us</u> by accessing the PSC Fileroom section from the homepage. Many public libraries offer free Internet access. The order also is available at the Commission's files Office, 14th floor, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).