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1 STATE OF NEW YORK
2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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4 Case 06-M-1078 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission
5 to Audit the Performance of Consolidated Edison Company
of New York, Inc. In Response to Outage Emergencies.

6 Case 06-E-1158 - In the Matter of Staff's Investigation
7 of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.'s
8 Performance During and Following the July and September
Electric Utility Outages.

9 Public Statement Hearing
10 City Hall
40 South Broadway
11 Yonkers, New York

12 October 11, 2006
7:00 p.m.

13 PRESIDING:

14 ELEANOR STEIN,
15 Administrative Law Judge

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23 Reported by: Jeanne O'Connell, R.P.R.
24 (518) 271-7904

25 ORIGINAL

1 JUDGE STEIN: This is a New York State Public
2 Service Commission public statement hearing. My name is
3 Administrative Law Judge Eleanor Stein and we are here
4 in cases 06-M-0178, a Proceeding on Motion of the
5 Commission to audit the performance of Consolidated
6 Edison in response to outage emergencies, and case
7 06-E-1158, staff's investigation of Consolidated
8 Edison's performance during and following the July and
9 September electric utility outages.

10 We are here on a stenographic record. And if you
11 are speaking please bear in mind that the stenographer
12 needs to take down what you are saying, and what is said
13 here tonight will be placed in the official record of
14 the Public Service Commission's proceedings and will be
15 considered by the Commission in its final determinations
16 on these matters.

17 These proceedings were instituted in response to
18 service outages resulting from Tropical Storm Ernesto
19 beginning in September 2006, and in response to which
20 the Commission instituted an independent audit; and also
21 in response to the Con Edison response to the outages in
22 September 2006 and July 2006 in a proceeding that will
23 constitute a staff review of the required Con Edison
24 report on the causes and responses to those outages.

25 The purpose of this hearing is to have statements

1 made by the public or by public officials and enter
2 those into the record of the proceeding. We also have
3 members of the department staff here as well as
4 representatives of Consolidated Edison, if people wish
5 to speak to them off the record.

6 We may only have one speaker here tonight so far,
7 so I will call on him, and we will then keep this
8 hearing open for approximately an hour, perhaps a little
9 less. So, Mr. Lesnick, if you would like to join us.

10 MR. LESNICK: Thank you, Your Honor. It's a
11 pleasure to be on this side of the podium. It's also a
12 pleasure to welcome you into the Yonkers City Council
13 chambers and thank you and thank Con Ed for coming to
14 hear the concerns of the residents. It's sort of ironic
15 that we were having a public hearing on the M29 about a
16 month ago, just after the power outages, so at that
17 public hearing there were many residents who came and
18 spoke out about the public outages then.

19 We also have an ongoing relationship with Con Ed.
20 They were at one of our real estate committee meetings.
21 We spoke out then and they responded. So, I am going to
22 use my minutes here to talk about the M29 line.

23 By pure coincidence, one of the reporters called
24 me yesterday to ask me about that process as it goes
25 forward, and an article appeared in yesterday's Journal

1 News which I will submit to the stenographer so she can
2 put it into the record.

3 I just wanted to respond because the gist of my
4 requests to Con Ed and the PSC is that we have this
5 large economic development project at Ridge Hill coming
6 in and it's going to be a thousand units of housing, 1.2
7 million square feet of retail space, and there were many
8 concerns about traffic prior to the approval of that
9 project. That project has been approved as it stands
10 with access in from the New York State Thruway and from
11 Tuckahoe Road.

12 I remain committed to try to get another means of
13 traffic egress from the Sprain Brook Parkway into Ridge
14 Hill, and we have suggested this ramp and there were
15 several obstacles, one of which is the transmission
16 wires that come down for Con Ed into the Ridge Hill
17 substation. And Con Ed did a study on how much it would
18 cost to raise these transmission lines 16 feet, which is
19 what we have to do to run a ramp underneath these lines,
20 and they came back with the figure of \$9.5 million.

21 I am not disputing that figure, it seems high,
22 but we have asked Con Ed if they would absorb that cost
23 in return for the disruption that they are going to be
24 causing to the streets of Yonkers with the M29 line. As
25 you may know, that line is going to go from the Con Ed

1 substation at Ridge Hill, down Tuckahoe Road, down Saw
2 Mill River Road, over on to Nepperhan Avenue, over to
3 Yonkers Avenue, Riverdale Avenue, about five miles of
4 Yonkers' streets, before it hits the Bronx. Yonkers
5 residents and Greenburgh residents are going to be
6 affected by the traffic. We think it would be
7 appropriate for them to help us with this solution,
8 which is to alleviate the traffic.

9 Alan Drury wrote this article in Journal News and
10 quoted a Con Ed spokesman, Chris Olik, who was concerned
11 that this was going to inure to the private benefit of a
12 private developer of the Ridge Hill project. I just
13 wanted to set the record straight there really is a
14 public benefit to this. We are planning a complete
15 reclamation project at the Sprain Lake, a park that will
16 incorporate the trails in the Sprain Ridge Park, the
17 golf course, and of course these ramps. It will be part
18 of this park, a public project, a public benefit, not to
19 mention the fact that the mitigation of traffic is a
20 public benefit.

21 So, I thank you for coming. And I see we have at
22 least one other resident that's going to talk about the
23 power outages. And I know that the record will be held
24 open. And your staff was good enough to give me
25 envelopes so if anyone shows up afterwards or in the

1 subsequent days we will see to it that the remarks get
2 forwarded to you.

3 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you. I appreciate that.
4 Alfred Pulvery.

5 MR. Pulvery: I don't know to whom I am speaking.

6 JUDGE STEIN: My name is Eleanor Stein. I'm an
7 Administrative Law Judge with the State Public Service
8 Commission.

9 MR. PULVERY: I am here representing the
10 neighborhood of Colonial Heights. The president of the
11 community organization is in another meeting tonight and
12 she asked me to be here.

13 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you very much for coming.
14 Let me just say your remarks are being taken down by the
15 stenographer. As you are speaking not too fast so we
16 can have it on the record and it will go on the Public
17 Service Commission's record in this case.

18 MR. PULVERY: Sure. On Saturday, September 2nd,
19 at around 3:00 p.m., trees started falling in Colonial
20 Heights section. We have a number of very large elm
21 trees. Power was out partially or completely from
22 Colonial Parkway--to Colonial Parkway North to Grandview
23 Boulevard. Power on Colonial Parkway was not restored
24 until Wednesday, September 6th.

25 Power on Colonial Parkway North was not restored

1 until the following weekend, September 9th. People in
2 the neighborhood were very upset because when they
3 called Con Ed they received a recorded message. No one
4 was able to speak to a live person, and no one was able
5 to find out when or if someone was coming to solve the
6 problem.

7 I live at 41 Grand View Boulevard. I can detail
8 exactly what happened in my neighborhood. At 7:45 p.m.
9 on Saturday a tree fell at 61 Grand View Boulevard,
10 that's two houses north of me. Sunday at 10:00 a.m., a
11 crew arrives with a field manager named George, who is
12 very good.

13 So, George arrives, looks at the situation, he's
14 told by central command to cut the lines and let the
15 tree, which is hanging, crash into the house at 61 Grand
16 View Boulevard. He makes a decision above his pay grade
17 and agrees with the homeowner and said you can't cut the
18 tree and let it smash into my house, because it's
19 already leaning on part of the house.

20 So, George doesn't cut the line. He calls the
21 disconnecting crew so Yonkers Forestry can cut--can
22 remove the tree. Next day, Sunday, 6:00 p.m, Yonkers
23 Forestry arrives--I'm sorry. That day, 6:00 p.m.,
24 Sunday, Yonkers Forestry arrives. Con Ed crew is on the
25 way. At 10:00 p.m. Yonkers Forestry leaves because Con

1 Ed does not show up. Yonkers Forestry calls Con Ed and
2 said they have to disconnect the live wire and they can
3 disconnect it because the tree is being held up by the
4 cable line.

5 Monday morning, 12:00 a.m., the Con Ed crew
6 arrives. It's a connecting crew, not a disconnecting
7 crew. They call central command and say a disconnecting
8 crew is needed. 6:00 a.m., Yonkers Forestry shows up
9 but they can't do the work because the wire is still
10 live. 5:00 p.m., Con Ed supervisor shows up with five
11 tree cutting crews, but determines it's too dangerous to
12 cut as the live wire is still around the tree.

13 Tuesday, the owner stays home from work as the
14 disconnecting crew is supposed to show up. He waits in
15 his car all day because field evaluators tell him it's
16 too dangerous to stay in the house. The disconnecting
17 crew shows up at 4:00 p.m. but this disconnecting crew
18 can only disconnect underground wires, not airborne
19 wires. I am not making this stuff up.

20 They call central command and inform them that an
21 aboveground disconnecting crew is needed. Central
22 command says one is on its way. No crew shows up.
23 Wednesday, neighbor finally gets through to central
24 command because we have someone posted on the block not
25 allowing traffic to go through. Central command agrees

1 to call the crew. The neighbor calls Yonkers Forestry,
2 who agree to come and cut the tree. The Con Ed crew
3 shows up, looks at the situation, and proceeds to leave.

4 Luckily Yonkers Forestry shows up at the same
5 time. Kenny DiPiero, who is in charge and who was
6 magnificent this whole time, intercepts them and agrees
7 to get them to meet in the morning. They meet in the
8 morning and sometime in the morning between three and
9 four on Thursday the power is restored.

10 I don't know if you have any influence into Con
11 Ed supervisors, but you can hear from what I am saying
12 it wasn't the manpower shortage, but the supervisory
13 miscommunication that was so, so unbelievably inept. If
14 you can get this message to them: This is connecting,
15 and this is disconnecting.

16 JUDGE STEIN: Let the record reflect that the
17 speaker is connecting and disconnecting a plug as a
18 visual aid.

19 MR. PULVERY: This is disconnecting underground
20 and this is disconnecting airborne. And it would seem
21 to me that they would have some kind of checklist on
22 their work orders so they wouldn't send out crews like
23 that.

24 Last note I would like to say is that when they
25 reconnect wires into the neighborhood, what they tend to

1 do is go the same path. So, if a tree is forked,
2 instead of running a wire around the branches when they
3 can they just put it the same way.

4 I don't know if you know how trees fall. Trees
5 fall away from the street because the roots on the
6 street side do not get as much water and they are weaker
7 or shallower, so trees always fall in this way.

8 So, instead of putting the wires streetside
9 around the tree, they run it right through the middle so
10 every time a tree falls it goes the same way.

11 Thank you very much.

12 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you. Our next speaker is Dee
13 Barrato. Thank you for sharing your lovely room with
14 us.

15 MS. BARRATO: Thank you for being here. We
16 appreciate it. I'm a Councilwoman in the sixth district
17 and just listening to the gentleman before me I could
18 probably tell you I heard that same story at least
19 tenfold from residents in the area. And, of course,
20 this last storm and the reaction from Con Edison, but
21 also the storm before that, and the storm before that
22 one, and it always seems to be the same thing.

23 People are sent out, they can't do anything but
24 stand there and watch the lines. They have to wait for
25 crews to come in. Crews come in from other areas. We

1 hear of Con Edison workers that weren't even called in
2 in emergency situations and yet were waiting for crews
3 to come from other states. It just goes on and on, and
4 it's very troubling to the people of Yonkers, most
5 especially to the people in my district, where this last
6 storm out there were a considerable number of outages.

7 My colleague John Murtagh, he himself was without
8 electricity for just about a week and his district abuts
9 mine. It just seems what we are concerned about is that
10 we don't believe that Con Edison is putting the kind of
11 capital into maintenance. It seems, from what we have
12 been told, that there has been a cut in maintenance
13 crews in recent years, and all this adds into not only
14 reacting in terms of a storm or an emergency, but any
15 type of preventative maintenance that needs to be done
16 in the care and infrastructure.

17 I testified at county hearings. I had asked that
18 the PSC go in and look at what Con Edison is investing
19 in terms for caring for its infrastructure. I think
20 that's been most of the concern. People, for example,
21 on Young Avenue, not this last storm but the storm
22 before, were without electricity for a number of days.

23 There was no tree down on that street. It was
24 because a transformer or something blew and they wound
25 up without electricity. When I was out there the

1 residents said to me, look at the wires, look at how
2 frayed they are, and they have been that way for years.
3 It's no wonder when there is something like this we wind
4 up without electricity.

5 So it makes one think about what are they doing
6 to maintain their infrastructure and their service to
7 the people of not only Yonkers but all of their
8 customers throughout the state.

9 We here in Yonkers particularly, we have two
10 substations. We are fortunate to have two substations
11 and have to bear that burden. And one substation in
12 particular abuts private homes, which for many, many
13 years enjoyed an agreement with Con Edison that allowed
14 them to use some of that right-of-way as part of their
15 backyards.

16 About six years ago there was a storm, there was
17 an arching, a boulder flew up, did damage to one of the
18 homes there, and the wind up was that Con Edison had to
19 come in and came in and decimated their entire backyards
20 of any kind of trees or sizable shrubbery. Needless to
21 say, the residents were quite upset, but what the crux
22 of the matter was is that for years Con Ed would go in
23 there and periodically maintain the trees along the
24 right-of-way and then stopped.

25 So the trees obviously grew. And, of course,

1 when there became this situation the trees were close to
2 the wires at that point and probably facilitated this
3 incident that happened, but because of their lack of
4 maintenance the homeowners then in turn wound up
5 suffering. And there were over the years many broken
6 promises to the homeowners next to both substations and
7 the commitment to maintaining their plants, to give it
8 some aesthetics so that it wouldn't adversely impact
9 property values that abutted them. And it took years
10 upon years to get Con Edison to finally come in and
11 fulfill the agreement that they had spoken about with
12 the homeowners.

13 So, it's troubling, it's troubling when you see a
14 company of this size, a utility that so many people
15 depend on. Rates certainly continue to go up, bills
16 certainly continue to go up, and yet it seems they are
17 not putting back into their system the kind of
18 maintenance in their infrastructure that would keep the
19 system viable and keep their customers that pay so much
20 with electricity.

21 And I'm not quite sure how this testimony this
22 evening works, and where it goes from here, but I have
23 also been told and have not had the opportunity to
24 really look into it, but with all of this, that this
25 area, this Hudson Valley region, has probably got the

1 highest rates for electricity than neighboring
2 communities that use other utilities.

3 And I would like that looked into, and why, if
4 that's so, why are people here being charged a greater
5 degree than what others provide. And then of course to
6 be charged that and add insult to injury not to have the
7 system maintained.

8 So, I thank you and I appreciate your being here.

9 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you very much. Let me say,
10 for those who were not here at the very beginning of
11 this hearing, that the testimony being taken here
12 tonight is being transcribed by a court reporter and
13 will be made part of the official record in two New York
14 State Public Service Commission investigations of Con
15 Edison. And that record will be considered by the
16 Commission in its final determination on its cases. So,
17 that's what will actually happen to this, the statements
18 that you are making here tonight.

19 And there is some information about those cases
20 in the notice of this hearing, and I believe that the
21 people from the department staff have a little bit more
22 information available outside.

23 Our next speaker is Mr. Vaculik.

24 MR. VACULIK: I thought you wanted to swear me
25 in, but the only person I would like to swear at is Con

1 Ed.

2 I am speaking as a homeowner of Lawrence Park
3 West. My name is Frank Vaculik. I am dealing with this
4 basically situation that I found myself in as--on
5 September 2nd. We had a little bit of a storm. God
6 forbid Yonkers ever had a really serious situation like
7 another hurricane or a 9/11 type incident, I think then
8 you would have to leave Yonkers and don't bother to come
9 back because I don't think they would be able to put it
10 back together, especially with Con Edison.

11 Not that these people when they talk to you don't
12 say something nice, but they don't do anything.
13 Communication is non-existent. I will give you an
14 example. When we lost power for four days, from the 2nd
15 of September on a Saturday at 12:20 until Tuesday at
16 7:35, no, excuse me, 7:25, on Tuesday, p.m., this is
17 both p.m, it became a nightmare trying to get help.

18 Calling Con Edison is a joke because information
19 from point B does not get to point A. Point B is out in
20 Brooklyn. Point A is up in Rye where they distribute
21 the workers, the trucks, and they make the big decisions
22 as to what are we going to fix. And the worst part is
23 they have no idea in this modern technological age where
24 power is on or off.

25 They absolutely don't know. They have admitted

1 this to me they do not know. In fact, the CEO of Con
2 Edison got on television, I believe, a few weeks ago and
3 was questioned. He said unless people call me up, call
4 our company, we do not know if that area or that area or
5 that area has power. We do not know.

6 I find this pretty sad to start with. I mean
7 that's bad enough. I mean if I hadn't hammered away and
8 accidentally found a way to get a call into Rye--because
9 the last thing in the world they want to do is talk to
10 you up in Rye where they distribute the workers and make
11 decisions as to what they are going to fix.

12 Because talking to Brooklyn is a total waste.
13 They should shut that operation down. I would rather
14 they put a machine with an address on it that says
15 ladies and gentlemen, this is Con Edison. We are having
16 a problem. Forget about it. We're not going to do
17 anything about it. Go back to bed. Trouble is we have
18 no electricity. That proves a problem.

19 On my particular situation we had a situation
20 where a tree hit a pole, knocked the top of the pole off
21 and put a transformer in the middle of the street. It
22 stayed there four days. The only people that showed up
23 immediately was the fire department. They showed up in
24 one hour.

25 Con Edison, a few days later when they sent a few

1 people to check it, to check it. That was later after
2 many, many phone calls. Phone calls to Con Edison are a
3 joke. Ten people on my block called and naturally they
4 have only one number they give you and they say nice
5 things, yes, we're checking it, blah blah blah. Means
6 nothing.

7 I called--we called at 1:00 in the afternoon. I
8 called and accidentally got through to Rye. Dispatcher
9 up there said--9:30 at night--there is nothing on my
10 computer about Devon Road. That's fine, as far as we
11 know. There is no problem down there. This is the
12 common thread that goes through anybody that comes in to
13 do repair work.

14 Told my boss about it. They know nothing about.
15 Communication seems to have totally fallen apart in this
16 company. I don't know where it goes. It must go into
17 the ether somewhere, but I don't know where it goes. It
18 doesn't go from point B to point A. In fact, the
19 company--the crew that fixed my--wound up fixing my
20 house four days later was from Long Island. They didn't
21 even do the job right because I had a transformer across
22 the street and it was taken down--it was in the middle
23 of the street and it stayed there until about a week
24 ago. For five weeks it was in the street.

25 They finally put the pole in and a new

1 transformer about a week ago, five weeks after the
2 initial storm. Five weeks. And that's only because I
3 accidentally got through to one of the managers up in
4 Rye. In fact, the guy I would love to get a hold of is
5 I believe Mr. Herbert, who happens to be, I believe, one
6 of the overall managers of that particular facility. I
7 would love to speak to him some day. Unfortunately, I
8 don't think we would have--I would be very pleasant.

9 Another thing, Con Edison has lots of fun when
10 they--it's very difficult even for emergency to get
11 through. I called police dispatcher's number in
12 Yonkers. She informed me that on Saturday the first
13 night of the blackout they had people in dispatchers
14 from Con Ed up in Rye hanging up, hanging up, on the
15 dispatchers from police headquarters in Yonkers.

16 I said what? I find this outrageous. I said you
17 should call Commissioner Taggart and have him send a car
18 up there with a captain and a sergeant and arrest the
19 dispatcher. How dare he do that? I mean you've got a
20 situation where you got people who are old, sick,
21 children, all kinds of problems, and you are going to
22 pull that nonsense? How dare you do something like
23 that? That's totally outrageous.

24 In fact, I only found out that Con Edison was
25 offering dry ice for food on Monday afternoon when they

1 were handing it out in Cross County, over here on the
2 end of Cross County part of Macy's. I found that out
3 from my brother-in-law who is in Washington. Why?
4 Because they make the assumption that you have
5 television, etc., etc., when you have no power and
6 somehow that doesn't seem to work. Proves a difficult
7 problem.

8 The common thread, as I said, is from top to
9 bottom is nobody told me. I didn't know. This sounds
10 awfully familiar. They do not know where the power is
11 off or if it's on. They don't have the manpower, as far
12 as I can see, to properly do the job when they are
13 called upon for an emergency.

14 I have had people off the record that had
15 come--had done the service and admitted it. I
16 understand that Con Edison is in the middle of a crash
17 program to hire 75 new crews. Why? Because they have
18 been yelled at so much for all these last storms that
19 they are being "forced" to do it politically.

20 Otherwise, I think they are more worried about
21 the bottom line and the stockholders. Personally, I am
22 not worried about the stockholders. Their attitude
23 seems to be we want to make it--we want to run our
24 company as efficiently as possible, as small as
25 possible, and spend the least amount of money on doing

1 so to fix things when they break down.

2 And when you have a storm or something and you
3 require a number of people that have some idea of what
4 they are doing, this is not the time to go out and say,
5 gee, I need some good electricians, some good wire men,
6 some good this, some good that, and try to find, or have
7 to make phone calls and say, okay, I'm going to have to
8 start doing some subcontracting.

9 This is what they do. They obviously have to
10 subcontract at that point because the man who fixed my
11 wiring was from the middle of Long Island. And I
12 understand they had people coming down all the way from
13 upstate. This is what they do over and over again. It
14 really can't be tolerated.

15 I mean I live in an area where in a month and a
16 half we lost power three times. When you do it an hour
17 or so that's bad enough. I mean I'm not going to get
18 into the fact that my wife is not well, I am falling
19 apart. In fact, I even had a diabetic attack which got
20 me in the newspaper. How? When I was picking up dry
21 ice the gentleman was taking pictures of me. He said
22 can Mr. Valente, who was one of the journalists from the
23 Journal News, one of the writers, came over to my house.
24 Excuse me. I'm sorry. He called me on the phone and we
25 had a chat about Con Edison as to how difficult it is,

1 etc., and I said I even had a diabetic attack. That
2 wound up on the separate section of the Journal News the
3 next day, which was rather amusing.

4 But I would rather have had my electricity back
5 on a lot sooner than waiting a considerable period of
6 time to get anything done because it seems like one side
7 is arguing with the other side and nobody seems to know
8 what's going on.

9 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you very much for your
10 testimony.

11 MR. VACULIK: You're very welcome. Thank you for
12 allowing me to speak this evening.

13 JUDGE STEIN: My pleasure. Ms. Vizzini.

14 MS. VIZZINI: Good evening. My name is Annette
15 Vizzini. I live at 125 Gramartan Drive, Yonkers. I am
16 co-president of Gramartan Hills Homeowners Association.

17 I ask for your patience because what I am going
18 to say will shed light on why Con Ed had difficulty in
19 restoring power after our recent outage. Speaking from
20 over 40 years of personal experience with Con Ed, I know
21 that Con Ed's response to any power outage is based upon
22 their frugality and attitude toward the public.

23 I have been living in Yonkers for 48 years. Some
24 of the residents from Gramartan Hills, including myself,
25 live adjacent to the Dunwoodie substation. Many of our

1 homes were built in the 1920s, way before the expansion
2 of the substation in the '60s. In spite of the
3 objections from homeowners, Con Ed has expanded their
4 substation within 50 feet of our building lines. The
5 homeowners' objections were ignored.

6 Until this year, we were never informed of Con
7 Ed's plans for Dunwoodie, even though the substation is
8 surrounded on three sides with residences, even though
9 their construction plans affect our health, real estate
10 values, and quality of life. At meetings before the
11 planning and zoning boards in 2003, Con Ed forgot, they
12 forgot to mention that some of the expansion in back of
13 our homes would consist of monstrous structures that
14 would rise above the buildings in full view of our homes
15 and consequently affect our real estate values.

16 Con Ed has a bad reputation in Yonkers and a self
17 serving attitude. They are not good neighbors. I have
18 compiled a record of 61 exhibits to prove this. Singly,
19 they may not seem devastating, but collectively they
20 reflect the shabby treatment the residents of Gramartan
21 Hills have received from Con Ed for over 40 years.

22 What is their self serving attitude? Because Con
23 Ed is such a powerful entity they demand that their
24 needs come before the welfare of the public. How did
25 Con Ed get this attitude? Through the years, Con Ed has

1 been given carte blanche by municipal representatives.
2 These people believe everything Con Ed tells them. They
3 listen to the public, but they don't hear us. As a
4 result, nothing is done to protect the safety and
5 quality of life of the residents Con Ed serves.

6 Con Ed hides behind Article VII of the New York
7 State Public Service Law. Government representatives
8 think that the public need in this article is enough to
9 excuse them from delving further into Con Ed's
10 statements and requests. It is imperative that I bring
11 up the new Rockview substation being built at Dunwoodie
12 today because it is a perfect example of Con Ed's the
13 public be damned attitude.

14 Gramartan Hills opposed the construction of this
15 substation. At the planning board meetings, the project
16 engineer testified that more power could be brought into
17 Dunwoodie without adding another substation. The
18 planning board ignored this statement, made no attempt
19 to protect our communities, and granted Con Ed its
20 variances.

21 The City Council voted against the construction
22 of Rockview, the new substation. Did anyone at the
23 Public Service Commission read the minutes of these
24 meetings before they recommended to our mayor that the
25 council reconsider its vote against the Rockview

1 project? Con Ed sued the city and the pressure was on.

2 Con Ed, like all corporations, has a long range
3 plan for every project. Their long range plan for
4 Yonkers included the new substation in Dunwoodie because
5 they knew it would easily get approval. They did not
6 consider their alternate plan that would protect the
7 communities. History is going to repeat itself. Con Ed
8 stated that they will be back to Dunwoodie to put in
9 another substation.

10 Con Ed's frugality and attitude has a negative
11 effect on its dealings with the public. They take their
12 time in accomplishing tasks that, many a time, drag into
13 years. A prime example is the natural screening this
14 year of Dunwoodie on Kingston Avenue. Con Ed is not
15 embarrassed to admit that it took over 40 years for them
16 to do this screening. Their frugality showed up again.
17 Did they plant quality trees? I don't think so. Most
18 of them are dying.

19 Even though we had a written agreement with Con
20 Ed signed in February, they have not started the project
21 of changing the fencing around Dunwoodie or improving
22 the natural screening in other areas. The fencing
23 project is supposed to begin in November, but the
24 natural screening won't be done until the spring. We
25 missed two planting seasons this year because of

1 corporate red tape.

2 Con Ed constantly cites the directives of the
3 Public Service Commission for their plans to cut every
4 tree they can in the vicinity of high tension wires.
5 When they cut over one hundred trees in back of our
6 homes to provide for their expansion we were told that
7 Con Edison wanted to conserve money by not coming back
8 every year to trim the trees. They have even brought
9 homeowners to court in an attempt to have them cut down
10 trees on the homeowner's property.

11 Con Ed is frugal at the public's expense.
12 Especially with the weather patterns we have had lately,
13 they should invest in insurance. Their insurance should
14 be to hire more trained technicians with the increased
15 demand for power. I am sure they can justify this
16 insurance and the public will not be damned.

17 Thank you very much.

18 JUDGE STEIN: Thank you for your statement. I
19 don't think we have any other people signed up as of now
20 to make statements. Is that right? This hearing will
21 remain open until 8:00 p.m.

22 (Recess taken.)

23 JUDGE STEIN: I am going to go back on the record
24 and state it's approximately 8:00 p.m. There being no
25 other speakers tonight, we are going to bring this

1 hearing to a close. Thank you.

2 (Public statement hearing concluded.)

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