

## **Western Queens Power for the People Campaign**

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### Statement on PSC Draft Report Critical of Con Ed in Queens Power Outage

As a group of community residents directly affected by the July 2006 Queens power outage, the Western Queens Power for the People Campaign (PFP) feels vindicated and gratified that the PSC draft report found what community residents suspected all along --- that Con Ed management mishandled its response to the Queens power outage and that "the overriding cause of the Long Island City network event...was the Company's failure to previously address a multitude of issues." Con Ed stockholders, not community residents, should bear the financial burden of these failures.

Community residents directly experienced what the PSC report put into words, that "the Company either failed or refused to comprehend the magnitude of the crisis" and that "improvements needed at Con Ed are critical and substantial." PFP thanks our fellow community residents and those elected officials who came forward and testified at public hearings to let the PSC know what actually happened last July.

Further, PFP supports the PSC report's call for a hearing to determine the prudence of the Con Ed management's actions, because the company shouldn't be allowed to come back and raise our rates to pay for their failures. The Public Service Commission has the authority to prevent this from happening and to mandate these costs be borne by Con Ed shareholders.

One important issue not addressed by the report, however, was reimbursing community residents and small businesses for millions of dollars in damages and losses, including lost wages, resulting from the power outage that lasted significantly longer than any previous outage.

As an active party in the PSC investigation, Power for the People will be pushing for a change in the draft report to include retroactive reimbursement of the significant monetary damages the community suffered beyond a day's worth of spoiled food.

To accurately quantify those damages, PFP would also like to see an economic and public health impact study, done by a third party and paid for by Con Ed.

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