

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2013  
AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA, 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Environment & Sanitation Committee Members:** Sergio Marquez (E&S Chair), Laura Spalter (Vice Chair), Robert Press, Rob Spalter (community member)

**Other CB members:** Sylvia Alexander, Bob Bender, Anthony Creaney, Margaret Donato, Robert Fanuzzi, Anthony Fella, Beverly Fettman, Michael Heller, Maria Khury, (CB 8 Vice Chair), Dan Padernacht, Karen Pesce, James Rather, Georgia Santiago, I.W. Stone

**Agency Representatives:**

**Con Edison:** Evelyn Oliver  
**Con Edison:** Christine Cummings  
**Con Edison:** Jennifer Brito

**Others:** Thomas Durham, Katherine Broihier-Kingsbridge BID, Greg Gordon-TLC, Karen Martin-TLC, Walter Barrera, R. Haugton, Myra Joyce, Alex Marrero-InTech Academy, Tommy Pate, Mary Seric,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the October 30, 2013 meeting were approved.

**JOINT ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION AND TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEES MINUTES:**

**Storm System Fortification Project**

Evelyn Oliver, Bronx Public Affairs Department of Con Edison, gave an overview and status report on this project. She said that a lot of times this project overlaps with the Oil to Gas Conversion project on the same street. There have been frequent outages especially in the Northern part of the Riverdale Loop. After super storm Sandy, Con Edison decided to redesign the Loop. Presently an outage on the Southern end of the Loop could affect the Northern end. The new design will split the one loop into two separate loops. The split will occur at West 247<sup>th</sup> Street from Palisade Avenue to Tibbets Avenue. The construction of this project was started in October 2013 and should be completed by the end of this year. Then the installation of the sophisticated switches will begin in the first part of 2014. What has been completed in this project is the pole replacement at West 247<sup>th</sup> Street from end to end. These new poles are of higher grade material than the old wooden poles and have the ability to withstand wind gusts up to 110mph. Also, the extra height of these poles will allow the placement of sophisticated switching devices. The new name of the Northern Loop will be the Palisade Loop. The Southern loop has experienced more outages than the Northern loop and for that reason Con Edison has installed two underground vaults under Johnson Avenue and Kappock Street. Ms. Oliver mentioned that there will be an outage that will last from 20 to 30 minutes in three buildings between Palisade and Independence Avenues, but the residents of those buildings will be contacted as to when the outage will occur.

**Oil to Gas Conversion Project**

Christine Cummings, Section Manager in the Gas Conversion Group and Jennifer Brito, Operations Coordinator, gave an overview of this project. The purpose of this conversion is to reduce energy costs and improve the air quality, since when number 6 oils burns it produces a lot of fiber matter, which causes asthma and other illnesses. It is required that all buildings change their heating fuel from number 6 oil to either number 4 oil or number 2 oil or gas by 2015. Also the project will include the improvement of existing gas mains to prevent water intrusions, particularly from storms. There are extra crews to expedite completion of the project. Some of the concerns raised about these projects were: adequate notification prior to commencing construction at a particular street; proper restoration of streets and blackouts occurring during construction. Con Edison's response to the first concern was that 2,500 notices were distributed throughout the affected areas. Also, they will target specific areas and provided dates when construction will occur in those areas that will impact parking since there will be street closing. However, when emergency work is necessary then sufficient notice might not be possible. They will check with the Department of Transportation (DOT) whether Con Edison can post street notification signs. Also, they will make sure that their independent contractors are giving adequate notice of the impending work. As to the second concern, Con Edison will make all efforts to properly restore the entrenched streets as required by DOT. As to the third concern, these blackouts usually occur for only a couple of seconds and it could be due to either transfers or switching.

Also, Con Edison has, inspectors checking each construction site to make sure that the work is being done according to Con Edison's specifications. Con Edison can be called, in the event that, the work being done at a site is being done improperly.

Tom Durham reported that the earliest notification that excavation will be done on a particular street by Con Edison is to review the Department of Building street permits and then contact the landlord of the subject building or the homeowner of that home to find out when the work is scheduled to be commenced.

Also, Con Edison can be contacted to find out which work was either completed or is pending.

**ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE:****New Business**

Laura Spalter (Vice Chair) reported that the brownfield cleanup at 6469 Broadway has not started yet, but should start soon.

The Chair reported that DEP will be releasing water into the Harlem River as part of start up and testing from the Croton Water Filtration Plant. Before treated water from the Croton Water Filtration Plant is allowed to enter the City's drinking water supply system, testing of the treatment process must be conducted to ensure that the final water meets all Federal and New York standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair  
Environment & Sanitation  
Committee