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3 STATE OF NEW YORK
4 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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6 MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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9

Thursday, April 16, 2015
10:30 a.m.

10

Three Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3, 19th Floor
Albany, New York

11

12 COMMISSIONERS

13 AUDREY ZIBELMAN, Chair
14 GREGG C. SAYRE
15 PATRICIA L. ACAMPORA
16 DIANE BURMAN

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2 (The meeting commenced at 10:34
3 a.m.)

4 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: I'm going to
5 call the Commission to order.

6 Secretary Burgess, is there any
7 changes to the final agenda?

8 SECRETARY BURGESS: Good morning,
9 Chair and Commissioners. There's no changes to the
10 agenda this morning.

11 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Before we
12 begin --.

13 SECRETARY BURGESS: Excuse me,
14 Chair. I think you just need to put your
15 microphone on, please.

16 (Off-the-record discussion)

17 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Before we begin
18 the topics in -- on the agenda today, I'd like --
19 if I could ask my fellow commissioners to indulge
20 me, I'd like to provide you a brief update on the
21 Comcast Time Warner merger.

22 As all of you are aware, this is
23 an incredibly complex transaction, and it's a
24 transaction that will -- can have a significant
25 impact on millions of consumers, as well as the

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2 state's economy as a whole. Because of the
3 significance of these mergers, in fact, the State
4 acted last year to strengthen the public interest
5 standard that the Commission is to apply to our
6 review.

7 As you're also aware, the merger
8 is subject to and is being reviewed by the federal
9 government under federal statutes. We, at -- for
10 our part, have been in the process of developing a
11 very robust record. And that record's been
12 developed through an extensive public comment
13 process which has included multiple public
14 statement hearings across the state, as well as the
15 solicitation and receipt of written comments, as
16 well -- and reply comments. In fact, we have
17 almost three thousand comment submissions. Many of
18 them are detailed and extensive from members of the
19 public, elected officials, businesses, and
20 not-for-profit organizations.

21 In addition to our own record,
22 over the last several weeks, there have been
23 significant events that warrant further review.
24 last month, for example, the FCC issued its open
25 Internet order that implements net neutrality rules

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2 and reclassified Internet providers' offerings as
3 telecommunications services under Title Two of the
4 Communications Act. That was a dramatic
5 development that we need to consider as we complete
6 our review of the proposed merger.

7 In addition, although other
8 states have approved the merger over the last year,
9 some states like New York who have large numbers of
10 affected customers have been involved in a much
11 more comprehensive review. For example, we have
12 been watching with interest the developments in
13 California whose Public Utilities Commission is
14 also in midst of reviewing the merger. Our Staff
15 is, in fact, reviewing the arguments and the
16 comments that have been raised in the California
17 proceeding.

18 Now there's been a lot of
19 speculation about what the delays mean. First,
20 like I mentioned above, the federal government has
21 made some significant rulings over the past several
22 months that has necessitated further review.
23 Second, in and of itself, this is a very complex
24 merger with potentially huge consequences in the
25 state. In fact, as I just noted, other large

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2 states, particularly California, are taking their
3 time to review it to make sure that they get the
4 decision right.

5 The FCC, too, has stopped its own
6 clock several times so to -- to make sure -- so --
7 so for that reason, there should be nothing unusual
8 about the fact that we also are taking time to
9 review this transaction. We appreciate the
10 patience and willingness as we continue the review.
11 We do intend to continue working diligently to
12 complete our review and will bring the matter to
13 the Commission when we are confident we have
14 reviewed all of the relevant facts.

15 We appreciate, again, the
16 patience of all stakeholders, including the
17 companies, but I'm sure you all recognize that it's
18 very critical that our review be complete and that
19 when we bring a recommended decision to this
20 Commission, it is one that we are assured is in the
21 interest of all New Yorkers.

22 Thank you and now we can proceed
23 to our agenda.

24 So with that, the first topic
25 we're going to be talking about today is gas

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2 safety. And I -- I'm not going to be as long
3 winded on everything, but I do want to talk --
4 introduce this topic. So as -- as we're all aware,
5 in almost every aspect of what we do, whether it's
6 telecommunications, electric, water, gas, or steam,
7 there's a -- there is a very, very critical safety
8 element in our work. Our Commission, as well as
9 the Staff, are really in constant pursuit of
10 ensuring that the standards that we impose and the
11 practices that we require the utilities and other
12 providers to deploy are really best in breed in
13 assuring public safety.

14 This is nowhere truer than when
15 it comes to gas safety and the gas infrastructure
16 system. We do have a safe gas system in New York.
17 We also have a team of gas safety experts who
18 report through Cindy McCarran, and Kevin Speicher,
19 who reports to Cindy, who are full-time on
20 monitoring, investigating, auditing, and
21 recommending to this Commission what we continue
22 and should be continuing to do to assure gas
23 safety.

24 I really want to note -- we've
25 mentioned this before, but the team that we have on

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gas safety is actually recognized by the federal

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government as some of the best in the nation in the

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practices that we do. But, and this is really

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important, is to say that nothing that we can rest

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on is to say that -- that safety and the practices

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are static.

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Rather, as we're going to be

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talking about today, the vigilance that we apply

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requires us to constantly review our practice and

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constantly look for improvements and use every

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incident as an opportunity to learn. From a

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perspective I know of this Commission and I know

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everyone on this Staff, there's virtually nothing

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that we can say that can adequately express the

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horror and sadness that we all felt following the

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East Village gas explosion, the same horror that we

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felt last year with the explosion in East Harlem.

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Our thoughts and prayers are with

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the families and the friends of the individuals who

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died and for everyone whose lives were dislocated

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as a result of that incident. Our own

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investigations into that proceeding, as well as the

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East Harlem proceedings, are ongoing. And I want

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it to be important to note that we have not drawn

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2 any conclusions on the causes of those incidents.
3 And the actions that we are being discussed today
4 are really independent of those investigations.

5 It's also important to note that
6 this is Dig Safely Month, and it's a good month for
7 us to stop and review our actions and for the Staff
8 to brief us on the things that they're doing and
9 continuing to do to ensure the safety of the
10 system. So with that, I'm going to turn this over
11 to Cynthia, who's going to introduce the topics,
12 give us a briefing on the actions we're doing, and
13 then we have a certain recommendations of
14 additional courses of actions that we're bringing
15 to the Commission.

16 So with that, Cindy, proceed.

17 MS. MCCARRAN: Thank you very
18 much. Good morning, Chair Zibelman and
19 Commissioners.

20 We're here with you today to
21 discuss a comprehensive package of items related to
22 the natural gas system. Can everybody hear me?
23 Yeah. Okay. As -- as the Chair mentioned, it is
24 Safe Digging Month and the Department Staff and the
25 Commission work very closely with Dig Safely New

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2 York. They have two centers, one for Upstate New
3 York and one for Downstate New York. And everybody
4 should know to call eight one one before you dig to
5 make sure that there are no underground facilities.
6 Or if they are, they can be located and you can
7 avoid them when you're doing any excavation.

8 As the Chair pointed out, the
9 natural gas system is inherently safe and reliable
10 but, you know, there have been a couple of
11 incidents recently. We're not going to -- Staff's
12 not going to comment on those, just to say that our
13 investigations are ongoing. However, there are
14 several other elements which make up part of a
15 strategic plan for natural gas issues which we
16 would like to discuss today.

17 Increasing safety, including
18 facilitating increased replacement of leak-prone
19 infrastructure, is very important. Adoption of new
20 technologies, including increased methane
21 detection, improvements in communications and
22 interactions with first responders, and closer
23 coordination with municipalities all will help
24 improve safety.

25 And is -- in addition, Staff

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2 would like to talk a little bit today about
3 distribution network enhancement to bring natural
4 gas service to those wishing to convert from
5 dirtier and costlier fuels. We would like to talk
6 about customer awareness and education and also
7 workforce development.

8 Regarding improved safety, we
9 want the natural gas system in New York State to be
10 as safe and environmentally benign as possible. To
11 that end, we would like to pursue several actions.
12 First and foremost, as the Chair pointed out, the
13 gas utilities are responsible for operating their
14 systems in such a way as to ensure its safety and
15 to ensure that they comply with all rules and
16 regulations related to the safety of the natural
17 gas system.

18 As regulators, we have the
19 oversight of their efforts and the responsibility
20 to make sure that their focus is on the appropriate
21 things so that the gas system maintains its safety
22 and reliability. As the Commission is aware, the
23 utilities have had, for more than a decade, safety
24 performance metrics associated with emergency
25 response times, damage prevention, repairing leaks,

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2 and replacement of leak-prone pipe. And failure to
3 perform in these metrics results in negative
4 revenue adjustments.

5 These metrics have resulted in
6 continuous improvement in these areas. Every year,
7 Staff of the pipeline safety section audit both the
8 records and the activities in the field of the
9 utilities to ensure compliance with the
10 regulations. In order to create an incentive for
11 continuous improvement, the Commission has recently
12 put in place negative revenue adjustments
13 associated with an additional safety metric with
14 the violations of safety regulations in Parts 255
15 and 261, violations which Staff would find during
16 their audits.

17 Metrics to encourage improvements
18 in gas safety need to involve -- as the Chair just
19 said, they need to evolve to incorporate lessons
20 learned from incidents, not only incidents in New
21 York State, but in other parts of the country, and
22 also to account for development such as changes in
23 the regulatory or legislative landscape.

24 There is over one hundred million
25 dollars on the line annually across all of the

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2 State's gas utilities related to these negative
3 revenue adjustments. This equates to just over a
4 hundred basis points return on equity. So that's
5 what's at risk for these utilities if they fail to
6 perform in all of the metrics. However, like I
7 said, the presence of these metrics has steadily
8 encouraged and -- and resulted in improvement in
9 many areas.

10 In addition, the Commission has
11 the authority to impose additional penalties
12 associated with specific incidents. This authority
13 was recently enhanced by the legislature and it
14 allows the PSC to levy penalties associated with a
15 percentage of the utility's revenues for violations
16 that result in severe impacts to life and property.

17 In the last year, there have been
18 settlements reached under the original law related
19 to specific incidents that resulted in
20 approximately two million dollars, funded by
21 shareholders, which was directed then at gas safety
22 improvements including improved communications with
23 first responders and revised and improved utility
24 procedures.

25 Second, the utilities need to

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2 replace cast iron pipe and certain types of steel
3 and plastic pipe, which is susceptible to corrosion
4 or cracking. And acceleration of that replacement
5 as much as possible is beneficial keeping in mind,
6 of course, cost impacts on ratepayers. The
7 Commission has increased authorization of capital
8 expenditures in the last several years. For
9 example, in 2008 expenditures were approximately
10 eight hundred and twenty-three million. That
11 increased to one point five billion dollars
12 expected in 2015, almost doubling spending in seven
13 years related to increasing the safety of the
14 natural gas system.

15 Notwithstanding this, in between
16 rate case periods, utilities do not have a
17 mechanism to recover costs associated with
18 increased spending. So Aric Rider will shortly be
19 presenting a proposal that provides for a possible
20 cost recovery vehicle.

21 Third, customer awareness is an
22 important tool in reducing and minimizing
23 incidents. The Commission started a proceeding
24 last year to improve the utilities' public
25 education and outreach programs related to natural

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2 gas odors. Erin O'Dell-Keller will be describing
3 improvements made to utility public education and
4 awareness programs as a result of that proceeding.
5 And this is an example of improved -- of an
6 improvement opportunity that Staff found as a
7 result of an incident.

8 Fourth, although the gas
9 distribution system is -- is surveyed for leaks
10 using sophisticated equipment on a regular basis,
11 leak detection also relies on the human nose. And
12 as good as both of these are, we need to look for
13 newer technologies that can increase our leak
14 detection capabilities.

15 Stationary methane detection
16 technology could improve gas leak detection and
17 serve as another line of defense against
18 catastrophic events. There is a pilot program
19 underway being conducted by National Grid, working
20 with NYSEARCH, which is the research and
21 development arm of the Northeast Gas Association,
22 to test the effectiveness of methane detection
23 equipment.

24 Fifth, working with other key
25 stakeholders is extremely important. One of these

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2 key stakeholders is municipalities. There are a
3 few areas that I want to highlight that could
4 benefit from closer coordination with
5 municipalities. One example, there was an incident
6 in Schenectady in 2014 after which Staff became
7 aware that there were thousands of residences
8 across the state that -- where there are no people
9 living but there is still natural gas service. The
10 gas service has not been locked.

11 This is because the utilities
12 have been employing a procedure called soft off or
13 office off, which means that the last customer of
14 record was removed from the billing system, so
15 there is nobody receiving any bills, but the gas
16 service, again, had not been physically locked. In
17 many cases, this is because the gas meter is in the
18 basement and the house is locked up and the utility
19 cannot get in with no occupant to unlock the door
20 to let them in.

21 Assistance from local authorities
22 could help them get that access. So working
23 together with municipalities could possibly be
24 allowing service to be locked in a more timely
25 fashion.

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2 Similarly, utilities and first
3 responders, especially police departments and fire
4 departments, must work together during incidents
5 involving natural gas. Having people call nine one
6 one when they smell natural gas from a leak works
7 well, especially when there's a professional paid
8 fire department.

9 But in some communities Upstate,
10 it's not always clear that nine one one is as
11 effective. We're looking for how to address this
12 because many customers may not even know whether
13 they have a paid fire department or a volunteer
14 fire department. So we're addressing this, going
15 forward.

16 All fire departments need to have
17 adequate training on what to do when they arrive at
18 a natural gas incident and should be able to know
19 what they expect the utility to do when they get
20 there, so that everyone has a clear role of
21 their -- or clear understanding of their roles in
22 an incident.

23 So while gas safety, of course,
24 is our first focus when we're talking about the
25 natural gas system, bringing natural gas service to

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2 more people is also a pressing issue. Distribution
3 network enhancement and increased infrastructure
4 will allow residential and commercial customers to
5 convert from dirtier and more expensive fuels,
6 especially fuel oil and propane.

7 This also -- not only does it
8 result in savings to those customers, because
9 natural gas tends to be much cheaper, it also
10 results in reduced emissions of carbon dioxide and
11 particulate matter, which benefits everybody across
12 the state. There are many communities across the
13 state where people have limited access to natural
14 gas or maybe even no access. Staff gets phone
15 calls almost daily, e-mails, letters from people
16 across the state looking for natural gas service,
17 asking what can we do to help.

18 A good example is New York City,
19 where the New York City Department of Environmental
20 Protection, in 2011, issued regulations that
21 required buildings to convert from the heavier
22 heating oils to the cleanest available fuels,
23 including natural gas and ultra-low sulfur diesel
24 fuel.

25 So having good assets is a

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2 prerequisite, but we also need a well-trained
3 workforce to ensure the proper maintenance and
4 operation of the system. Installing new gas mains
5 and replacing old ones, as well as enhancing and
6 accelerating gas main installation and replacement,
7 requires a well-trained workforce.

8 Given that other states in the
9 northeast also have the same goals as New York,
10 competition for workers has been very intense.
11 However, by signaling that such work is a priority
12 for our state, our utilities should be able to give
13 their employees and the contractor community the
14 certainty that work will be consistent and abundant
15 in New York State, going forward.

16 So with all of that as a
17 background, we will now have two presentations on
18 items that are intended to address some of the
19 issues I just highlighted. So first we'll have
20 Aric Rider, who is a utility supervisor in the Gas
21 and Water rate section, discuss an item
22 recommending that a proceeding be initiated to
23 investigate cost recovery for accelerator
24 replacement of leak-prone pipe.

25 After Aric, then Erin

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2 O'Dell-Keller, of the Office of Consumer Services,
3 will discuss recommendations related to public
4 education and outreach related to natural gas
5 odors. And I would be remiss if I didn't point out
6 that Kevin Speicher, who is the chief of our
7 pipeline safety section, is also here to answer any
8 questions that the rest of us can't answer.

9 So with that, I'll turn it over
10 to Aric.

11 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Okay. Before,
12 Aric, you begin and -- and welcome to the
13 Commission, let me just ask if anyone has any
14 comments for Cindy. And before -- I -- I do have
15 one -- one aspect I want to -- hope, Cindy, you can
16 elaborate on.

17 So you identified a number of
18 different areas that we're pursuing. And just for
19 the Commission's sort of understanding, the Staff
20 is working with the utilities to really develop
21 action plans on these areas. And the expectation
22 is certainly the areas of methane detection
23 equipment, workforce training, as well as how do we
24 work with municipalities and local fire
25 departments.

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2 Our -- we're not just raising
3 these as good ideas, but we are actively pursuing a
4 way to build -- develop programs so they can
5 actually be effectuated. And the expectation is --
6 is in every year we will identify certain key
7 actions that we want to accomplish. And these are
8 some of the ones that Staff has identified for this
9 year so that we can -- can continue on this sort of
10 journey of continuous improvement of excellence --
11 towards excellence.

12 So with that, I'll open it up to
13 questions. But thank you for a great briefing.

14 Any questions for Cindy? Gregg?

15 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: So I gather
16 the recommendation, if you have a volunteer fire
17 department and you know it, is to call the utility
18 first if you smell gas?

19 MS. MCCARRAN: Well, we -- we
20 think that -- I'm going to let Kevin address that.

21 MR. SPEICHER: Yes, you should --
22 Upstate, there's -- nine one one is the ultimate
23 and Downstate we -- we've worked out the kinks.
24 Nine one one -- you call nine one one immediately,
25 the fire department finds out, the L.D.C. finds

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2 out, and they can both dispatch -- they're both
3 dispatched and can both go. We would like to get
4 there Upstate. We're not a hundred percent there
5 yet, but we want people to call their utility. And
6 if they don't call their utility, then nine one
7 one.

8 But we -- we just want to make
9 sure that there is simultaneous dispatch between
10 nine one one emergency services, if needed, and
11 that call is getting to the L.D.C. so that they can
12 investigate the leak too --.

13 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: So does --
14 does the utility number appear prominently in the
15 emergency page in the phone directory, assuming
16 that people even keep the phone directory anymore?

17 MR. SPEICHER: Yes, it does.
18 The -- the LDC phone numbers are -- are listed and
19 you can call that phone number and you will be
20 directed.

21 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: So -- so I
22 think the moral for people who are living Upstate,
23 if they know they've got a volunteer fire
24 department, and the way you know is probably you
25 get a letter from them asking for contributions

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2 every year -- I -- I make sure I always contribute
3 to mine -- is keep that local distribution utility
4 number close to the phone so you know whom to call
5 for the quickest response if you smell gas.

6 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: And I -- I think
7 that Erin's going to be updating us on some
8 communication efforts that we're also requiring the
9 utilities to -- to effectuate in order to improve
10 this; right? That was a nod. Yes?

11 MS. O'DELL-KELLER: Yes. Sorry.

12 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Okay. Patty?

13 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: I -- I
14 just want to jump in on what Gregg was saying. I
15 think we have more volunteer fire departments
16 throughout our state than we do paid fire
17 departments. All of Long Island is taken care of
18 by volunteer fire departments. So I think most
19 people on Long Island would naturally call nine one
20 one. They wouldn't be calling the fire department.

21 So again, when we are trying to
22 educate people, we have to be specific in what
23 we're telling them. You know, it's -- it's really
24 important. I believe this education component is
25 really important. We need a good slogan. The

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2 state needs to work with the utilities, the
3 municipalities, the local fire departments. This
4 is important stuff.

5 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Right. And I --
6 we -- I agree. Okay. Let's -- but these are all
7 good points and actually show why we care and we're
8 constantly pushing these.

9 Let's move on then to the first
10 item, Item 101, which is the matter to consider the
11 implementation of a cost recovery mechanism to
12 support the accelerated replacement infrastructure.

13 So Aric Rider's going to be
14 presenting this. Welcome, Aric, to the Commission.
15 Not to the Commission, but to speaking.

16 MR. RIDER: Thank you. Good
17 morning, Chair and Commissioners.

18 Item 101 before you today is a
19 draft order targeted for our gas utilities. The
20 draft order proposes the Commission institute a
21 proceeding for recovery mechanism to accelerate the
22 removal and replacement of leak-prone pipe, a
23 policy the Commission has long supported in rate
24 cases.

25 There are many benefits of an

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2 accelerated leak-prone pipe replacement program,
3 including improved system safety and reliability,
4 as well as environmental benefits in terms of lower
5 emissions. The Commission typically prescribes in
6 rate cases a specified number of leak-prone pipe
7 miles to be removed each year, with the associated
8 costs recovered through base delivery rates.

9 This new proceeding aims to
10 develop a recovery mechanism that would enable
11 further acceleration of the removal and replacement
12 of leak-prone pipe. The national trend in the gas
13 industry is to allow gas companies to recover the
14 cost of specific infrastructure investments between
15 rate cases.

16 As the Commission considers
17 adopting a new recovery mechanism, the draft order
18 instituting a proceeding puts forth a series of
19 questions that will help to shape the emerging
20 policy. All interested stakeholders are invited to
21 comment, and gas companies in particular are asked
22 to weigh in on how a recovery mechanism can help to
23 further accelerate the Commission's leak-prone pipe
24 removal goals.

25 Leak-prone pipe natural gas

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2 infrastructure is prone to leak due to the age,
3 material, production, or installation practices, or
4 due to local conditions where the infrastructure
5 was installed and operated. Virtually all new gas
6 pipe placed into service is either plastic pipe or
7 protected coated steel and is not considered to be
8 leak prone.

9 The current replacement rates
10 complete leak-prone pipe replacement ranges from
11 eleven years to forty-five years for mains, and a
12 comparable range for services. There may be
13 additional opportunities to accelerate replacement
14 programs. The delivery rates approved in rate
15 plans reflect forecast removal, replacement, and
16 associated costs and, therefore, all else equal the
17 additional removal costs above the established
18 removal targets are not funded in delivery rates.

19 Moreover, for expired rate plans,
20 surviving provisions require a gas company to
21 continue to replace leak-prone pipe at targeted
22 levels should the gas company choose not to file
23 for new rates. This is commonly called a stay-out.
24 The mileage targets -- targets for expired plans,
25 however, remain at a level of the final year of the

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2 rate plan.

3 A gas company that chooses to
4 stay out beyond its prescribed rate plan does not
5 have the ability to recovery incremental capital
6 expenditures related to the removal and -- and
7 replacement of leak-prone pipe. If a gas company
8 has no other costs driving it to file for new
9 rates, it may not choose to accelerate leak-prone
10 pipe replacement while it stays out.

11 Therefore, there may be two
12 opportunities to fund an acceleration of -- of
13 removal and replacement programs, funding of
14 incremental mileage above approved mileage targets
15 established in rate plans, and funding of
16 accelerated programs in a stay-out.

17 The system has -- the Commission
18 has approved mechanisms for system improvements.
19 Water companies have approved system improvement
20 charges. And recently, the Commission has approved
21 a surcharge and deferral mechanism in Case
22 14-G-0214 for National Grid Long Island to
23 accelerate the removal and replacement of
24 leak-prone pipe and for network enhancements.

25 The draft order recommends that

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2 the Commission institute a proceeding to develop
3 the most appropriate manner by which to accelerate
4 the removal and replacement of leak-prone pipe
5 without having the gas companies file for new base
6 rates just to obtain the necessary cash flow to
7 support those investments.

8 The Commission should consider
9 how to balance the interests of shareholders by
10 providing gas companies the opportunity to earn a
11 return on invested capital with that of ratepayers
12 in receiving safe and reliable gas service. The
13 new recovery mechanism, in conjunction with rate
14 cases, could further accelerate the number of
15 leak-prone pipe miles removed and replaced and
16 lower the total number of years to remove all
17 leak-prone pipe inventory.

18 New York currently has
19 approximately twelve thousand miles of leak-prone
20 pipe and the gas companies are replacing about four
21 hundred miles each year. The draft order
22 recommends establishing a goal to reduce the
23 statewide average replacement timeline to twenty
24 years, which assumes that all gas companies will
25 ramp up their removal and replacement programs in

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2 the near term.

3 Moreover, because the current
4 cost of capital is relatively low, an opportunity
5 exists to allow for reasonable customer bill
6 impacts while gas companies further accelerate the
7 rate at which they remove and replace their
8 leak-prone pipe inventory. In the draft order, gas
9 companies are asked to address the new recovery
10 mechanism, as well as specific questions regarding
11 budgeting, tracking, and the mechanics of the new
12 recovery mechanism.

13 Included in the draft order are
14 eighteen questions that are categorized into two
15 groups, a group for all interested parties and a
16 group with more specific questions for gas
17 companies. Interested parties are welcome to
18 address the questions, include comments that are
19 relevant to the goals of the recovery mechanism.

20 The draft order identifies two
21 possible solutions for a cost recovery mechanism, a
22 surcharge or a deferral mechanism, and even
23 considers a combination of the two. However, other
24 methods of cost recovery may be proposed. To that
25 end, the draft order asks how should a cost

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2 recovery mechanism be designed and comport with
3 Public Service Law provisions on major rate
4 proceedings.

5 Namely, for each of the major gas
6 companies, a major rate proceeding is defined as
7 increasing the total aggregate revenues by two and
8 a half percent or more. The draft order also asks
9 interested parties about requiring specific
10 conditions such as modifications of safety mandates
11 and ratemaking conditions like updating the
12 carrying charge rate or earnings sharing
13 provisions.

14 Interested parties are asked to
15 consider low cost financing approaches or other
16 funding sources that could be used to lower the
17 cost of the programs. Gas companies are asked
18 specific questions related to budgeting, tracking,
19 and the mechanics of the new recovery mechanism.
20 The draft order asks what are the most appropriate
21 ways to moderate capital planning if the current
22 risk ranking process should continue to be
23 followed, or should a neighborhood approach be
24 considered, how incremental leak-prone pipe
25 expenditures should be identified in gas company's

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2 capital budgets, and how cost control measures
3 should be used.

4 The draft order also asks how
5 a -- how the gas companies should report on the
6 cost recovery mechanism, the timeline it should
7 operate, and how it could impact existing net plant
8 true-up mechanisms.

9 In summary, given the significant
10 safety and environmental related concerns regarding
11 leak-prone pipe, the draft order recommends the
12 Commission consider a new recovery mechanism that
13 can help to achieve the Commission's goals. A
14 well-planned capital investment program from the
15 gas companies that accelerates the removal and
16 replacement of leak-prone pipe will benefit all
17 stakeholders.

18 This new proceeding will provide
19 stakeholders with an opportunity to comment and on
20 how best to advance Commission policies. The draft
21 order invites comments within thirty days of the
22 issuance of the order to the Secretary of the
23 Commission. Staff will then compile the comments
24 and develop a proposal for the Commission's
25 consideration at a future session.

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2 This concludes my presentation.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you, Aric.

5 Excellent job.

6 I was thinking about this. If
7 we -- we consider competition as sort of the life
8 blood of innovation, stability and certainty is
9 clearly the backbone of good infrastructure
10 development in a regulatory arena. And I believe
11 that the use of this type of mechanism can provide
12 that stability.

13 You know, in a -- we really don't
14 like to personalize things, but when I think about
15 the fact that I have a two-year-old grandchild, the
16 thought that she could be forty-two before we
17 replace the leak-prone pipe in New York makes me
18 think that we can do better. So I'd love the goal
19 of let's trying to get this done within twenty
20 years.

21 I also think that your
22 observations about that this could allow for good
23 planning, a better way to approach it so that we
24 can reduce the cost, thinking about different
25 approaches such as a community basis and mechanism

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2 so that we're constantly doing things in the most
3 efficient way make -- make a lot of sense.

4 I know that individually the
5 Commissioners have been looking for something like
6 this to -- to help improve how we're replacing
7 pipe. I think we talked about it at the end of the
8 year. And so I'm -- I'm very pleased that you've
9 brought this in front of us and I certainly intend
10 to vote that it proceed.

11 Any other comments? Diane, would
12 you like to?

13 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.
14 I do want to thank all first responders, including
15 fire departments, whether volunteer or otherwise,
16 that always put the safety of others before
17 themselves -- before their own. And they, like us,
18 do work with the utilities before, during, and
19 after any incident in making sure that the priority
20 of safety and the gas system is there. So I just
21 really want to thank them.

22 Many states currently have
23 infrastructure replacement incentives in place to
24 help the natural gas utilities upgrade and
25 modernize their infrastructure. We've been looking

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2 at this nationally and been involved in this. And
3 while we have done a lot of the infrastructure
4 incentives in rate cases, we're now looking at
5 other ways to do this. And to me, the commencement
6 of this program is a real opportunity for us.

7 The integrity and reliability of
8 the gas system is paramount. In New York we're
9 focused on ensuring we have a safe, a reliable, and
10 a clean natural gas system. And today's action by
11 the Commission represents, for me, another step in
12 a continuum undertaken to ensure the transport and
13 delivery of natural gas with the utmost care and
14 safety.

15 In the recent past, we have had
16 several gas initiatives that we're actively engaged
17 in and are very proud of. We're focused on the
18 need for odorization of gas in gathering lines,
19 increased research development and deployment of
20 methane emission detection strategies, posting of
21 the locations of leaky pipes, a gas worker training
22 compliance review, expanded utility system
23 inspections, and accelerated replacement rates for
24 leak-prone pipe.

25 New York has a very reliable

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2 system that we're working hard at maintaining and
3 improving. We, like other stakeholders, remain
4 vigilant and committed to address any challenges
5 presented. As the demand for natural gas continues
6 to grow due to economic and environmental factors,
7 we must continue to seek commonsense effective
8 methods to ensure its safe delivery while
9 minimizing unintended environmental impacts.

10 For me, the bottom line is
11 finding innovative ways to finance the replacement
12 of leak-prone pipe is critically important to
13 ratepayers. I look forward to the comments that
14 will come in and to drilling down on what's -- what
15 the Staff will be presenting to us. My focus will
16 be on looking at it from the perspective of how the
17 program will work, what we will be doing to have
18 oversight and safeguard for the ratepayers.

19 So thank you very much. I think this is a great
20 proceeding that we're initiating.

21 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Commissioner
22 Acampora?

23 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: Thank
24 you, Aric, for the presentation, and
25 congratulations. I believe this is your first time

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2 before us. You did a great job.

3 MR. RIDER: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: I have a
5 question with regard to what are we doing with the
6 federal government? Are there funds available to
7 help states move there and accelerate their
8 programs along in this area?

9 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: I think we
10 have -- Raj or Cindy, jump ball here.

11 MS. MCCARRAN: You know, I -- I
12 think Commissioner Burman and several of you have
13 heard at NARUC meetings the federal government has
14 that new effort that they're doing to look at the
15 infrastructure across the country. I forget the
16 acronym, but the federal government I think is just
17 now beginning really to be aware of this problem.

18 I do not know of any programs at
19 this time for the federal government to help states
20 replace this kind of infrastructure, but certainly
21 our hope is that they will see the need for that.

22 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: Well, I'm
23 wondering if there should be some sort of either
24 written correspondence or meeting with the federal
25 delegation, our congressional delegation and our

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2 two United States Senators, to bring them up to
3 speed as to what we're thinking and how possibly
4 they can assist in moving something along if
5 something is going to be done, that maybe we could
6 be the first ones to get something.

7 MR. ADDEPALLI: I think that's an
8 excellent suggestion, Commissioner. I think we'll
9 follow up on that. And in addition to getting,
10 hopefully, some additional federal funding that
11 will reduce cost to New York ratepayers, we should
12 also look for other ways to reduce costs. We are
13 looking at other innovative financing mechanisms to
14 lower the cost of capital for these kinds of
15 investments.

16 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: That was
17 my other thought was, Doris, the street. You know,
18 we really could use some assistance in partnering
19 with the financial institutions to see if there --
20 can lower the cost to utilities so that, again, the
21 customer rate payer doesn't get stuck for the whole
22 thing.

23 MS. STOUT: Right. This type of
24 mechanism would be viewed favorably and help, you
25 know, keep the utility bond ratings at a -- at

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2 their current high levels and keep their cost to
3 debt low. But there are, as Raj indicated,
4 potential other avenues such as securitization and,
5 you know, maybe we can work with our own government
6 on tax exempt approaches or something like that.

7 MR. ADDEPALLI: So on that last
8 point, I think we could also benefit from any time
9 you put the plant in ground there will be property
10 taxes associated with it. To the extent some of
11 these investments are being made to increase
12 safety, enhance safety, these are not necessarily
13 being done to make more money. These may not
14 produce additional revenues. It's increasing
15 safety.

16 So to that extent, we're
17 increasing the safety of the citizens in that
18 locality. Maybe there could be lower property
19 taxes on these kinds of investments, so --.

20 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: You know,
21 as we just talked about before when Cindy gave her
22 overview of what was going to be discussed today,
23 always the aspect of communication is so important.
24 So you know, I can't drive that home. I've been
25 doing it for a long time. In making sure, again,

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2 that if we don't reach out to municipalities, they
3 won't know.

4 MR. ADDEPALLI: Right.

5 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: And
6 they'll just go do what they've always done because
7 every level of government is always in a money
8 crunch. And so I think, you know, again, the
9 suggestions are great. But we have to take that
10 one step further and really reach out and connect
11 to all these various groups, the financial
12 institutions and to the municipalities and to
13 everyone who has a stake in gas safety in our
14 state.

15 MR. ADDEPALLI: So this
16 proceeding will be an opportunity for us to explore
17 all these options to reduce costs.

18 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: Yeah, I
19 think it's wonderful and really congratulate you
20 all on the work that you've done on this.

21 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: We -- if I may,
22 we don't specifically ask in our questions these
23 other ancillary issues around taxes and
24 securitization, but certainly people can comment on
25 it. And if we want it -- and if we feel like

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2 there's a need and we could do a further analysis
3 on other ways to further reduce the expense. But
4 as -- as Doris pointed out, one of the advantages
5 of moving this type of mechanism is that it creates
6 a certain amount of certainty.

7 And in other states, it has
8 resulted in a lower cost of capital for these types
9 of infrastructure investments, which is, in and of
10 itself, a benefit. But clearly, we could, in an
11 analysis, identify other things that maybe we
12 couldn't do, but maybe others could do to help us.

13 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: Exactly.

14 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: It would be
15 terrific if we could just order the replacement of
16 all leak -- leak-prone pipe during this year's
17 construction season. But there aren't enough
18 engineers and construction crews in the United
19 States to make that happen. And if we tried to put
20 those costs on the ratepayers, it would be
21 absolutely horrendous. So this whole process has
22 to be a balancing act in terms of what's
23 technically feasible and what's financially
24 reasonable.

25 I -- I support this item which

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2 addresses the financially reasonable portion of the
3 puzzle. As -- as we've heard already from -- from
4 several folks, it provides the possibility of a
5 lower cost to capital and therefore a lower cost to
6 ratepayers. And overall, I just simply don't see a
7 lot of point in putting utilities at risk of not
8 recovering the cost of what we're telling them they
9 have to do.

10 It just doesn't make sense. So
11 this is a very good exploration and I hope we can
12 find the way to get it done as fast as possible, as
13 cheaply as possible.

14 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you.

15 And I -- I would be remiss
16 because -- if I didn't note that when we talk about
17 leak-prone pipe, because now I've been schooled on
18 this, we are not talking about leaky pipe. We're
19 talking about pipe that is leak prone and it's
20 what -- what we want to get replaced as quickly as
21 possible.

22 So if there are no additional
23 comments, let's take a vote. All those in favor of
24 the recommendation to institute a proceeding for
25 the development of a proposal to accelerate

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2 leak-prone pipe removal and replacement as
3 described, please indicate by saying aye.

4 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

5 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Opposed?

6 Hearing no opposition, there being none, the
7 recommendation is adopted.

8 And thank you, Commissioners. I
9 think the -- your comments and suggestions here are
10 terrific.

11 The next item is Item 102, which
12 is in the matter of a natural gas incident at 198
13 Joseph Street on Horseheads on January 26th, 2011.

14 As the Commission is aware,
15 following that incident, we in depth -- we started
16 on a process to ensure better communication, better
17 outreach, some of the things that have been
18 mentioned previously. And today Erin
19 O'Dell-Keller, who's manager of consumer education,
20 is going to be reporting to us on the -- this
21 status and next step.

22 So Erin, welcome.

23 MS. O'DELL-KELLER: Thank you.

24 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: And please
25 proceed.

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2 MS. O'DELL-KELLER: Good morning,
3 Chair and Commissioners. Can you hear me? Okay.
4 Thank you.

5 On February 20th, 2014 the
6 Commission issued an order regarding the natural
7 gas incident that occurred in Horseheads, New York.
8 The order directed gas utilities to perform a risk
9 assessment of their distribution systems to
10 determine if water and sewer facilities were
11 installed subsequent to the gas mains.

12 Staff noted that gas facilities
13 already in place may have been affected by
14 third-party excavations since water and sewer lines
15 are generally buried deeper than gas lines. These
16 assessments continue and Staff will report back to
17 you at a later time.

18 The Horseheads order also noted
19 that local residents did not report the smell of
20 gas odors prior to the tragic event, and that this
21 incident underscored the need for the gas utilities
22 to improve their education efforts regarding the
23 reporting of natural gas odors.

24 The odor -- the order, sorry,
25 directed local distribution companies, or LDCs, to

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2 conduct a collaborative to develop best practices
3 to address public education on reporting natural
4 gas odors. In addition, the Commission requested
5 that the LDCs investigate and report back on new
6 ways to reach local government entities, to educate
7 them on the potential hazards associated with
8 excavating near gas facilities.

9 Staff enlisted the Northeast Gas
10 Association, N.G.A., to coordinate and facilitate
11 the collaborative's discussions. In May 2014, the
12 collaborative filed a report summarizing the LDCs'
13 best practices for public awareness and education.
14 Staff's review found that the collaborative report
15 did not meet the Commission's requirement of
16 identifying concrete and innovative improvements to
17 each LDC's outreach programs.

18 Staff provided feedback to the
19 collaborative and requested that each LDC provide a
20 separate education plan with details about the
21 company's use of the best practices in their
22 overall education program. Staff provided detailed
23 guidance on what should be in the plans to address
24 the items identified in the February order and
25 through discussions with Staff in the

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2 collaborative.

3 Staff also encouraged the
4 collaborative to continue to work together to
5 develop an outreach program that would benefit all
6 LDCs. In particular, Staff noted that in addition
7 to exploring new ways to reach customers with
8 education efforts, the collaborative needed to
9 examine messaging used in the LDCs' education
10 materials. Staff urged the collaborative to
11 identify the perceived barriers to reporting odors
12 and use that information to develop new messaging
13 that would help overcome these barriers.

14 Staff also encouraged the
15 collaborative to explore innovative use of social
16 media and urged the LDCs to incorporate more social
17 media elements in their education programs. NGA
18 was asked to update their report to address Staff's
19 comments. NGA's revised report clarified the best
20 practices for the LDC gas safety education programs
21 and provided details about new initiatives
22 undertaken by the collaborative, including the
23 development of regional safety videos and a
24 statewide social media plan for raising awareness
25 about reporting gas odors.

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2 NGA also committed to performing
3 customer behavior research and incorporating the
4 results into more effective messaging for the video
5 and social media campaigns as well as their
6 education materials such as a scratch-and-sniff
7 odorant pamphlet that simulates the smell of gas.
8 The research results will also be used to determine
9 the best schedule for NGA's gas safety media
10 campaign that runs in all major markets in New York
11 State. The development of the video in social
12 media campaigns is expected to be completed by
13 September of this year.

14 The revised report also noted
15 NGA's initiative to put -- educate public officials
16 on the potential hazards of excavating near gas
17 facilities by partnering with New York's one-call
18 centers. New York has two one-call centers and --
19 that allow excavators to provide notice of pending
20 work to all underground facility operators within
21 the proposed excavation area.

22 However, Staff found the report
23 lacked detail about the implementation of this
24 initiative. In addition to noting that the updated
25 collaborative report was incomplete in some areas,

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2 Staff's review of the individual LDC education
3 plans found that they varied in depth and content
4 and many lacked specific details.

5 Some plans provided sample
6 materials and schedules, while others provided very
7 limited information. In addition, although the
8 collaborative indicated that the LDC plans would
9 discuss the use of a gas emergency number or nine
10 one one, many did not address this issue. The
11 plans also did not provide information on how the
12 company would evaluate the effectiveness of its
13 program.

14 Therefore, Staff is recommending
15 that the LDCs file revised education plans. The
16 revised plans should describe how the LDC will
17 implement the improved education program,
18 incorporate the results of the collaborative's
19 initiatives, and evaluate the feasibility of
20 developing a nine one one odor call program in its
21 territory.

22 The plan should include specific
23 descriptions of messaging, delivery vehicles,
24 schedules, budgets, and evaluation methods to
25 measure the effectiveness of the program. Staff is

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2 recommending that the revised plans also include
3 additional best practices identified by Staff to
4 improve the company's gas odor education tools.

5 Staff is also requesting that the
6 collaborative provide periodic updates on the
7 status of each of its initiatives. The
8 collaboratives should provide a final report by the
9 end of the year with details about the
10 implementation of the initiatives and how they have
11 been integrated into each LDC's programs. Staff
12 will continue to work with the state's gas utility
13 companies to educate consumers about gas safety
14 issues.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you, Erin,
17 for your report.

18 You know, clearly, when we talk
19 about the gas safety team, I always don't want to
20 neglect the fact that our consumer outreach team
21 under the consumer advocate, Michael Corso, is the
22 critical piece of this, because it is, as
23 Commissioner Acampora said, a -- a constant effort
24 of communication and education.

25 And I think I'm very appreciative

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2 of the leadership that Staff has taken in working
3 with the utilities and really providing very clear
4 guidance on what we need to do and to set the
5 expectations to make certain that we are on the
6 path for adopting best practices.

7 I think, you know, the fact that
8 I believe, you know, we've just revealed in the
9 report that there's still so many incidences of
10 people not sure -- sure what to do when they smell
11 gas and that need to make sure that not only the
12 public is educated, but public officials. And I
13 know that there's work being done on videos, on
14 education, and also we are scrutinizing what
15 happens when people let their superintendents of
16 their buildings know is that -- and -- and what
17 actions are taken there.

18 So it's going to be, again, a
19 continuous effort. I think that the report we're
20 seeing is a really good step forward. And I would
21 fully expect that if the Staff sees any lagging on
22 the part of the utilities in implementing it, you
23 will get back to us right away.

24 MS. O'DELL-KELLER: Absolutely.

25 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you.

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2 Any questions or comments? I'll
3 start with Commissioner Acampora.

4 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: Again,
5 than you for your work, Michael, your staff, in
6 working to make sure that, again, we reach out as
7 much as possible. You know, when you talk about we
8 have -- after we experienced the worst tragedy this
9 country has ever seen in 9/11, people learn then if
10 you see something, say something.

11 So we have to develop some kind
12 of a catchy phrase like that so that people,
13 again -- you know, everyone worries about gas, but
14 they seem to kind of pass it on. Well someone else
15 is going to worry about it; I don't have to worry
16 about it today.

17 So I think that every level of
18 age group has to really get trained. So I'm hoping
19 that, you know, they will implement programs in
20 elementary schools, in high schools, visit the
21 senior centers. Let's face it, sometimes when you
22 get older, you don't smell as well as you did when
23 you were younger. So today when we have families
24 living together, maybe a young person will pick up
25 on that smell, but they won't say anything because

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2 they don't know.

3 So I think it's really -- what
4 you're doing is extremely important. And you know,
5 it's -- it's always a work in progress. But I
6 think that we are leading and -- just go for it.
7 It's good stuff. Thank you.

8 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: You know, I
9 think as we develop the videos, I think it would be
10 a great idea if we can bring them in and, on
11 opportunities, show them because it's good to -- to
12 see and it's -- it's also, I think -- it's
13 important for us to continue to show how -- how
14 important we see this.

15 The -- we -- before we go on,
16 I -- one of the things that -- that Cindy mentioned
17 and you talked about is the work with the
18 municipalities. I do think that working with local
19 electeds is very important. They're a key to this.
20 And again, as Commissioner Acampora said, you know,
21 so many times one of the things that we find is
22 everybody thinks that somebody else is -- is taking
23 care of it.

24 And it's, I think, a very
25 deliberate program as we proceed on how do we train

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2 people as they become -- get into office so they
3 understand how it works will be very -- a very
4 important education piece. And I know, you know,
5 we've talked about a way to get to some of the
6 associations and make this part of their training
7 as people come on board. And I -- so ideas around
8 that, I would expect for us to explore and then
9 maybe pursue.

10 COMMISSIONER ACAMPORA: I'll jump
11 in again. As a former elected official, elected
12 officials have newsletters. So if there are videos
13 that they could have when they go to speak to a
14 group that they can use because they have great
15 outreach to groups that maybe we may not be
16 thinking about or even the municipality may not
17 think about.

18 So again, bringing in everybody
19 at every level is really important. And I think
20 these videos will be a wonderful tool.

21 MS. O'DELL-KELLER: That's an
22 excellent suggestion. Thank you.

23 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Commissioner
24 Sayre?

25 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: Just one

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2 minor point about the scratch-and-sniff pamphlets.
3 I think they're a great idea, but I get
4 scratch-and-sniff junk mail from perfume companies
5 all the time, and if they come on a really hot,
6 humid summer afternoon, my whole mailbox smells
7 like perfume. So please make sure that the
8 utilities do some really good quality control on
9 that, or we're going to scare the entire state the
10 day they go out.

11 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: I was thinking
12 you were going to worry that it would be mixed up
13 with the strawberry sniff-and-scratch, so.

14 Commissioner Burman?

15 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.
16 I actually just have two things to say. One, thank
17 you to Aric and to Erin. I know, Aric, this is
18 your first time presenting and, Erin, it's your
19 first voting item presenting, so thank you.

20 The -- the takeaways that I want
21 is really simple. You know, I think this is a --
22 another item in our continuing effort to ensure the
23 integrity and reliability of the natural gas
24 system. And we've been doing this and continuing
25 to improve. And I think it's very good that we're

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2 really laser focused on all of these issues.

3 Really, it's -- it -- you can't
4 say it enough, it's important to continue to raise
5 awareness of the New York's one-call notification
6 system. New York has the New York eight one one,
7 which is the one-call notification system serving
8 New York City and Long Island. And Dig Safely New
9 York is the other one serving the remainder of the
10 State.

11 They both do an incredible job.
12 And the utilities are involved with that, as well,
13 and do a significant amount of training and
14 outreach. And it's really a reminder to simply
15 dial eight one one before digging.

16 And then the other, which we
17 can't, you know, say enough is if you detect an
18 odor of gas, leave your premises immediately and
19 then call your utility or nine one one right away.

20 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you.
21 Thank you.

22 So why don't we move then on a
23 vote on this? And all those in favor of the
24 recommendation to require the natural gas local
25 distribution corporates to implement the specific

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2 enhancements to their gas safety public education
3 programs, as described by Ms. O'Donnell-Keller
4 (sic), please indicate by saying aye.

5 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

6 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Opposed?

7 Hearing no opposition, the recommendation is
8 adopted.

9 And thank you all. I know from
10 the Staff's perspective, this has been a huge
11 amount of effort. I would -- I cannot say enough
12 that I know that our gas safety staff, in
13 particular, is constantly vigilant on the streets,
14 first on hand and, as Commissioner Burman said, the
15 coordination with the first responders is -- is
16 critical.

17 But we're fortunate, New York, is
18 that we have a crack team. We're looking to expand
19 that team and we would like -- and -- and I want to
20 thank you for -- for all of your efforts.

21 So with that, let's move to the
22 consent agenda. Are there any additional comments
23 to the Commission on -- commissioners on the
24 consent agenda, or do any of you wish to recuse or
25 abstain from any of the consent agenda items?

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2 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: I'll be
3 abstaining from Item 262 and Item 364.

4 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you.
5 Anything else?

6 Okay. All those in favor of the
7 recommendations on the consent agenda, please
8 indicate by saying aye.

9 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

10 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Opposed?
11 Hearing no opposition and there being no
12 opposition, the recommendations are adopted.

13 Secretary Burgess, are there any
14 other items before us today?

15 SECRETARY BURGESS: There are no
16 other items today. The next regularly scheduled
17 Commission meeting is May 14th, at ten thirty.

18 CHAIR ZIBELMAN: Thank you. We
19 stand adjourned.

20 (The meeting adjourned at 11:36
21 a.m.)

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