

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

Further Details: James Denn (518) 474-7080

<http://www.dps.state.ny.us>

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

09036

LOW-INCOME ENERGY FORUMS ANNOUNCED

— Focus on Helping Financially Struggling Families Improve Energy Awareness —

Albany, NY—04/23/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced today that the Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) will hold a series of meetings across the State to help address the challenges and opportunities facing low-income families as they seek affordable energy in the wake of the downturn in the economy.

“LIFE provides a critical avenue for community leaders and service providers to share essential information that can help low-income New Yorkers maintain their utility service during these challenging economic times,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “The LIFE Regional Meetings will provide valuable information on utility consumer protections and programs, as well as timely information on available energy efficiency programs and services.”

Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of NYSERDA, said, “NYSERDA is ready and willing to do everything possible to assist low-income New York families in their struggles to deal with today’s energy issues. LIFE serves that purpose. The seven planned regional meetings focus on assuring that New Yorkers in need will receive help in a timely manner.”

The seven LIFE regional meetings provide an opportunity for frontline workers, advocates, and policy makers to meet and network with those who share the same commitment to helping low-income energy customers.

The schedule for this year's regional meeting series is as follows:

April 30	Bay Ridge Manor, Brooklyn
May 5	Holiday Mountain, Ellicottville
May 6	Red Mill Inn, Syracuse
May 7	Binghamton Regency Hotel, Binghamton
May 12	Ramada Inn, Newburgh
May 13	Riverstone Manor, Schenectady
May 14	The Wild Center, Tupper Lake

LIFE is the nation's longest running statewide dialogue on the energy needs of low-income customers and has built a reputation as an interactive exchange of ideas and resources. This year's regional meetings will build on lessons learned in prior LIFE conferences and will feature sessions on emerging energy issues, consumer education, and information on some of the resource programs that assist low-income energy customers.

The registration fee for this year's meetings is \$35 for all registrants and includes all conference materials, lunch, and breaks. For information about LIFE and the 2009 Regional Meetings, including an agenda and registration information, please visit www.lifenynews.org or call 1-877-NYSMART.