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Brooklyn, NY 11232 | NYC-EJA.org
On the ground – and at the table.

March 23rd, 2015.

Comments from the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) to the New York State Public Service Commission on the Petition of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. for Approval of Brooklyn/Queens Demand Management Program (Case 14-E-0302).

The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) strongly supports the Public Service Commission’s order requiring that “BQDM projects shall not reduce the availability of public open or recreational space.”¹ This is particularly important in neighborhoods within the BQDM catchment area (like Brownsville) where there is a historic lack of open space and recreational amenities, and the amount of open space falls below the optimal New York City benchmark of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people. We are concerned that without a strong commitment to protect public parks / open space, including community gardens that re-purpose former vacant land, these important community resources can be lost forever. NYC-EJA is concerned that this type of negative impact would create a critical environmental justice issue for the communities receiving BQDM projects, and strongly encourages the PSC to enforce its order in this regard.

¹ New York State Public Service Commission. 2014. Order Establishing Brooklyn/Queens Demand Management Program. Available at: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={83594C1C-51E2-4A1A-9DBB-5F15BCA613A2}>