

P.S.C. to Investigate Delancey St. Blast In Unknown Tunnel

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ALBANY, Jan. 7—An investigation has been started by the Public Service Commission into an explosion last Friday in a previously unknown tunnel beneath Delancey Street in New York City.

Chairman James A. Lundy, who announced the investigation, said the explosion raised a number of important questions that must be answered, including whether or not other abandoned tunnels exist beneath the city.

"We hope to determine the conditions which allowed this unfortunate incident to occur," said Mr. Lundy.

The explosion, which occurred at night, ripped up 100-foot sections of the street and sent flames 30 feet into the air, forced the evacuation of 300 Lower East Side families. Only one minor injury was reported as a result of the blast, but three firemen and two Consolidated Edison workmen were treated for smoke inhalation and minor injuries.

Subway service in the area was disrupted until late the following day, and Delancey Street from Essex to Allen Street was closed to traffic.

The state investigation will call officials of the city, the Transit Authority and utilities and ask them to produce records of tunnels, their location, size, condition, access and uses.

The formal phase of the investigation will begin with a public hearing at 10:30 A.M. Thursday at the commission's Manhattan office, 199 Church Street. Commissioner Edward P. Larkin will preside.

Utility Services Restored

After the explosion last Friday night, residents of Delancey Street between Essex and Eldridge Streets were taken to the homes of friends and relatives or spent the night in nearby restaurants. The next day they returned to homes that were without gas and, in many cases, without electricity and heat.

By last night services had been restored in most of the apartments.

"We've got steam heat, gas, hot water, electric," said Joseph Janowitz of 110 Delancey Street. "We were sitting without steam Saturday and Sunday, but yesterday at 7 o'clock at night we got steam."

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