Tatiana from page A1

At Lanigan, there are about 100 bilingual students, of whom she serves 34. Chyorny helps them learn how to complete senthem learn how to complete sen-tences, learn new words and verhalize sounds – as well as recog-

nize the different letter combina tions that result in those sounds. Among methods to do that are group book readings and demon-strations in which she puts ran-dom plastic letters on a magnetic writing board.



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"Each year I encounter a few students with zero English speaking (ability)," Tationa

"But I have had quite a few "But I have had quite a rew scores stories very recently. They come to you all humble and humiliated and they can't com-municate with their peers. But then (after training) you see

The paraprofessional recalls the progress made by one particular Chinese youngster over the past two years. When her tutoring of the boy began in 1997, he was so humiliated by his inability to speak English that he hid under a desk in the classroom, she said.

"But now," Tatiana continued, in two years time, he was able to acquire English and by the end of first grade he was reading like a third grader."

Being able to make such a difference is why Chyorny spent all summer toiling away at Wayne

The paraprofessional recalls # ... I'd love to invite my mom over and take care of her ... and show her America.

Tatiana Chyorny -Naturalized U.S. citizen

State University in Detroit.* context is very much unlike working toward certification as a Michigan teacher. It cook six classes this summer, 20 credit hours, she said. And, she realizes her mother mer, 20 credit hours, she said. But 'lad no life this summer.' Chyorny ended that sentence laughing.

But 'having no life" in that America.*

laughing.
But "having no life" in that Am

PSC from page A1

Strand.

He noted, however, that while the PSC's purpose is to regulate the state's utilities, it is governed by state law and by interpretations of those laws by state courts.

courts:
In view of that, Strand said, he
and fellow commissioners David
Svanda and Robert Nelson and
their staffs will study the information, then "sit down with Edison and see if we can reach some
kind of settlement."

kind of settlement."

"If not, it will become a contested case" that will go to the Appeals Court and likely will take severel months to recolve. Seemingly, "The Courts of Appeals are siways trying to fig-

ure out where our authority ends and where it begins," he said.

In fact, "The Michigan Supreme Court told us last year that we are creatures of the Legislature," Strand said.

"Being that, if the state says we have the power' to do something, then 'we do."

The roughly 2 1/2-hour hearing in the William Costick Center – the second PSC session there since 1998 on the same subject – drew about 80 people, including present and former elected officials and a contingent of some 20 Edison executives

cessor, Aldo Vagnozzi; county commissioners David L. Moffitt and Terry Sever, and Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy.

Heading up the group from Edison – now known as DTE Energy – was Robert Buckler, president and chief operating officer of the firm's power-transmitting division.

Bates, the Hills' recently elected mayor, turned up the heat on Edison at the outset.

Ownellity of life.

Quality of life

"Our private citizens' quality of life is being challenged" and Hills businesses are threatening to leave due to DTE's failure to

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provide reliable electric power service, the mayor charged in opening the hearing.

"This is simply not acceptable and it cannot continue," abe said,

"We are past public relations and feel-good talk. It is time this issue be resolved."

One way. Bates taid the PSC.

issue be resolved."

One way, Bates told the PSC, is for Edison to "be at least as inconvenienced" as its customers: Make it pay during power outages for electric generators and dry ice to prevent food spoilers.

ators and dry ice to prevent food spoilage.

"Until it hurts Detroit Edison as much as it hurts citizens, nothing will happen," she said.

Vagnozzi said though there's an ew Hills mayor, there's "no change in the intensity" of the quest for a resolution.

He suggested the establishment of a PSC citizens advisory committee so the PSC could "get input from the average citizen—the one whose electricity goes of at 10 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, just when they're putting the

at 10 am. on Thankagiving Day, just when they're putting the turkey in the oven."

Strand told Vagnozzi the FSC can't, under existing law, buy the dry ice and bill Edison, but that a proposal by Sen. Matt Dunaskiss may change that.

Vagnozzi said the presence of DTE's Buckler didn't surprise

DTE's Buckler didn't surprise him because another top execu-tive came to last year's hearing. Moffitt (R-Farmington Hills) said DTE needs to be pushed into using underground lines for "more reliable delivery" of power. He also urged the company to spend more to keep up with Oak-land County's growth.

Nitty-gritty answers'

Sever (R-Farmington Hills), who pushed for and got a county commission task force on Edison, answers ... The wait is long enough." called for "some nitty-gritty

answers ... The wait is long enough."
Keen McCarthy, vice-chair of the Conference of Westera Wayne County, which represents 600,000 residents, said she learned Edison "is playing one community off against the other has more pressing problems.
Now that communities are comparing notes, "we're getting worried," she said.
Dana Whinnery, Hills assistant city manager, told the PSC the power outages stretched across Farmington Hills.
Buckler looked pained following the hearing.

Buckler looked pained following the hearing.

"They are not the company I know," he said of the DTE employees Edison customers described Monday night as rude, indifferent and poorly trained.

But he also acknowledged, "A

lot of customers (in the Hills area) have too many power out-

area) have too many power outsges."
And even though DTE spends
\$500 million on transmission
and distribution of electrical
power and is rated among the
set in the country in general
reliability, "that does not mean
anything to the people here."
Overall, he stated, There are
coverablism assessment below the

some things we're going to have to figure out how to do things differently."

differently."

Ron May, DTE vice president of energy delivery and services, reiterated the company's claim that it's the trees "the mature large trees" which make the Hills area so attractive – that also cause the problems.

When they die or are hit by lightning, they can fall onto power lines – problems homeowners don't consider when planting them.

He said DTE readily provides information – at greenhouses

he said Dis reamy provides information — at greenhouses and elsewhere — telling con-cerned residents which are the best trees to plant, and where, from a slow-growth, low-growth



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