

Transformer burn victim gets \$1.5M from Con Ed

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

A Grymes Hill woman who was severely burned when a Con Edison transformer exploded above her more than three years ago has accepted over \$1.5 million in damages from the utility.

Nancy Feliciano, 48, of Howard Avenue, was showered with sparks and hot oil at about 9:15 p.m. on Aug. 17, 1997 when a transformer exploded on Stratford and Arlo roads.

Ms. Feliciano was walking beneath the transformer at the time of the explosion.

According to Michael Bush of the New Dorp law firm Chelli & Bush, who represented the plaintiff, Ms. Feliciano suffered first- and second-degree burns over both her legs and right arm.

She was initially admitted to

Staten Island University, Ocean Breeze, in critical but stable condition, but complications from the burns developed and she was moved to the intensive care unit.

Ms. Feliciano spent over a month in the hospital until she was released on Sept. 20, 1997, Bush said. She has yet to return to work, he added.

Offering their sympathy to the plaintiff, a Con Edison spokesperson called the accident "tragic," and said, "all sides agreed to the \$1,550,000 settlement."

Judge Louise Gruner Gans of state Supreme Court, Manhattan, granted summary judgment as to liability in favor of the plaintiff on April 7, finding the defendant, Con Edison, 100 percent at fault.

The issue of damages, however, was scheduled for trial on Jan. 18, at which time the matter was settled.