

Comments to the Legislative Commission on the Future of the Long Island Power Authority

- My name is Eugene Falik.
- I am a resident of the Rockaways, a LIPA ratepayer, and a member of the Board of the Bayswater Civic Association.
- I am in support of reorganizing the Long Island Power Authority as a public benefit corporation.
- I am in support of the items listed by Fred Harrison in his comments of September 10, 2023.
- The board should:
 - Hold at least two set of public hearings each year, with a morning hearing adjourned to the evening. Each set of hearings must be held in each county of the service territory.
 - No be self-perpetuating.
 - Should have a significant fraction of the members elected.
 - Consider the example of Ninestar Connect, a cooperative in Greenfield, Indiana.
 - At least one member of the board should be a licensed professional engineer.
 - A majority should not be attorneys.
- The public-private model has an enduring allure but the benefits escape me.
 - Customers have no choice.
 - There is no free market.
 - There is no competition.
 - profit motive
 - capitalist inflated pricing structure.
 - Overpriced
 - There is no incentive to reduce demand.
- Look to local examples of municipal systems:
 - Rockville Centre
 - Freeport
- There must be a mechanism where a member of the public can force action on improper or unlawful activities. Some examples are:

- Putting yellow reflectors on poles which direct drivers to drive to the right (on the sidewalk).
- Not rendering timely bills.
- Chopping up trees for no good reason rather than using steel supported, nylon insulated wires as other utilities do.
- There must be protections for employees so that they don't lose protections that might not be provided under existing state law.
- The new LIPA must be required to conform to FTC requirements for private business (mailing bills 15 days before they are due, responding to letters in a timely fashion, etc.). Further, it should be required to conform to applicable Public Service Commission rules and procedures.
- If there is a Community Board as some have proposed, the LIPA board must be required to provide detailed, written responses to written items presented by the Community Board.
- LIPA must be required to permit the interconnection of any solar system, with or without batteries, which can provide power to a facility when the grid fails, Of course, when the grid fails, such a system must disconnect the facility from the grid.

<https://nylipa.gov/>
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