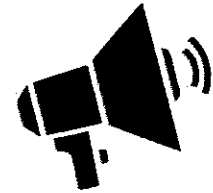


LONG ISLAND PROGRESSIVE COALITION

Established in 1979, the Long Island Progressive Coalition (LIPC) fights for structural change at the local, state, and national levels to attain racial justice, build community wealth, and realize a just transition to a 100% renewable energy future.



September 14, 2023

Testimony for the Final LIPA Commission Public Hearing

The Long Island Progressive Coalition (LIPC) is a grassroots community-based organization founded in 1979. We are a leading member of the Reimagine LIPA campaign, which this week released a sign-on letter with signatures from 100 diverse groups in support of the work of the LIPA Commission, urging Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to end the private management of the Long Island Power Authority by PSEG in favor of a publicly managed utility. It demonstrates the widespread support, both regionally and statewide, for a fully public LIPA.

I want to correct the record regarding misinformation that was shared during the Suffolk hearing earlier this week. Multiple speakers parroted talking points about a government takeover of the utility, a false claim that has ties to the Edison Institute, a trade association that PSEG is a member of, which has undertaken paid social media advertising to fearmonger over this issue ever since this Commission began. Making LIPA fully public is quite literally not a government takeover. LIPA is already a public authority that owns the grid. There's nothing to take over. We're aiming to get rid of wasteful management with PSEG. I must also note that PSEG literally made up qualifying metrics ("overhead utility") to claim that they have the highest customer satisfaction in NYS. The most recent J.D Power report has PSEG-LI among the lowest customer satisfaction rates of any utility in the Northeast. Their business satisfaction rates are even lower. They have no shame in directly lying to you in order to protect their own interests.

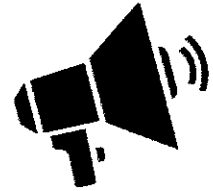
The draft report released by this Commission only reconfirms what many have pointed out for years: Long Island and Rockaway ratepayers will be better off without PSEG. Privatization failed us, PSEG is failing us, and now is the time for the public to lead us in a new direction. PSEG has been behind on hundreds of metrics under its new contract, most concerningly on its computer and communication system. Issues at their call centers have been equally troubling, with wait times to speak to service agents spiking more than 1,500% during 2022. With recent news of PSEG's egregious executive bonuses and unsolicited lobbying against public power, there has never been a better time to make this transition.

We know that all the major challenges of converting LIPA to a fully public model are doable. But to arrive at a fully public LIPA, there are still many decisions to make. We propose the following:

LIPA's mission must be modified to include climate justice, energy democracy, equity, and greater participation by its customers. This is necessary to change the underlying purpose of the utility, which does not currently prioritize these matters.

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Parameters:

- The CSB would have its own budget and staff support; funds would come from current DPS-LI budget or appropriations in NYS budget
- To ensure representation from a broad spectrum of relevant groups, the CSB would have 25 members
- Each member would be compensated for their work via a flat fee by amount of hours they work
- All CSB members must be ratepayers and live within the LIPA service area. The CSB should be made up of members from diverse sectors and backgrounds with proper geographic diversity, including social justice, environmental, Indigenous Nations, business, faith-based, labor, local government, economic development, energy, low and fixed income, members of Disadvantaged Communities, consumer, civic, and school district
- The CSB would have 5 committees who work together:
 - **Governance:** Manages affairs and members of CSB and presents agenda to the Governance Board each month.
 - **Monitoring:** Monitors the budget and works with DPS-LI to evaluate utility services, operations, and programs, helping to make recommendations to the new Governance Board. It would fill appropriate gaps that DPS-LI has been traditionally unable to.
 - **Planning:** Leads the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, Utility 2.0 process, emergency response, meeting CLCPA mandates, and other statewide and regional goals.
 - **Community Engagement:** Carries out education and engagement processes; enables community and stakeholder participation across the service territory; and serves as a resource to communities during storms and other emergencies. It would support communities to make proposals to the new Governance Board and assist their efforts to create and/or implement their own energy projects and partnerships. This could include furthering Disadvantaged Communities' efforts to obtain community solar, and homeowners' efforts to purchase solar and battery systems. It could also be helpful with town, village, and school district programs to purchase electric vehicles and charging stations, as well as install heat pumps, rooftop solar, or green roofs for cooling, etc. These efforts would include reaching out to constituencies who are often not heard at Board meetings and supporting them to attend and speak; giving feedback to the utility about the strengths and weaknesses of existing programs; and working with communities to enable them to understand the issues involved in long term