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Your Comment

PSEG's computer systems were malfunctioning well before Tropical Storm Isaias in August of 2020 but management left the issue uncorrected and failed to disclose this vital information. Due to their neglect, 535,000 customers went without power or answers when the storm hit.

Publicly-owned utilities and co-ops nationwide fare as well or better than private sector utilities in the measures customers care about – customer satisfaction and reliability. They also tend to be leaders in clean energy.

Across the country, 2,000 public power utilities serve almost 15% of Americans, offering 13% cheaper rates and 46% shorter outage times than private utilities: In the face of worsening storms, Winter Park, Florida voted to municipalize in 2003. They've since expanded solar generation and vastly improved grid reliability, while keeping rates below their state's average.

Municipal utilities can be remarkably innovative: In 1996, Chattanooga's Electric Power Board began investing in fiber optics, laying the groundwork for a world-class smart grid that has reduced power outages by 60% and saved the city close to \$60 million annually.

To properly represent the public, LIPA's board must include better representation of critical local stakeholders, from resilience experts to community and environmental advocates. Planning and operations must be informed by robust public participation processes and partnerships with universities and local organizations.

LIPA's own Adoptions Analysis states that municipalization would result in: "Savings of \$65 to \$75 million per year compared to PSEG LI contract. Municipal Management is financially feasible and an attractive alternative to the single-source service provider model. This savings can be used for storm hardening, investing in clean energy production and lowering rates.