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LONG ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY

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VIRTUAL ZOOM

REFORMING ELECTRIC SERVICE

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

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May 27, 2021

6:03 P.M.

B e f o r e :

JENNIFER HAYEN, LIPA

Director of Communications

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FROM LIPA

Jennifer Hayen  
Director of Communications..... 5

Tom Falcone  
Chief Executive Officer..... 6

Tom Locascio  
Director of External Affairs .....

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. HAYEN: Okay. We are now

4

live? Wait for the attendees to join. Hi,

5

everyone. Welcome so far. We're going to give

6

participants a few more minutes to join. I'll just

7

give it one more minute. Hi, everyone.

8

All right. We're going to get

9

started.

10

Good evening. Thank you for

11

joining us for the second public comment session on

12

the options analysis for the management of LIPA's

13

assets.

14

My name is Jen Hayen, I'm LIPA's

15

Director of Communications. I'm joined tonight by

16

LIPA's Chief Executive Officer, Tom Falcone, along

17

with LIPA's Director of External Affairs, Tom

18

Locascio.

19

The Board of Trustees has

20

directed LIPA staff to hold these hearings and are

21

watching via Live stream. Staff will report to the

22

Board on both public comment sessions at the June

23

23rd board meeting.

24

We are hosting this session

25

virtually tonight to minimize the risk of exposure

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2 to COVID-19 to the public and our employees. We  
3 will begin our session with a presentation from our  
4 chief executive officer and then we will hear from  
5 you.

6

This meeting is being  
7 live-streamed on our website, LIpower.org, and all  
8 materials presented and referenced tonight along  
9 with the reporting of this session will be  
10 available on our website.

11

I will now turn it over to LIPA's  
12 Chief Executive Officer for our presentation. Tom.

13

MR. FALCONE: Thank you, Jen, and  
14 thank you everybody for your interest, for your  
15 time.

16

Let me say, if you had tuned in on  
17 Tuesday, my remarks will be similar to Tuesday  
18 night. All I can say about that is that a good  
19 thing about seeing a bad movie a second time, at  
20 least you know it ends.

21

For everybody else, the purpose  
22 of this presentation is really to discuss the  
23 Options Analysis. That Options Analysis has some  
24 background, stems out of LIPA and the Department of  
25 Public Service's investigation of PSEG's response

1

2 to Tropical Storm Isaias.

3

4 In November, following that  
5 investigation, the LIPA Board adopted the  
6 recommendation that we should seek to either  
7 terminate or renegotiate our contract with PSEG  
8 Long Island, based on what we found. That resulted  
9 in a Options Analysis released in December of 2020  
and a revised report released in April of 2021.

10

11 At the time the second report was  
12 issued last month, the Board asked to hear from all  
13 of you in these public comment sessions, and that's  
14 what we're here to talk about tonight. For anybody  
15 that does not already have a copy, the Options  
Analysis is on our website at LIpower.org.

16

17 So let's talk a little bit about  
18 the investigation into Tropical Storm Isaias since  
19 that's why we're all here. Let's first say though,  
20 that we're not here because we had 650,000 customer  
21 outages. We all know that we're an island, we jut  
22 out into the ocean, and occasionally we'll get big  
23 storms. That's not an excuse for doing everything  
24 we can to minimize the damage to the electric grid  
25 through storm hardening, tree trimming, and other  
programs. However, we will have storms and it will

1

2 take time to restore.

3

4 However, you, as a customer of  
5 PSEG Long Island, should expect timely and accurate  
6 communication, the ability to talk about serious  
7 issues with your electric service provider and get  
8 serious answers.

8

9 And during that storm, all the  
10 critical IT and telephone systems used to restore  
11 power, communicate with customers, all failed.  
12 Over a million customer calls did not get through.  
13 300,000 text messages bounced back. The website,  
14 the mobile app, the government portal failed, and  
15 it created a fog of war for those internally and  
16 externally about trying to restore power.

16

17 For those that did receive  
18 information about their estimated restoration time,  
19 the information was highly inaccurate. People's  
20 restorations were extend -- estimated restoration  
21 times were extended by as many as seven days and  
22 they received dozens of estimates.

22

23 The PSEG lacked business  
24 continuity plans that were executed so that they,  
25 in the face of failing IT systems, could go back to  
manual processes and continue to provide good



1

2 service. Those were the things that we found in  
3 the Isaias report, and that 90-Day-Report from last  
4 November is on our website. The most important  
5 conclusion, however, was that all of these things  
6 were not IT failures, they fundamentally were  
7 management failures, and they all could and should  
8 have been prevented.

9

10 So let's talk about those  
11 deficiencies that the 90-Day-Report highlighted.  
12 So there's the proximate causes and there's the  
13 fundamental causes. On the proximate side, at the  
14 bottom of the page, well, PSEG management failed to  
15 maintain and stress test the telephone and outage  
16 management systems per industry practices and per  
17 our contract requirements.

17

18 They failed to act with urgency  
19 when they discovered, before the storm, in June and  
20 July that the outage management system was not  
21 functioning on blue sky calm days.

21

22 They failed to put in place those  
23 manual workaround processes I just mentioned, and  
24 they failed to inform LIPA of their ongoing  
25 difficulties before, during, or after the storm.

25

In fact, everything that we learned and everything

1

2 we put into the 90-Day-Report and everything that's  
3 in the DPS investigative report, we learned through  
4 our investigation, through asking for copies of  
5 their e-mails and their text messages. And that's  
6 just not what -- and that's just not what our  
7 expectation is.

8                   So those are the proximate  
9 causes. But the fundamental cause was bad  
10 management. And they're just not organized to  
11 provide adequate service to Long Island. So we  
12 need a contract. The contract that we have was a  
13 good attempt. A good attempt, a noble attempt.  
14 But you learn by doing, and after eight years of  
15 learning, we know we need a stronger contract that  
16 has better provisions that assure alignment and  
17 accountability between LIPA and its service  
18 provider and provide assurance to our customers of  
19 good management going forward.

20                   Now the Board has acted in a few  
21 different ways. They asked for this investigation,  
22 they asked for these reports, they adopted this  
23 recommendation for the long-term to either  
24 terminate or renegotiate this contract. But they  
25 also directed over 140 recommendations to address

1

2 the proximate problems, those IT operational and  
3 emergency response issues. And PSEG is in process  
4 of submitting plans and correcting those things  
5 one-by-one.

6 But correcting those proximate  
7 issues isn't enough. Like I said, these were  
8 management failures and we need -- we pay for good  
9 management, we deserve to get good management, our  
10 customers deserve value for the dollars they pay to  
11 PSEG Long Island.

12 We go to the next page. Is this  
13 the only issue, is a fair question. Is it just one  
14 storm? Is it just IT? Is it just emergency  
15 response? Well, no. We've had eight years -- we're  
16 eight years into the contract and there were  
17 expectations at the beginning of the contract and  
18 PSEG was given record resources, three times what  
19 National Grid was given to improve customer  
20 service, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

21 But yet we find problems and the  
22 Board has documented problems in other areas;  
23 long-term planning, risk management, asset  
24 management, real estate, budgets, and what you can  
25 see on the page. But most fundamentally, customer

1  
2 satisfaction. It's the gold standard. And in  
3 2013, we were ranked dead last for customer  
4 satisfaction. Our high watermark in 2020, ranked  
5 124th out of 143 utilities, and now back to 100 --  
6 following Isaias, back to 143rd out of 144th. That  
7 simply is not what we expected back in 2014 when we  
8 awarded this contract to PSEG or provided all these  
9 resources. So it's time for a course correction  
10 because you can't keep doing the same things you  
11 were doing and expect a better result.

12                   Go to the next page, Jen. So  
13 what are our options? That's what the Options  
14 Analysis is to discuss, and I'll briefly cover the  
15 four.

16                   Option 1, sell LIPA's assets to  
17 investor -- to private investors, make it an  
18 investor-owned utility.

19                   Option 2, reset the PSEG  
20 relationship, reform the contract.

21                   Option 3, seek a new service  
22 provider or providers.

23                   And Option 4, bring utility under  
24 LIPA management.

25                   I'll go through each one very

1  
2 briefly and more information is available in that  
3 Options Analysis. It's important to emphasize,  
4 however, that all of these options only concern  
5 what's in the orange box. So a lot of things don't  
6 change. The LIPA Board of Trustees, the team hired  
7 by the LIPA Board of Trustees, the Department of  
8 Public Services independent role in providing  
9 advice to the Board, the contracts with National  
10 Grid to provide power supply and resources weren't  
11 even what's called the ServCo subsidiary that  
12 houses the 2,500 workers that actually provide  
13 service to you. But what's in the orange box is  
14 what we paid PSEG to do. We pay them about \$78  
15 million a year and in exchange, they supply about  
16 18 executives. And that is what we're here to talk  
17 about tonight.

18                   We go to the next page, Jen. So  
19 let's talk about the options.

20                   Option 1, privatization. LIPA is  
21 a publicly-owned utility. We could sell LIPA's  
22 assets to a private entity. The issue is it  
23 results in significantly higher financing costs and  
24 also makes LIPA ineligible for federal grants that  
25 fund storm hardening and also fund storm

1

2 restoration.

3

4 Over the last ten years, we've  
5 received about \$1.6 billion in those grants from  
6 the federal government. So the simple answer, and  
7 it's given in a lot more detail in the report, is  
8 that privatizing LIPA would raise customer bills  
9 \$32 per month. And because of that, the Board is  
10 not seriously considering this as one of the  
11 alternatives.

11

12 We go to the next page. So let's  
13 talk about Option 2, resetting the PSEG  
14 relationship and reforming the contract. What  
15 would a second chance for PSEG need to look like?  
16 What kind of contract terms would we have to have  
17 to feel like we are given a reasonable chance of  
18 better results going forward? Well, you need  
19 strengthened incentives and accountability and  
20 strengthened oversight. And I'll just briefly  
21 touch on these reports -- or on these points, but  
22 they're important.

22

23 What did we ask PSEG for? We've  
24 asked for a greater share of their management fees.  
25 The fees we pay them to provide the 18 managers, a  
greater share of those to be at risk for bad

1

2 performance. Right now it's -- 87 percent of the  
3 fees are fixed. Only 13 percent are subject to  
4 variation based on performance.

5 Number 2, expanded performance  
6 metrics. A lot of the areas that I discussed  
7 previously that aren't going well, there's not a  
8 single performance metric in the contract that deal  
9 with those. It'd be like hiring an employee and  
10 telling them, go ahead in this area, whatever you  
11 do will be just fine.

12 Number 3. Gating in default  
13 metrics. What does that mean? That means in an  
14 event like Isaias, when it's really bad, it does  
15 not matter how you did on say, inventory  
16 management. In an event like that, something comes  
17 off the top of your management fees.

18 And number 4. Strengthening Long  
19 Island-based management. We need the right people  
20 in the right seats accountable to Long Island. And  
21 right now, the Long Island management team has some  
22 big holes in it.

23 Number 5. Require candor from  
24 our service provider because we didn't get it. Now  
25 over to the oversight.

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Number 6, where we find problems, and the Board documents it, we need PSEG to face consequences if they don't correct those problems in a reasonable amount of time.

Number 7. Strengthen oversight in long-term planning, project prioritization, and budget prioritization. What does that really mean? It means greater alignment and accountability between what we give PSEG money to do, and what they get done. And they should get paid more money based on getting the things that we all agreed should be done, done on time, and under budget. Failure to do that, they should get paid less.

And finally, since this was uniquely an IT problem, partition the Long Island IT systems and facilitate greater independent verification and validation. So no longer can LIPA rely on PSEG's representations that it, for example, stress-tested a system, we need to independently conduct those stress tests.

So is this package an overreaction, a pendulum shift? No. It's eight years into a contract, we've learned a lot, it was a noble attempt, it was a high-trust agreement,



1

2 but, at this point, based on actual performance, we  
3 need to see some reforms. And the posed reforms are  
4 reasonable and a mutually reinforcing package that  
5 guarantees a better level of experience going  
6 forward.

7                   Go to the next page, Jen. The  
8 lights have gone out here, but that's just the lack  
9 of motion. It's the motion sensor. Don't be  
10 alarmed. It's always bad when the lights go out at  
11 the Lighting Company.

12                   Anyway, Option 2. What are --  
13 Option 2, the current status of the PSEG  
14 negotiations. Well, you see what we've asked for  
15 and why we believe it to be reasonable. But  
16 unfortunately, we haven't been able to reach an  
17 agreement with PSEG on these terms. And so based on  
18 that, we're moving on. We'll continue to discuss  
19 with PSEG, we'll continue to speak with them, and  
20 if their position changes, we're certainly open to  
21 that, and we'll bring that information back to you.  
22 But absent these common-sense reforms, then we have  
23 to look at Options 3 and 4.

24                   So Option 3. What does that look  
25 like? Well, it's pretty straightforward. Option 3

1  
2 is, go get somebody else. If we can't find what we  
3 need or if PSEG isn't meeting -- PSEG management is  
4 not meeting the needs of our Long Island customers,  
5 we can get other people. There are many other  
6 vendors that can take on the entirety or parts of  
7 the scopes of services that we seek for management  
8 services. We need not provide it to a single  
9 provider, we can be open to consortias which would  
10 further open up the bidding pool.

11           So what have we done to further  
12 explore this option of other people? Still a  
13 public-private partnership but with new vendors.  
14 Well, on May 19th, we issued a request for  
15 information. Responses are due on July 19th. And  
16 on July -- following those responses we'll give you  
17 an update. We're in an active marketing period.  
18 We are actively talking to and getting good  
19 responses from other utilities and contractors and  
20 I expect a very good result here. So this is a  
21 legitimate option and something for the public and  
22 the Board to consider.

23           Now, let's talk about the final  
24 option. And that is to bring the 2,500 employees  
25 that are dedicated to serving Long Island, and all

1

2 the assets back on under LIPA management. This is  
3 the biggest departure from the existing service  
4 provider model, this public-private partnership  
5 model. It has several potential benefits, as  
6 mentioned here. I thought we would spend a little  
7 more time on this one since it's the biggest  
8 departure from what we currently do.

9 First thing to address though, if  
10 you go to the next page is, is it a viable model?  
11 Obviously, it's a viable model because there are  
12 many other public power utilities that manage their  
13 own assets and do a good job and not just to  
14 measures.

15 Customer satisfaction and  
16 reliability. And what you see is that public power  
17 utilities are over-represented in the top 25  
18 percent of utilities for customer satisfaction and  
19 underrepresented in the bottom 25 percent with the  
20 dogs. Same on reliability. Over-represented in  
21 the great utilities and underrepresented in the  
22 ones being left behind. So that doesn't guarantee  
23 that a public power utility is going to succeed,  
24 but it certainly means other people have been able  
25 to make it work.

1  
2                   What about the finances? Does it  
3 work financially? Well, in total, we pay about --  
4 PSEG about \$100 million in fees. Both the fees for  
5 management services and then other services where  
6 they hired their affiliates to provide services to  
7 LIPA. So in total about \$100 million, and we've  
8 priced it out and we could provide the same  
9 services ourselves for about 25 million. That  
10 would save around 176 to 236 million through 2026,  
11 and somewhere up to 920 million through 2033. So  
12 clearly, it's a financially viable proposition if  
13 the Board wishes to go that way based on the input  
14 from our customers, elected officials, and other  
15 stakeholders.

16                   There's some other considerations  
17 here. Since this is the biggest departure, let's  
18 spend a minute on what is an essential ingredient  
19 to make sure that this model would be successful.  
20 Well, obviously the management team at LIPA, would  
21 have to be up to the task. It would have to be run  
22 by experienced professionals whose careers and  
23 compensation are tied to outcomes.

24                   We would need to add approximately  
25 a dozen senior managers to the existing LIPA

1  
2 management team. And we'd have to pay them  
3 competitive market-based salaries because we're not  
4 going to get people to come here from other places  
5 by paying them less than they currently make.

6                   Number 2. Customer and  
7 Stakeholder support. Between 1998 and 2013, there  
8 was a LIPA branded utility on Long Island providing  
9 service under a public-private partnership with  
10 another utility, customers may perceive, going back  
11 to LIPA management, as a return to the past. So a  
12 change in business model towards LIPA management  
13 would require the full support of our state's  
14 elected officials, regulators, and stakeholders,  
15 and most importantly, our customers.

16                   Number 3. The current  
17 arrangement, the Board hires LIPA management, it  
18 gets independent advice from the Department of  
19 Public Service, and LIPA management helps to hold  
20 PSEG, the management company that actually operates  
21 the assets, accountable. If LIPA management is now  
22 running the utility, the LIPA Board must understand  
23 its role, with the assistance of the Department of  
24 Public Service, in holding LIPA management  
25 accountable.

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The next thing, a private sector role. We're not going to do it all ourselves. PSEG doesn't do it all in itself either, it hires flexible, outside private contractors to provide a significant share of the services. So we would need to flexibly assemble best-in-class expertise from the private sector selectively.

And finally, transition risks. This is a significant departure from the current business model. And so there are certain business continuity risks and costs, like hiring those dozen new management teams, shifting the 2,500 employees to a new organization, and migrating certain IT systems. These are covered in more detail in the report. LIPA management would have to put forth a transition plan that adequately mitigates all of these risks.

So for more information. The next page lays out a lot of other things that you can review. The 30 and 90-day reports, various fact sheets, the Phase 1 report from December, and the Phase 2 Options Analysis from last month. All are available for your review, on our website.

And at this point, I will now turn

1

2 it back to Jen Hayen so we can hear from you.

3 Thank you.

4

MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, Tom, for  
5 that presentation.

6

We will now begin the public  
7 comment portion of the session. All speakers will  
8 have five minutes. Written comments may also be  
9 submitted electronically to the LIPA website. All  
10 comments will be posted and are available for  
11 public review.

12

If you were signed onto the Zoom  
13 application, please raise your hand now to speak.  
14 We will call on speakers in the order in which we  
15 see hands raised. Please keep your hand raised  
16 until you do speak. If you're dialed in by phone,  
17 please press star-9 to raise your hand and star-6  
18 to unmute.

19

Before you speak, please state  
20 your name and affiliation. And my colleague, Tom  
21 Locascio, and I will now call upon the speakers to  
22 raise their hand and bring you into the webinar.

23

Our first speaker tonight is  
24 Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Ed Romaine. Supervisor  
25 Romaine, welcome. You are on mute.

1

2

MR. ROMAINE: [Zoom inaudible.]

3

MS. HAYDEN: Hi.

4

MR. ROMAINE: Okay. There we go.

5

MS. HAYEN: It's good. We can

6

hear you. Welcome.

7

MR. ROMAINE: I'm on a town thing

8

so you see a big Town seal behind me, I'm sorry for

9

that.

10

First of all, I want to say that,

11

Tom Falcone did a masterful job presenting. And

12

I'm here to talk about -- and I'm by far, not an

13

expert, I run a large tab but I'm not an expert.

14

So let me say that. Let me see if I can raise this

15

up a little bit where I'm speaking from. But Tom

16

did a very good job outlining it, which is one

17

reason that I'm going to speak for Option 4.

18

Again, I'm not an expert, but I

19

think and I've advocated this from the day I was

20

elected in 1985, that LILCO, and now LIPA, should

21

be a full public utility. And obviously, with the

22

expertise of a Tom Falcone, you could run an

23

excellent utility.

24

So having said that, however, I'm

25

going to stress, as a public official, I do believe



1  
2 that the Board of Trustees should not be selected  
3 by three people that don't live in Albany. It  
4 should be that live in Albany, operate out of  
5 Albany, and not on Long Island. Our Governor, The  
6 Speaker of the Assembly, and the President of the  
7 State Senate. I believe that the members of the  
8 Board, of a public utility, should be elected at  
9 large and responsible to the ratepayers and  
10 taxpayers of Long Island. So I would definitely be  
11 in favor of a public utility providing the Board  
12 that was representative of Long Island and not of  
13 any other agendas.

14 I will say, I am concerned about  
15 LIPA and its need to reform its generation  
16 portfolio. I know there's some talk about  
17 repowering Northport. I think any study would show  
18 that would be uneconomical. I'm concerned about  
19 that. I also know, that other than EF -- Barrett,  
20 the -- I believe it's the EF Barrett steam  
21 turbines, that most of the plants that you have  
22 contracts with are Peaker plants, that operate in  
23 single digits in terms of hours of operation and is  
24 not efficient. And I would strongly recommend that  
25 LIPA take a look at that.

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I also would recommend, that these plants cost about \$240 million a year for LIPA to operate, plus another \$200 million in local property tax. And I was one of the towns that immediately said that we would reform and settle with LIPA, we did. But these are inefficient drags on the system.

Some of the other things that I want to talk about are the cables. The Neptune Cable has not operated properly and there's been outages, and the same with Cross Sound Cable, and the Y-49 cable. And yet as a LIPA customer, I have to pay for cables that oftentimes, are out of service for long periods of time. Obviously, that's something that LIPA management, not PSEG, but LIPA management, needs to address because that is something that creates higher bills for the taxpayer.

There's a lot of other things that LIPA is doing, right. So and as I said, Tom Falcone made a masterful presentation. But, one of the things that you are doing is -- and I'm just taking a look at my notes here so forgive me for a second. And you can tell I can't read.

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But your smart meter program is something that's great. Because it's something that we can get data on, not on a monthly bill but daily. And that's data, that's something that we could use.

Now as you know, the Town of Brookhaven is actively pursuing a community choice aggregation, which other towns such as Hempstead, South Hampton, I believe East Hampton at this time, are pursuing which would allow us to buy power. Because LIPA doesn't produce the power, they buy power also. We feel that we can buy power and be more economical. But, we are concerned about some of the tariffs that are in place and we're hoping to see those reformed.

So I want to thank you for this opportunity, but I do think that LIPA should be a public utility, with the public having some input by electing Board Members, or at least some of the Board Members, should be elected at large or by districts throughout Long Island, so the voice, so they're responsible to the people that elect them and not the power brokers in Albany. I think that's very, very important.

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22

23

24

25

I want to say that I think Tom Falcone did a great job, I have confidence in him running the utility, a public utility.

So with that, thank you for having me, appreciate it.

MS. HAYDEN: Thank you so much, Supervisor Romaine, for joining us tonight.

MR. ROMAINE: Thank you.

MR. FALCONE: Thank you, Supervisor Romaine, for your kind comments, and it's good to see you, post-COVID. And I look forward to seeing you in person.

MR. ROMAINE: It's good to see you. I hope everything is going well. You did a very great -- you did a great job presenting, Tom. Great job. But I'm a great believer in a public utility. It works elsewhere in the United States, I think it would work well here. Someone like yourself leading the utility, and I think there's a lot of capable people out there that would do well. I have no criticism of the Board members. I'm sure they're all dedicated, I follow them, and God bless them for serving.

But I also think it would be

1  
2 important in a public utility to have the public  
3 elect some of those board members, if not all of  
4 those board members, as opposed to being appointed  
5 by the governor who lives in Westchester, the  
6 Speaker of the Assembly, who also lives in  
7 Westchest -- excuse me, the Speaker of the  
8 Assembly, I'm not sure where he lives, it's -- I  
9 believe, it's New York City and the Senate  
10 President who lives in Westchester as well. It  
11 would be good to have Long Island people and it  
12 would be good to have a public utility which was  
13 envisioned.

14 We came close. When I was in the  
15 legislature in the 80s, myself and a number of  
16 other legislators thought about buying local at the  
17 time because their stock dropped down to \$5. And  
18 we knew the assets were worth far more than \$5 and  
19 that was our opportunity. But unfortunately, my  
20 colleagues were shy and didn't want to take the  
21 risk. I thought it was worth a risk to create a  
22 public utility. I still think it's worth the risk.  
23 And you've demonstrated that your knowledge of the  
24 utility business, even though you came from the  
25 world of finance, I think that you would be a good

1

2 leader. And I think that we should consider a  
3 public utility.

4

MR. FALCONE: Thank you again,  
5 Supervisor Romaine.

6

SUPERVISOR ROMAINE: Thank you.  
7 Listen, have a great night. It's good to see you,  
8 Tom and your staff. You have a great guy working  
9 on government relations. We had a conversation  
10 earlier this day. I just want to say that, lot  
11 going on. Have a great night.

12

MR. FALCONE: Thank you.

13

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Supervisor  
14 Romaine.

15

Our next speaker is Peter  
16 Schlusser, followed by Christine Marzano, Fred  
17 Harrison, Alexander Dillon, and Harry Burger.

18

Peter? Hi, Peter. Welcome.

19

You're on mute.

20

MR. SCHLUSSLER: Unmute. Here I  
21 am.

22

MS. HAYEN: Hi. We can hear you.  
23 Welcome. You have five minutes.

24

MR. SCHLUSSLER: Thank you. Good  
25 afternoon -- good evening. I appreciate the

1

2 opportunity to speak.

3

4 I have -- first of all, I have no  
5 affiliation with anything, so I'm just an  
6 individual. My name is Peter Schlussler. I have  
7 over 40 years of utility government and computer  
8 assistance experience at the leadership level, the  
9 manufacture of the LIPA PSEG outage managements of  
10 CGI, and personally have first-hand experience with  
11 the same -- with the successful delivery of a major  
12 financial management system. The engagement was on  
13 time and budget with zero impact to business  
14 process.

14

15 That being said, I was curious  
16 about the assertion that the failures of PSEG with  
17 Hurricane Isaias was solely associated to the CGI  
18 outage management system. From my professional  
19 opinion, and experience, and observations, the  
20 failures were observations associated to the  
21 hurricane had nothing to do with the outage  
22 management system but was 100 percent associated  
23 with poor decision-making practices on PSEG's side.

23

24 For instance, as an -- for one  
25 instance, I should say, it is my opinion that out  
of the 660,000 calls that were placed by the

1

2 customer call centers, 575,000 were redundant calls  
3 reporting the same issue, which consequently,  
4 caused an overload of the system. Industry best  
5 practice has always been a single call per single  
6 issue, outage that is. In some cases, it was  
7 observed some phone numbers called in excess of 400  
8 times.

9                   With these redundant calls, [zoom  
10 inaudible] which caused a false reporting to the  
11 OMS, which led to crews being deployed duplicate  
12 times to the same job. Ironically, it's my  
13 understanding, this feature of a single call for a  
14 single reported outage was just implemented by PSEG  
15 in the last round of testing last month.

16                   Additionally, the storm ETR,  
17 estimated time to return, was not used correctly by  
18 PSEG by using manual overrides. Again, not using  
19 traditional industry best practice, hence caused a  
20 tremendous amount of incorrect calculations with --  
21 yes, with regards to power restoration, which was  
22 causing system overloads, hence, unnecessary  
23 duplicates of point of restoration to assets.

24                   The OMS version used by CGI, 6.7,  
25 which is a minor step up from 6.5, which about 80



1  
2 percent -- 82 percent of the CGI customers have  
3 been using successfully in about 15 utilities.  
4 Additionally, there are only two utilities  
5 remaining on the Legacy 5.5 version that PSEG  
6 rolled back to as a result of its failures with the  
7 hurricanes. Guess who they are, PSEG New Jersey  
8 and Long Island. Beyond such, by the way, is a  
9 paper radial-based appointment-type management  
10 system, version 6.x, which is a computer base. God  
11 help us if we have another hurricane event such as  
12 what we had last year.

13                   Why is that better is anyone's  
14 guess. There was a fair amount of recommendations  
15 made by CGI surrounding functionality using  
16 industry best practice standards 2016 to PSEG, but  
17 they were not implemented. In 2018, DPS cited this  
18 fact, but again, they were not implemented.

19                   I can talk all day about the  
20 numerous [zoom inaudible] observations of failure,  
21 but the failure is solely of PSEG's managerial  
22 failure, incompetence, lack of experience, or just  
23 not caring. The technology was not their problem,  
24 I assure you, the people management was.

25                   For the last several decades,

1  
2 LIPA struggled with management partners, either  
3 with National Grid with Superstorm Sandy or PSEG  
4 with Hurricane Isaias. This structure obviously  
5 does not work. A municipal structure should be the  
6 new LIPA. Municipalization essentially,  
7 transformation into a community-owned utility is  
8 the only practical alternative for LIPA. It would  
9 involve abandoning the concept of the roughly \$80  
10 million metric service agreement and hiring people  
11 actually maintain and operate Long Island's  
12 transmission distribution system as LIPA employees.

13 It would also require changes at  
14 the authority in bringing aboard accountable  
15 leadership with power experience and at the same  
16 time eliminate the whole layer of expensive  
17 profit-based management established by the MSA. In  
18 the end, LIPA would become more than a paper  
19 utility.

20 There are tremendous benefits of  
21 a public -- power -- as Mr. Falcone has outlined so  
22 there's no point in me going over it. But the most  
23 -- municipal utilities operate reliability, have  
24 high customer satisfaction ratings, and are well  
25 managed, that's a fact.

1

2

Thank you again for your time.

3

Good job on the presentation, Mr. Falcone. I agree

4

with Mr. Romaine and I appreciate looking out for

5

us ratepayers.

6

Thank you.

7

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Peter, for

8

joining us tonight.

9

Our next speaker, excuse me, is

10

Christine Marzano, followed by Alexander --

11

followed by Fred Harrison, Alexander Dillon, Harry

12

Burger, and Danielle Schultz.

13

Hi, Christine. Welcome. You're

14

on mute.

15

MS. MARZANO: Hi, thank you. Can

16

you all hear me all right?

17

MS. HAYEN: We can hear you. You

18

have five minutes.

19

MS. MARZANO: Thank you.

20

First of all, I would like to say

21

if it's at all possible for you guys to set the

22

Zoom settings to have captions, that would be great

23

for our hearing -- hearing-disabled people, hard of

24

hearing, and whatnot. That would be awesome. Or

25

if not, if the recordings can be captioned, that

1

2 would also be good. But I think accessibility is  
3 key.

4 Second of all, Chris -- I'm  
5 Christine. My pronouns are she and they, either  
6 one is fine. I am here on behalf of Suffolk County  
7 DSA. I'm the chapter secretary and I'm also here  
8 in coalition with our partners, LIPC and the -- and  
9 our chapter -- sister chapter in Nassau DSA. And  
10 as well as our partners, the Food & Water Watch of  
11 New York, to say that we fully, fully support the  
12 municipalization of LIPA.

13 We feel that it is time -- well  
14 past time to be a public power to live up to the  
15 name and actually be a public power.

16 I also do want to give a  
17 shout-out to Ed Romaine. Good to see you. We're  
18 still looking for you at board meetings. By the  
19 way, thanks. But also back to this. I mean,  
20 you've gone on and on the presentation at the  
21 beginning of this meeting, was very informative and  
22 you already have kind of grappled with this and  
23 have come to the same -- hopefully come to the same  
24 conclusions that, you know, our relationship with  
25 PSEG is just unsustainable and not good, as is, you

1

2 know, searching for another partner that is going  
3 to be similar, ConEd.

4                   So the idea is to go full-in, go  
5 full-on, and go for public power. So I had an  
6 actual speech but I'm sure you've heard it all on  
7 Tuesday. And after the thorough talking points  
8 that we've all gone over of why public power is  
9 good, as we've also seen, not only with the  
10 response to the tropical storms here that are ever  
11 increasingly getting worse and worse because of  
12 climate change, we could see across the country  
13 where people are in need of and should have public  
14 power because the corporations are not going to  
15 respond in their interest in a timely manner.

16                   We've seen you know, what  
17 happened in -- what happened in Texas could easily  
18 have happened here, could easily happen here. So  
19 not only is it inevitable that we should go to  
20 public power for the fiscal reasons, you know,  
21 saving that nearly -- what was it, one billion over  
22 the next decade for opting for public power? It's  
23 just the right thing to do as our climate  
24 catastrophe is coming closer and closer because we  
25 need clean renewable energy on a grid that can

1

2 handle what is to come.

3

4 And a public power authority would  
5 start -- would be a small step in starting that  
6 direction.

6

7 I'm going to end it here, but  
8 thank you for the time and thank you for allowing  
9 the public to speak like this. And we do hope that  
10 you will weigh the options carefully -- excuse me  
11 -- weigh the options carefully, and choose the best  
12 option, which is public power. Thank you.

12

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Christine.

13

14 I will note for the record, that  
15 our live stream on our website, [lipower.org](http://lipower.org), is  
16 captioned and our archived videos on our website as  
17 well are captioned as well. Upon request -- we do  
18 have a court reporter transcribing this session  
19 tonight. So upon request, we can send you the  
20 entire written transcript as well.

20

21 Our next speaker is Fred Harrison,  
22 followed by Alexander Dillon, Harry Burger, and  
23 Danielle Schultz, followed by Ron Leonard.

23

Fred, welcome.

24

25 MR. HARRISON: Yes. Good  
evening. My name is Fred Harrison. I live in

1

2 Merrick. I'm a retired teacher and a volunteer  
3 with Food & Water Watch.

4

I spoke on Tuesday night and I'm  
5 choosing to speak again tonight because I think  
6 it's important that information about the lack of  
7 transparency and accountability on the part of the  
8 LIPA Board be on the public record.

9

I'd like to emphasize for that  
10 record, that on behalf of Food & Water Watch, I  
11 have made consistent and monthly requests for more  
12 information about what is now called Option 4, the  
13 option that can save ratepayers almost \$1 billion.

14

I'm holding a letter sent to the  
15 Board, dated February 3rd, clearly explaining our  
16 questions and concerns and concluding with the  
17 following. "We respectfully request that the  
18 February meeting include a full public presentation  
19 of Option 3."

20

As you know, that was the --  
21 Option 3 is now Option 4. It goes on and  
22 concludes, "We thank you for your work and look  
23 forward to addressing these issues at February's  
24 meeting."

25

At the February, March, and April

1  
2 LIPA Trustee meetings, these requests were repeated  
3 to no avail. No new work-up -- work product on  
4 Option 4 has been made public. No new information  
5 on transition planning, or risk management, or  
6 problem-solving. No RFIs. No new information.  
7 The only new information we've heard is Mr. Falcone  
8 speaking about recruiting other private providers  
9 to replace PSEG. And why wouldn't all this be  
10 interesting? The way things are set up now,  
11 there's lots of money to be made.

12 I would also like to note that  
13 the request that board members go on record at  
14 these hearings apparently has been rejected. This  
15 request was preceded by another request in the  
16 February 3rd letter, and I quote again, "We would  
17 also like you to reconsider the ground rules for  
18 public participation. We urge you to adopt a  
19 question-and-answer format. The public should know  
20 that their concerns are being heard and that they  
21 were responded to appropriately."

22 What have we gotten from LIPA  
23 about Option 4 is what are now identified as key  
24 risks of LIPA management. They are a series of what  
25 I believe to be second and third-order problems to



1

2 be solved, not risks as Mr. Falcone describes them.  
3 The real risk in costs will be hiring another  
4 private contractor which will have to be even more  
5 closely monitored and managed.

6

7 The feasibility and risks of  
8 municipalization rise and fall on finance. LIPA  
9 faces no such risks. The public owes the assets.  
10 The most difficult, risky part is long past.

11 Bringing management functions in-house is not going  
12 down Niagara Falls in a barrel. It will end on a  
13 positive note.

13

14 I am positive LIPA can do this  
15 well. Why? We have seen that when well-supported,  
16 the men and women of LIPA and PSEG can do excellent  
17 work. You should be positive that the departure of  
18 12 PSEG managers won't be a catastrophe. There has  
19 been good success in attracting fine people. And  
20 we should remember, it's not really the people at  
21 the top.

21

22 As Bertolt Brecht famous for his  
23 Threepenny Opera asked, Who built the seven towers  
24 of thieves? The books are filled with the names of  
25 kings. Was it kings who hauled the craggy blocks of  
stone? In the evening when the Chinese wall was

1

2 finished, where did the mason's go?

3

I think we can all have  
4 confidence that we on Long Island can do what's  
5 done well -- so well across the country.

6

Non-profit public power is neither new nor  
7 revolutionary. I sincerely hope that the Board,  
8 with all their skills and knowledge, agrees. Your  
9 experience could be a big plus. If you didn't sign  
10 up for such a task, that's understandable. We all  
11 have many commitments and I for one will  
12 whole-heartedly thank you for your service.

13

I would also respectfully ask that  
14 you now, step aside. Thank you.

15

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Fred.

16

I will note for the record that  
17 the LIPA Board of Trustees has directed LIPA staff  
18 to hold these hearings, and LIPA staff or LIPA  
19 trustees are watching via livestream and our staff  
20 will report on both public comment sessions at the  
21 June 23rd Board meeting.

22

We have released a request for  
23 information, it's on our website. That's in  
24 relation to Option 3, and our Options Analysis  
25 Phase 2 which is also on our website. There's an

1

2 entire chapter on transition risks related to  
3 Option 4.

4

Our next speaker is Alexander  
5 Dillon, followed by Harry Burger. Alexander  
6 welcome. Hi.

7

MR. DILLON: Thank you.

8

MS. HAYEN: We can hear you. You  
9 have five minutes.

10

MR. DILLON: My name is Alex  
11 Dillon and I'm a ratepayer and I live in Cedarhurst  
12 in the five towns. Though I live on Long Island, I  
13 teach history in a New York City High School.

14

After Hurricane Isaias, you know,  
15 I had dozens of friends and neighbors of mine who  
16 had to leave their homes and shelter. In some cases  
17 for many weeks. But I feel I don't need to  
18 reiterate the failures of PSEG as they've been  
19 thoroughly attested to by other speakers in these  
20 hearings. And by LIPA's own investigations.

21

I'm a Ph.D. in history, and I'm  
22 used to thinking of events within a long  
23 perspective of the past, but my historical studies  
24 have also taught me to look to the future, to gain  
25 perspective as well. And that's what I thought I

1

2 would emphasize tonight.

3

4 Mr. Falcone has spoken clearly  
5 and eloquently of the successes in customer  
6 satisfaction, reliability, and savings of public  
7 power utilities, but I would like to draw attention  
8 to something else. With the passage into law of The  
9 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in  
10 2019, New York State and the power authorities that  
11 operate within it must by law generate all electric  
12 power sustainably by zero-emission means by 2040.

12

13 This is going to mean not only  
14 that LIPA must become more accountable to the  
15 communities here on Long Island, it must also  
16 become a leader in developing sustainable  
17 zero-emission production of all electric power.  
18 Moreover, by 2050, all greenhouse gas emissions  
19 throughout New York State must be reduced by 85  
20 percent.

20

21 And that means two things.  
22 First, State law mandates sweeping electrification  
23 of almost all power usage throughout New York  
24 State. And second, that electricity must all come  
25 from wind, hydro, and solar.

25

The law will require counties,

1

2 towns, and villages to decarbonize their buildings,  
3 their businesses, their vehicle fleets, and other  
4 facilities. This is, to my mind, is one of the most  
5 compelling reasons why a -- for Option 4, for  
6 having a broad range of stakeholders, having input  
7 within a context of full municipalization.

8           Within 30 years, my village of  
9 Cedarhurst is going to have to have publicly  
10 accessible charging stations and so will yours  
11 wherever you happen to live. Within 30 years, my  
12 village is going to have to have -- is going to  
13 have to heat all its buildings electrically. And  
14 so will yours. That's New York law.

15           And not just well-off communities  
16 like the one that I'm blessed to live in, but also  
17 historically under-served communities like Elmont,  
18 Hempstead, Brentwood, and many others. I don't  
19 want to be a disproportionately privileged  
20 beneficiary of service modernization that my  
21 neighbors don't get because they live in a  
22 marginalized community. Progress is not a zero-sum  
23 game.

24           The way to boldly, sustainably,  
25 and equitably move into the future of power

1

2 generation is not to retain the services of a  
3 profit-driven concern that has shown its inability  
4 even to keep the grid up and running during  
5 environmental stress, let alone bring about the  
6 transformation and power generation mandated by New  
7 York State law.

8                   So why not let LIPA lead the way  
9 in the full sustainable and equitable  
10 electrification of Long Island by bringing in a  
11 wide range of stakeholders and specialists whose  
12 input will be solicited by a democratically  
13 accountable board representing the actual  
14 communities that LIPA serves, and excerpts -- and  
15 experts from academia and the private sector in an  
16 observatory who can competently advise it. Long  
17 Island needs public power.

18                   Thank you.

19                   MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Alex.

20                   Our next speaker is Harry Burger  
21 followed by Danielle Schultz, Ron Leonard, Michael  
22 Menser, and George Povall.

23                   Harry, welcome. You're on mute on  
24 you.

25                   MR. BURGER: There we go. My

1

2 computer had a little glitch there.

3

MS. HAYEN: That's okay.

4

Welcome. You have five minutes.

5

MR. BURGER: My name is Harry

6

Burger from Deer Park. I'm a member of Suffolk DSA

7

and the Green Party. When tropical storm Isaias

8

brought Long Island Power Grid to its knees while

9

the people were already suffering under pandemic

10

restrictions, I was being forced to work from home.

11

If I wasn't lucky enough to have a landlord who

12

already had a generator, I would have been unable

13

to work for almost two full weeks. Even with that,

14

we had to be careful to cook with only a microwave

15

oven and even that could sometimes overload the

16

generators, shutting down everything else. Many

17

others had their lives even more disrupted.

18

Climate change is projected to

19

cause even more of these hurricanes that do form to

20

reach Category 3 or higher and for more of them to

21

reach our latitude before weakening. Things are

22

only going to get worse, not better.

23

This complete failure is a result

24

of corruption. Those in power prioritize private

25

profits over people. Capitalism has no business

1

2 controlling any system that nearly every person  
3 relies on for vital functions with no competitive  
4 choices. The grid is a monopoly. Executives and  
5 shareholders slurped up all of the money that they  
6 save by not preparing for emergencies properly,  
7 then when they failed to deliver, how are they now  
8 worse off than they were before they started  
9 cheating us?

10

11 In a competitive system, all  
12 their customers would switch over to another vendor  
13 and PSEG would go bankrupt. But we can't do that  
14 here. They promised that the system would have a  
15 customer satisfaction rate in the top 25 percent of  
16 America. Now they are ranked 143 out of 144.

16

17 Executives serve the best  
18 interests of those who have the power to fire them  
19 or grant them bonuses. Until those people are us,  
20 their priority will always be to charge customers  
21 as much as they can get away with while spending a  
22 minimum possible on service. That's what happens  
23 every time there's a profit to be made without  
24 vigorous competition.

24

25 We need [zoom inaudible] public  
power cooperative. A municipal operator that is



1

2 accountable to customers first and customers only.

3 To ensure a fair representation of social and

4 political minorities, we need the public

5 representatives to be elected by rank choice

6 voting, either from districts with multiple

7 representatives each or at large with multiple

8 winners.

9

We also need to mandate an

10 aggressive plan to reach zero carbonation emissions

11 energy. Our island is a front line in the war on

12 climate change so we need to lead. The Democratic

13 Socialists of America, Long Island Progressive

14 Coalition, Food & Water Watch, and the people of

15 Long Island will be waiting right outside your

16 office for your final answer on June 23rd.

17

Thank you.

18

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Harry.

19

Our next speaker is Danielle

20 Schultz followed by Ron Leonard, Michael Menser,

21 and our last speaker, who has his hand-raised, is

22 George Povall. If you would like to speak, please

23 raise your hand.

24

Danielle, welcome.

25

MS. SCHULTZ: Hi. Thank you.

1

2

MS. HAYEN: Hi.

3

4

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MS. SCHULTZ: My name is Danielle Schultz and I'm from NYSEIA, but tonight I'll be representing The Long Island Solar & Storage Alliance. A steering committee of NYSEIA. LISSA, the Long Island Solar and Storage Alliance strongly supports LIPA reviewing its role as a utility and reviewing all of these various management options.

With that in mind, LISSA is not supporting any particular management option but would like to ensure that LIPA's future is dedicated to the safe, reliable, and expedient deployment of solar energy. We would like to reinforce the importance of solar within the State's energy mix and respectfully request that LIPA consider the following when reviewing their management structure.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act has mandated that the State deploy six gigawatts of solar PV by 2025. Based on Long Island's share of the State's peak limits population, LIPA has determined that its share of the six gigawatts goal is 750 megawatts of solar by 2025.

1  
2                   This allocation is  
3 proportionately correct and LIPA should be credited  
4 for establishing a short-term Long Island specific  
5 goal. However, given Long Island's well-established  
6 role as a leader in the State's residential and  
7 small commercial solar market, and the significant  
8 lift required for Long Island to achieve its share  
9 of the State's ELCPA goals at 70 percent and 100  
10 percent electric decarbonization by 2030 and 2040  
11 respectively, and given the share of fossil fuel  
12 generation on Long Island compared to the upstate  
13 regions, LISIA recommends that LIPA sets a more  
14 aggressive goal for near-term DG solar deployments  
15 to the order of 1.2 gigawatts DC.

16                   Long Island is the heart of the  
17 State's solar market with almost 30 percent of the  
18 State's installed solar -- and over 30 percent of  
19 the State's installed distributed solar capacity.  
20 However, solar installations and deployment have  
21 been declining on the island in recent years while  
22 they have increased substantially in other parts of  
23 the State. At the same time, renewables comprised  
24 only 8 percent of overall electricity on Long  
25 Island in 2018 compared to 26 percent for the rest

1

2 of the State.

3

4 To ensure that Long Island  
5 adheres to CLCPA mandates, LISEA strongly  
6 recommends that LIPA establish a concrete road map  
7 with concrete targets beyond 2025 to achieve its  
8 share of these targets as soon as possible, with  
9 the specific contributions of distributed solar  
10 transmission levels solar, onshore wind and  
11 offshore wind outlined.

12

13 In order to track Long Island's  
14 progress towards the CLCPA mandates, LISSA also  
15 recommends that LIPA maintain a website providing  
16 detailed quarterly and annual accounting of Long  
17 Island's electric generation and load profile,  
18 including the contribution of renewable energy via  
19 -- vis a vis fossil fuel generation.

20

21 The historical success of the  
22 distributed solar market on Long Island was made  
23 possible by the availability of incentives in the  
24 form of rebates for residential and commercial  
25 solar systems through NYSEIA's New York sun  
26 program. However, residential and commercial  
27 incentives expired in 2016 and 2019 respectively,  
28 and the only proposed investment in solar

1  
2 incentives for Long Island at this time is an  
3 allocation of \$1.2 million to extend the \$200 per  
4 kilowatt rebate for community solar projects up to  
5 750 kilowatts inside -- in size detailed and PSEG  
6 energy efficiency and demand response plan for  
7 2021. This is a very small fraction of the  
8 proposed 2021 investment in efficient products of  
9 \$18.93 million and commercial efficiency of \$35.05  
10 million.

11 LIPA's relative lack of support  
12 for solar going forward is made symbolically  
13 evident, even by the title of the EEDR plan itself,  
14 which references energy efficiency and demand  
15 response programs, but not solar energy storage or  
16 other renewable generation technologies.

17 In previous years, this plan was  
18 referred to as the energy efficiency and renewables  
19 plan. Overall, significantly more investment in  
20 distributed solar and storage incentives is  
21 required by LIPA to place the region on a  
22 sustainable path to a carbon-free electric future  
23 in compliance with CLCPA mandates.

24 Constraints to existing hosting  
25 capacity on the distribution grid to accommodate a

1

2 higher volume of DG, as well as the high costs  
3 associated with the upgrades necessary to increase  
4 hosting capacity have long been first-order  
5 barriers to scaling up distributed solar and  
6 storage deployments on Long Island.

7 As directed by the PFC for other  
8 utility territories in State, LIPA should conduct a  
9 comprehensive study to identify distribution  
10 upgrades and local transmission upgrades that are  
11 necessary to facilitate the timely achievement of  
12 CLCPA targets with the following aims.

13 Evaluating the local T&D system  
14 of the individual -- individual service territories  
15 to understand where capacity headroom exists on the  
16 existing system. Identifying existing constraints  
17 that limit energy deliverability. Consider  
18 synergies with traditional capital expenditure  
19 projects. Identifying these cost upgrade projects  
20 to increase the capacity of the existing system.  
21 Identifying new -- potential new or emerging  
22 solutions that can accompany or complement  
23 traditional upgrades; identify potential new  
24 projects which would increase DER hosting capacity  
25 on the local distribution system to allow for

1

2 interconnection of new renewable generation  
3 resources. And to identify the possibility of  
4 fossil generation requirements and the impacts and  
5 potential availability of those interconnection  
6 points.

7

MS. HAYEN: Danielle, thank you  
8 so much you've reached your five minutes.

9

MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

10

MS. HAYEN: Is there any written  
11 comments? If you have additional comments to our  
12 website [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org).

13

MS. SCHULTZ: Great. Thank you.

14

MS. HAYEN: Thank you so much for  
15 joining us tonight.

16

Our next speaker is Ron Leonard  
17 followed by Michael Menser, George Povall, and  
18 Amber Ruther. Again, if you would like to raise  
19 your hand and speak, please do so now.

20

Ron, welcome. You're on mute.

21

MR. LEONARD: I am now unmuted.

22

MS. HAYEN: Yes, sir. You have  
23 five minutes.

24

MR. LEONARD: So hi, Tom and Tom.

25

I would like to speak for an

1

2 organization I started in 2000 called Renewable  
3 Energy Coalition. And my friend Danielle did a  
4 great job about showing the need for us to  
5 transition to a clean future because unlike people  
6 with gray hair like me, there are generations to  
7 come that are going to rely on the decisions that  
8 we make today to be comfortable and have a life to  
9 live.

10

11 So the thing that I'm hopefully  
12 going to be able to put forward is the Renewable  
13 Energy Coalition is sort of all of the above. By  
14 that, I mean Clean Energy. And the clean energy  
15 standard that we are striving to get to in New York  
16 State, 70 percent of our initiatives from clean  
17 sources by 2030, it's going to be hard to reach.  
18 We need all hands on deck. We need help from you,  
19 Tom, and you, Tom, and probably you, Jen.

19

20 And the help that I'm talking  
21 about is something that I put before the Board,  
22 Tom. You might remember me speaking about this.  
23 This was my idea of a position paper that we gave  
24 you and it went into detail on how we think we can  
25 get to this goal of 100 percent renewable energy.  
And since we did that position paper, we actually



1

2 did further work. And this was with regard to two  
3 wonderful scientists that we have in New York  
4 State.

5 The two doctors have come up with  
6 a way of studying the grid, Richard and Mark Perez.  
7 The basis for renewable energy and the basis for  
8 renewable energy providing baseload power. That's  
9 different, That's never been considered possible 20  
10 years ago. Well, it's not only possible but  
11 provable scientifically. This is a peer-reviewed  
12 study.

13 And the other thing that I'd like  
14 to try to get across is -- Tom, [zoom inaudible],  
15 you sort of really put the screws to our friend Dan  
16 Eichorn in your discussion, and certainly there is  
17 blame to share but I would also suggest that you  
18 and LIPA pick up a mirror and take a look at it  
19 because your face is firmly in the middle of that  
20 mirror. And I want to go back historically and  
21 take a look at where we came from to get here.

22 Before LIPA, there was LILCO.  
23 And if you remember what LILCO seeded to the  
24 residents of Long Island, which was this strong  
25 nuclear power plant, that was a bad deal. That was

1

2 a bad deal for the environment, was a bad deal for  
3 ratepayers, and it was a management problem done by  
4 people who were managing a utility locally. Thus,  
5 the governor, failing to see any other alternative,  
6 created LILCO, Richard Kessel, and then PSEG was  
7 hired to be a manager.

8                   But I see nothing wrong with  
9 these structural changes. What I see wrong is that  
10 there is lack of responsibility in terms of making  
11 this all work for ratepayers. And that's the focus  
12 that I'm hoping that you guys can really start to  
13 focus in on. Because unless you understand that  
14 people now are working from home, surviving in  
15 their homes, have figured out that unless the  
16 lights are kept on, they may not have a living, not  
17 have a way to support the children, not have a way  
18 to live.

19                   And that's a big alternative.  
20 And the alternative that they may take is called  
21 walking with your feet. By that I mean, they can  
22 put a solar system on their roof and a battery in  
23 their basement and they can just say, Well, do  
24 whatever you want. We don't need you anymore.  
25 Aloha. That would be a bad alternative for a

1

2 utility that is in fact annually using less energy,  
3 less kilowatts are being sold to customers but at  
4 the same time, demand is peaking.

5

6 Hard thing to do. You're faced  
7 with basically getting rid of four power plants on  
8 Long Island that are dirty, inefficient, and bad.  
9 What I think that I'm trying to get you to focus in  
10 on is, we can provide an alternative, Underbill  
11 That Better, that was the paper that we gave you,  
12 to come up with 100 percent renewable energy,  
13 cheaper, faster, and more economically for repairs.  
14 Thank you very much.

15

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Ron.

16

17 Among the many resources that we  
18 have on our LIPA website, we do have a fact sheet,  
19 that I'll link in the chat, on LIPA's efforts to  
20 transition to a zero-carbon grid.

21

22 Our next speaker is Michael Menser  
23 followed by George Povall, Amber Ruther, and Sue  
24 Wetzel.

25

Michael, welcome. You're on mute.

26

27 MR. MENSER: Good evening,  
28 everyone. Thanks to my fellow presenters for their  
29 informed and passionate commentary tonight. And

1

2 I'll be continuing a couple of the themes but also  
3 going to branch out more into the public -- what  
4 this public power utility could look like.

5 My name is Michael Menser. I'm a  
6 long-time Nassau County resident, LIPA ratepayer,  
7 and the Associate Director of the Science and  
8 Resilience Institute based at CUNY. And there I do  
9 research on participative democracy, resilience,  
10 and climate justice. And I'm also the co-founder of  
11 the Participatory Budgeting Project and have worked  
12 with governments across the United States to get  
13 more public control over public money.

14 And I'm calling on the LIPA Board  
15 and all relevant public officials in New York State  
16 to terminate the contract with PSE and G and create  
17 a newly restructured fully public LIPA, as well as  
18 change relationship with DPS. And not enough --  
19 not enough criticism has been -- has come up with  
20 DPS tonight. Although a lot of other stuff has  
21 been covered but that's also part of the problem.

22 Long Island is about to be one of  
23 the key sites for the energy  
24 revolution/transformation in the western  
25 hemisphere. That is not an exaggeration. We have

1

2 the CLCPA already in New York and just last month,  
3 the Biden Administration approved two new wind  
4 projects off the coast and a scoping process for  
5 massive amounts of power to come from wind in New  
6 York Harbor.

7

8 We are building the new  
9 technology to do this in Albany and in Brooklyn but  
10 do we have the right institutions on Long Island?  
11 The answer is of right now, no, we do not. The  
12 PSEG management system can't handle a weak tropical  
13 storm, how is it supposed to handle stronger storms  
14 to come, much less navigate a full-scale energy  
15 transition?

15

16 The private model, and we've  
17 heard the criticisms, are too focused on  
18 shareholders too beholden to fossil fuels, and the  
19 public-private model, we've heard these criticisms  
20 already leveled tonight. It aims to combine the  
21 best of both worlds but really creates these  
22 management difficulties and distrust. The fully  
23 public model is really the best option and it might  
24 even be the only option left.

24

25 Along with my neighbors and  
partners in the Reimagine LIPA Campaign, we're

1  
2 calling, not just for municipalization but for  
3 restructuring of LIPA itself. We're not calling for  
4 the usual public utility on the same old LIPA. We  
5 were calling for a new one with new partners, with  
6 more accountability, more collaboration with small  
7 businesses and non-profits and residents, greater  
8 voice for its ServCo workers, and with more  
9 innovative plans and projects to address the  
10 climate crisis and bring reliable, affordable power  
11 to Long Island.

12 In US history, we've seen public  
13 utilities step up and bring service to communities  
14 that the privates would not. And in this moment, we  
15 are seeing public utility step up to address  
16 climate change and pursue the transition with  
17 equity and efficacy from our own New York Power  
18 Authority and note their new report on this new era  
19 for public power that's very relevant to these  
20 conversations as well that just came out to Austin  
21 Energy in Texas. These are all municipals or a  
22 public utility -- public power utilities.

23 Seattle City Light, the  
24 Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Holyoke Gas,  
25 and Electric, and the Los Angeles Department of

1

2 Water and Power, amongst the top ten in both equity  
3 and renewable energy, according to the  
4 just-released SEPA report, the Smart Electric Power  
5 Association report. And they do a much better job  
6 in public engagement and planning with their  
7 communities.

8                   Indeed, in Nebraska, the state-run  
9 utility communities across the state do elect their  
10 board members, we've heard some calls from that  
11 tonight, and have electricity districts to promote  
12 projects at a more local level. What if Long  
13 Island did that?

14                   The Sacramento utility has a  
15 business advisory board with a focus on racial  
16 justice. What if we had that?

17                   Austin Energy sponsors a regional  
18 science festival to active -- to engage young  
19 people and also generate new knowledge. Why don't  
20 we do that?

21                   In Seattle, the Utility has a  
22 diverse nine-member committee that advises on rates  
23 and the strategic plan. And on that committee are  
24 customers, representatives, low-income residential,  
25 commercial, an economist, a financial analyst.

1

2 There's a lot of great examples of engagement and  
3 of diverse representation in the Board utility  
4 structure.

5 In Los Angeles, there was the LA  
6 100 process that took two years and involved  
7 hundreds of organizations, and made a big  
8 difference in how that authority went in looking  
9 about their climate plan. And for example, because  
10 the racial -- community is very concerned about  
11 racial injustice, wanted to make sure there was  
12 enough focus on Iroquois, especially pertaining to  
13 public buses, in terms of schools.

14 We heard earlier tonight a call  
15 for an organization or institute that could help do  
16 this. I also want to push for this idea of an  
17 observatory, an independent nongovernmental  
18 organization that could convene stakeholders,  
19 conduct research, and promote sustained inclusive  
20 public engagement in participatory democracy in the  
21 pursuit of affordable, renewable, and resilient  
22 power. It could connect with the universities in  
23 Long Island and again, the business community and  
24 non-profits.

25 We've seen the solar roadmap,



1

2 another amazing example of a local engagement  
3 process, and we heard the -- the opportunities for  
4 Long Island which they also demonstrate.

5

MS. HAYEN: Thank you so much.

6

You've reached your five minutes.

7

Any additional comments can be

8

submitted through our website, [lipower.org](http://lipower.org).

9

MR. MENSER: Thank you.

10

MS. HAYEN: Thank you for joining

11

us tonight.

12

Our next speaker is George Povall

13

and our last two speakers following George will be

14

Amber Ruther and Sue Wetzel.

15

Again, if anyone would like to

16

speak, please raise your hand now. George,

17

welcome. You're on mute.

18

MR. POVALL: Hi, everybody.

19

Don't know why mute got stuck. But thank you very

20

much for holding these hearings again. I'm George

21

Povall, the Executive Director of All Our Energy.

22

We're a Long Island-based non-profit focused on

23

energy issues and the environment. And we're

24

getting to know each other very well this

25

springtime season.

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And I really appreciate so many of the things that so many of the other speakers have said. Really, two days' worth of excellent testimony.

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14

And so I like to focus my comments on something a little bit askew, but is also very important to this issue. So once again, Tom, thank you very much for your presentation. It gets better every time. And what I'd really like to do is I'd like to address the public officials who are going to decide on this. I would like to direct them to please pay attention to that presentation.

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20

We need a change here. We need to move to municipalized power here on Long Island. There's such a huge opportunity. It's actually a very exciting time that we can make a change that would have fantastic benefits for Long Island for the foreseeable future.

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24

25

And I understand that there are officials who do want to speak on this and it is excellent that you do and it's time for you to become involved. The thing that I will implore though, is that this process has been ongoing. The

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2 problems have been ongoing for several years and  
3 this process has been already ongoing for six  
4 months. So there's not any time to delay or now  
5 start to think about some kind of commission to  
6 think about more.

7                   We have the options. We can see  
8 what's happening. We need to take action before  
9 there's any further issues that are had during any  
10 kind of storms that we're going to maybe see this  
11 season, hopefully not, but we need to be prepared  
12 and we're not.

13                   I think it's an excellent time  
14 for whoever has purview over this, probably the  
15 governor, probably our state senators like Todd  
16 Kaminsky, our assembly members here on Long Island.  
17 I ask you please, have a say on this and support  
18 the public power option because it is the clearest  
19 way forward that seems the most assured to me. The  
20 other one's kind of seem like they may not really  
21 help. So why wouldn't we want a more equitable and  
22 answerable or a more resilient LIPA?

23                   I think the time has come and I  
24 do want to say that we do not have time to delay.  
25 The options are out there, suggestions are great.

1

2 Let's hear them. Let's move the process forward and  
3 let's make some decisions soon.

4

Thank you very much.

5

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, George.

6

7 Our next speaker is Amber Ruther  
8 followed by Sue Wetzel and Roger Meadows.

8

Amber Ruther?

9

10 MS. RUTHER: Hi. My name is  
11 Amber Ruther and I'm with the Public Power New York  
12 Coalition and I'm here to testify in favor of  
13 Option 4 to fully municipalize Long Island's energy  
14 system.

14

15 I've always struggled to  
16 understand why any utility in this country is  
17 private. The only real answer to that question is  
18 so that wealthy shareholders can continue to profit  
19 from an essential service and leach wealth from the  
20 working class.

20

21 Utilities are a natural monopoly.  
22 There is no competition and no choice for  
23 consumers. You can't build two separate  
24 distribution systems to compete with each other to  
25 provide better service. It's also an essential  
service with very inelastic demand, people can die

1

2 without power. We've seen what happens in places  
3 like Texas where energy is treated as a commodity  
4 to profit from instead of as a human right that  
5 should be guaranteed to all, like water.

6           There's absolutely no reason to  
7 continue this failed public-private partnership.  
8 Why should we pay millions more to allow a private  
9 company to profit from terrible service when a  
10 public entity could put people over profits. We  
11 know public ownership in and of itself is not a  
12 panacea. We also need robust democratic governance  
13 mechanisms to ensure that the interests of workers,  
14 ratepayers, reliability, and the environment are  
15 all balanced.

16           That's why I also support the  
17 proposal to add an observatory and an elected board  
18 to LIPA that Michael Menser mentioned that would  
19 foster public engagement. People are tired of  
20 spending hours at sham public hearings where they  
21 have no real voice or influence. We need a utility  
22 that is truly accountable to the people it serves.

23           PSEG keeps asking for a second  
24 chance claiming that their response to Isaias was a  
25 mistake and it won't happen again but we know it's

1  
2 not a one-time incident and it will inevitably  
3 happen again. That's because putting profits over  
4 people is a feature, not a bug, of all  
5 investor-owned utilities. Replacing PSEG with  
6 another private utility that has the same [zoom  
7 inaudible] incentives would not make anything  
8 better and could even make it worse, especially as  
9 climate change makes disasters like storms and  
10 heatwaves more common.

11 I say this as a customer of ConEd  
12 and National Grid who have all the same problems  
13 with poor disaster response, refusing to invest in  
14 grid resiliency and high rates that PSEG does. For  
15 example, during Sandy, the grid was already  
16 weakened because ConEd had locked out its workers  
17 during contract negotiations in 2012. They were  
18 relying on Scabs to do emergency repairs only  
19 instead of maintenance.

20 They had also been using \$1.8  
21 million of our ratepayer dollars for a straight  
22 contingency fund so that they could union bust. In  
23 restoring service during Sandy, they resorted to  
24 patchwork and temporary repairs that they couldn't  
25 later revisit due to poor documentation. We need a

1

2 utility that invests in well paid, fully staffed  
3 workforce and doesn't rely on mutual aid workers  
4 and Scabs in an emergency.

5 Another example is during the  
6 heatwave in 2019, there was a massive blackout  
7 affecting tens of thousands of customers across New  
8 York City. It was dangerously hot and people were  
9 trapped in high-rise apartments without working  
10 elevators and they were trapped in stuffy subways  
11 that were stuck on the tracks. ConEd intentionally  
12 cut power off in communities of color to preserve  
13 power in wealthier areas. They failed to provide  
14 any support to medically vulnerable customers who  
15 relied on life-saving medical equipment, instead,  
16 they just called the police on them for wellness  
17 checks.

18 They lied about their  
19 preparedness, their estimated times of restoration,  
20 and just about everything else. We later found out  
21 that the blackout was caused by a failure of a  
22 relay protection system. They had been given \$350  
23 million to fix in a prior rate case but they never  
24 performed the upgrade and no one knows what they  
25 did with that \$350 million.

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There's almost no accountability to ensure that utilities spend our money on what they say they will and on what customers want and need. I have dozen more stories like this but trust me, as a ConEd customer, you do not want to switch to ConEd.

I've also intervened in utility rate cases and I've seen time and time again that all private utilities are incentivized to build infrastructure that we don't even need instead of investing in maintenance. They have every incentive to fix absolutely nothing until it breaks or explodes. UWUA said ConEd's policy is to run it until it fails.

When preventable accidents do happen and people get killed, the Public Service Commission may give them a slap on the wrist but when ConEd killed a mother in an explosion in Queens, the PSC insisted that they couldn't fine them because it would lower the rate of return for investors and then the utility wouldn't be able to raise the capital it needs to function.

This illustrates that there is no real way to hold private utilities accountable so



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2 they should be publicly funded and democratically  
3 controlled. The definition of insanity is trying  
4 the same thing again and again and expecting  
5 different results.

6 Thankfully, we don't need to try  
7 all four of these options to determine which one  
8 would be the best. We've seen public-private  
9 partnerships fail and we've seen public utilities  
10 thrive all across the country. We already have  
11 over 2,000 public utilities -- I'll finish up, and  
12 the data shows that they are twice as reliable, 13  
13 percent more affordable than private ones and  
14 LIPA's own options analysis said that this would  
15 result in savings of 65 to \$75 million per year.  
16 So Option 4 should be a no-brainer. We hope that  
17 you will stand with the public on this issue and  
18 fully municipalize Long Island's power.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Amber.

21 Our next speaker is Sue Wetzel.  
22 Again, and our last speaker would be Roger Meadows.  
23 Sue, welcome. You're on mute. Sue, you're still  
24 on mute. Sue, we're going to bump you out and  
25 we'll try you again if you keep your hand raised.

1

2 Roger Meadows, you're on deck, you're our next  
3 speaker. Roger, welcome. You're on mute. Roger,  
4 you're still on mute. I don't know if you can hear  
5 me but we cannot hear you. We'll give you a couple  
6 of more seconds to unmute.

7

8

MR. MEADOWS: Okay. What about

now?

9

10

11

MS. HAYEN: Okay. We can hear

you -- we can hear you. Welcome. You have five

minutes.

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MR. MEADOWS: Okay. Good. Thank

you. Hello, everyone. My name is Roger Meadows,

native Long Islander. I understand that you on the

commission are trying to decide regarding your

contract with PSEG whether to reset the contract,

establish new partnership with a different private

contractor, go full privatization, or go full

monopolization.

20

21

I want to give you an argument

against three and an argument for one.

22

23

24

25

One, reset the contract. After

seeing the massive failure of service that PSEG

gave last August -- and I am not talking about a

minor problem but major as well with the entirety

1  
2 of the county's angry with you, plus food  
3 businesses losing money because of spoilage, not to  
4 mention, think of the people in hospitals who might  
5 have been on life support, especially ventilators.  
6 Remember that we're in -- that we're in high demand  
7 seeing that we're still going through a pandemic,  
8 you know, that affects the lungs. Why in the world  
9 would you reward them with and give them another  
10 contract? So that's not going to work for me.

11 Two, regarding looking for  
12 another contract. Understand the whole purpose of  
13 the corporations is to look for more and more  
14 excuses to extract more from who they are supposed  
15 to be serving but behind the scenes, seeing if they  
16 can get away with it delivering the minimum quality  
17 simultaneously. Sure it might start out as a  
18 certain number lower than what the government would  
19 charge in the beginning but as time goes on, it  
20 will end up costing more than what it would have  
21 costed us if the government did it itself. So  
22 that's not going to work for me either.

23 Three, full privatization. Well,  
24 the argument that I've been hearing since the '80s  
25 is, let private do it, government doesn't have the

1

2 money in their budget to do it, private does.

3 Except when just like other industries that instead  
4 of using their own money which they have in the  
5 billions, probably reaching trillions now, they  
6 turn back to the government crying broke asking for  
7 tax dollars to subsidize them.

8 I thought the whole point for  
9 privatization was to save the taxpayer money but  
10 instead, it is costing us more. Just look at our  
11 private prisons or pharmaceutical industry where  
12 there's an incentive to lock you up or to charge  
13 astronomical prices for drugs. So if our taxes  
14 would end up paying for it anyway in subsidies,  
15 then we might as well just do it ourselves at a  
16 cheaper rate which of course leads me to number  
17 four.

18 Four, growing up in FreePort from  
19 November -- from 1977 to 1996, I have experience  
20 with municipal power and I can tell you this, one,  
21 power outages were few and far between and they  
22 were cheap. We were not paying what Long Island  
23 Lightning Company at the time was charging but were  
24 lower.

25 Too, remember -- if you remember

1  
2 August 2003 when the entire power grid went down  
3 and there was a massive blackout for three days  
4 from Ontario through the midwest states of  
5 Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, to the northeast  
6 states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts,  
7 Maryland, and us here in New York, all because of a  
8 software bug in the alarm system in the control  
9 room of First Energy that served all of those  
10 States which was [zoom inaudible] downtime.

11 At the time, First Energy an  
12 investor-owned, privately-owned energy company who  
13 formed November 7, 1997, when Ohio Edison, acquired  
14 Centerior Energy and its subsidiaries for \$1.6  
15 billion in stock. The company was acquired with  
16 plans for restructuring and layoffs to cut costs.

17 Well, we've seen what happened  
18 six years later, how that turned out. At the time,  
19 I was at my parent's house in FreePort when that  
20 blackout -- massive blackout went out. Who still  
21 -- my parents who still lived in FreePort after the  
22 power went out. I had no idea there was a problem  
23 until I decided to go back home to Hempstead and it  
24 was at night, big shock to me to find out that  
25 everything was out. I should've stayed in

1

2 FreePort, FreePort was able to withstand what  
3 happened all because they have municipalized power.

4

5 So this is not a theory, this is  
6 real life, my experience. Our power in Long Island  
7 suburbs needs to be publicly owned and operated,  
8 asap. This will ensure reliability, efficiency,  
9 and faster response with going toward a more  
eco-friendly energy economy at a lower cost.

10

Thank you.

11

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Roger.

12

13 Our last attendee who've raised  
their hands is Donald Payne. Donald?

14

MR. PAYNE: Can you hear me?

15

MS. HAYEN: We can hear you.

16

Welcome. You have five minutes.

17

MR. PAYNE: Thanks so much.

18

[zoom inaudible] see me too? Okay. There we go.

19

So -- here we go.

20

Hi. My name is Donald Payne. I

21

have lived in Huntington Township since 1989. I'm

22

no expert on the electric grid but I do have a few

23

comments including responses to some comments on

24

Tuesday by the PSEG representative.

25

Number 1. The PSEG rep said that

1

2 their workers are dedicated and care about Long  
3 Island. I have no doubt. However, based on my  
4 experience as a non-managerial employee, a worker  
5 bee for companies large and small, I know this.  
6 Workers don't make policy, executives do. Setting  
7 standards for reliability, response time, rationing  
8 service, thresholds for service, those are all set  
9 by policy from the top.

10

When I was working for a  
11 for-profit corporation with offices on Long Island,  
12 during waves of layoffs, I vividly remember hearing  
13 stories of workers laid off without any concern for  
14 a customer's critical situation. The corporation  
15 had to, "make their numbers", as they say.

16

Number 2. If people are  
17 concerned about the jobs of the Long Island  
18 workers, those dedicated Long Island workers, I  
19 appreciate that, but I imagine that the new  
20 municipal authority power or power authority would  
21 have them over -- would hire them over from PSEG,  
22 Long Island which is the same thing that happened  
23 to -- in corporate take-overs that I personally  
24 have been a part of. Typically the workers come  
25 over.

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Number 3. The PSEG rep also said that PSEG had the advantage of crews in its sister organizations to call on, to respond to in a disaster. That may be true. On the other hand, most New York State utilities belong to something called Municipal Assistance Groups which accomplish the same thing.

Finally, one reason -- one thing that might improve reliability would be putting crucial power lines underground. This seems like the kind of capital project with great long-term value for ratepayers, not only for reliability but also for appearance's sake, but no short-term gain for a for-profit corporation.

For these reasons and those of the previous speakers, I favor Option 4, municipalization.

Thank you.

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Donald for your comments.

We have no more attendees with their hand raised so Donald you are our last speaker of the night. I will now turn it back to LIPA chief executive officer, Tom Falcone for some



1

2 closing remarks.

3

Tom.

4

MR. FALCONE: Well, good evening.

5

I just want to thank everybody who participated

6

both on Tuesday and on Thursday and at the Board's

7

last meeting in May, for your thoughtfulness, for

8

your comments, for your concerns, for your

9

interest. You've obviously invested a lot of time

10

into this and given it a lot of thought and just

11

thank you very much.

12

MS. HAYEN: Yes. Once again, all

13

materials and reports referenced tonight, including

14

our fact sheets and Tom's presentation, along with

15

the recording of this session will be available on

16

our website. LIPA staff is going to report to the

17

Board on both public comment hearings on Tuesday

18

and tonight at the June 23rd meeting.

19

Thank you everyone, and have a

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great night.

21

(Whereupon, the proceedings were

22

concluded.)

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STATE OF NEW YORK )

SS.

COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

I, MARC RUSSO, a Shorthand  
(Stenotype) Reporter and Notary Public within and  
for the State of New York, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing pages 1 through 82, taken at the time  
and place aforesaid, is a true and correct  
transcription of the Zoom Video.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my name this 4th day of June, 2021.



-----

MARC RUSSO

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