

# Rating Action: Moody's Ratings assigns an A2 to Long Island Power Authority's (NY) Series 2025 General Revenue Bonds

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New York, August 08, 2025 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) assigned an A2 rating to Long Island Power Authority's (LIPA or the Authority) (NY) approximately \$750 million Electric System General Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 consisting of \$500 million Electric System General Revenue Bonds, Series 2025A and \$250 million Electric System General Revenue Bonds, Series 2025B (Fixed Rate Mandatory Tender Bonds). These securities will rank on parity with LIPA's outsanding senior lien debt rated A2. The outlook is stable.

# **RATINGS RATIONALE**

LIPA's credit profile is supported by the utility's monopoly position as a provider of an essential service to a large and diversified customer base on Long Island New York with strong service area economic characteristics. With median household incomes and per capita metrics well above the national average, the service area economy continues to be a positive factor underpinning LIPA's credit profile. Other positive credit factors include a suite of cost recovery mechanisms that support a stable and predictable cash flow profile, the utility's meaningful size and scale and significant cash reserves on balance sheet. These considerations serve to provide a high degree of consistency to the utility's annual cash flow as demonstrated by a fixed charge coverage ratio that has consistently been in the 1.25-1.35x range and a declining debt ratio even after considering investments made by LIPA for its transmission and distribution system.

The A2 rating, however, is balanced by LIPA's debt ratio and fixed charge coverage ratio that are somewhat weak for the mid-A rating category and lingering concerns around the utility's ability to restore service and properly communicate with customers suffering outages after meaningful storms owing to challenges that emerged after previous storms.

LIPA will continue outsourcing the operation of the transmission and distribution system after the expiration of an existing contractual arrangement at year-end 2025. This decision, which follows studies and discussions contemplating LIPA transitioning itself towards a public power model which manages its own workforce, is viewed as neutral to LIPA's credit profile.

# **RATING OUTLOOK**

The stable outlook reflects LIPA's strong liquidity profile that is expected to continue, a diverse and above average service territory, and fixed charge coverage ratio that is excepted to remain in the 1.25-1.35x range. LIPA's fixed obligation charge coverage and debt ratio as of December 31, 2024 were 1.35x and 82%, respectively.

# FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OF THE RATINGS

- LIPA is reasonably positioned within its rating category and upward rating movement is not currently anticipated. A sustainable improvement in key credit metrics, such as fixed obligation charge coverage of 1.50x and a debt ratio below 80%, could give rise to a higher rating.

# FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS

- LIPA is well positioned within the A2 rating category and rating pressure is not currently anticipated. That said, unexpected deterioration in key financial metrics, including fixed obligation charge coverage declining to below 1.20x on a sustained basis, or a substantial decline in LIPA's liquidity profile could lead to consideration of a

negative rating action. To the extent that problems surrounding timely electric service restoration recurs, negative rating ramifications could resurface, especially if it results in political intervention.

#### LEGAL SECURITY

The 2025 Bonds will be issued pari passu to all outstanding senior debt obligations of the authority and are secured by the revenues generated by the operation of LIPA's electric transmission and distribution system with rates required to meet a 1.10x rate covenant. There is no debt service reserve fund, which we consider credit negative but balanced against LIPA's meaningful cash position.

LIPA has approximately \$10.7 billion of long-term debt outstanding (excluding current portion of long-term debt) as of December 31, 2024 including about \$3.5 billion of securitization bonds, \$5.7 billion of senior lien debt and \$1.5 billion of capital leases.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Proceeds from the Series 2025A and 2025B offerings will be used to fund certain system improvements to LIPA's transmission and distribution system and to refund certain outstanding indebtedness.

# **PROFILE**

LIPA was established in 1986 as a corporate municipal instrumentality of the State of New York under the Long Island Power Authority Act (the LIPA Act). In 1998, the Authority became the retail supplier of electric service in most of Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the Rockaway Peninsula of Queens. LIPA's assets currently consist of a transmission and distribution system that is used to serve approximately 1.2 million customers in an approximately 1,230 square mile service territory.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The principal methodology used in these ratings was US Public Power Electric Utilities with Generation Ownership Exposure published in January 2023 and available at <a href="https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/398041">https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/398041</a>. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on <a href="https://ratings.moodys.com">https://ratings.moodys.com</a> for a copy of this methodology.

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