

**Name**

Professor Martin Melkonian

---

**Company**

Hofstra University

---

**Your Comment**

Long Island Needs A Public Power Utility

Long Island has moved from a private power company (Lilco) to several private/public partnerships (Keyspan, National Grid and PSEG). The results in terms of reliability and costs have been mixed.

We now have an opportunity to move to public power. Public power has several significant advantages over the current hybrid system. For one, there are no private stockholders. Dividends need not be added to the rate base, thus making public power more affordable.

Even more important is the reliability and security to the grid that public power is likely to bring. We need a robust system that will require new investments in equipment to assure continued reliability. Private companies focused on bottom-line profit may be less likely to undertake the required infrastructure necessary. A recent example is the ransomware attack on the Colonial Oil pipeline, that wreaked havoc on gasoline supplies. Absent were redundancies and alternative sources. Such dangers can be minimized with proper planning and investment.

Finally, we are facing a climate change catastrophe with continued use of fossil fuels. We need a rapid and accelerated move to greater conservation and cleaner alternative energy. We cannot leave the dramatic reduction of carbon to market forces alone.

A public power company is far more likely to make the required investments to achieve a green Long Island.

Martin Melkonian, Economics Department, Hofstra University  
May 27, 2021