

# ★ WIND POWER COST REVERSAL

PSC: Llers to pay about 14%, not nearly 75%

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The state Public Service Commission has reversed a previous ruling that would have left Long Islanders and other downstate ratepayers with the tab for the bulk of offshore-wind power transmission costs, following an appeal by LIPA to spread the costs statewide.

The PSC's latest decision, announced during a session Thursday, shifts the cost for the potentially billions of dollars for transmission-line upgrades and new lines to one that allocates costs based on utilities' electric-load volume for zones across the state.

Under the newly ordered cost scheme, Long Islanders would pay around 14% of the costs for the transmission projects, which are heavily concentrated in the

downstate, and specifically Long Island, region, because many of the offshore wind projects will connect at or pass through Long Island to reach the state electric grid.

Under the previous March 2021 order by the PSC, downstate utility customers would have borne 75% of the cost of the projects, in part because the PSC found the Long Island Power Authority and Con Edison customers and their grids would be the biggest beneficiaries of the upgrades. Con Ed also filed an appeal objecting to the ruling.

In a statement confirming the decision, PSC spokesman James Denn said the latest decision is "consistent with other rulings."

The commission, he said, "ordered that the cost allocation associated with certain transmission projects be based on the volumetric load-ratio share methodology, instead of a formula under which 75% of the selected projects' costs would be borne by the economic beneficiaries of the projects, and the

remaining 25% of costs would be borne by each of the utilities' load-ratio share" under the March 2021 order. "

The planned projects include building new large-scale power lines and, in some cases, nearly tripling the capacity of existing ones, including one between the LIPA and Con Edison service territories. Expanded transmission capacity also will make it easier for electricity generated upstate to reach Long Island.

Projects covered by the ruling aren't just to benefit offshore wind, but also include the state Clean Energy Standard and other projects initiated to comply with the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, Denn said.

Newsday last year reported on the commission's initial order, and LIPA's objection to it, which included coalitions of Long Island business groups and local officials.

Kyle Strober, executive director of the Association for a Better Long Island, whose real es-

tate development members represent some of the largest LIPA ratepayers, called the decision a "more equitable cost-sharing" arrangement. He'd previously urged the commission to reverse its ruling.

"The PSC clearly recognized that the statewide energy policy should not put an unfair financial burden on Long Islanders simply because of their geographic location," he said.

LIPA applauded the PSC's revised ruling, saying it "sets a consistent standard for how clean energy project costs are allocated across the state."

Long Island Association chief executive Matt Cohen, who also had advocated for the commission to change the ruling, said wind projects off Long Island benefit the entire state, including helping New York meet climate-law mandates.

"This is the fair and equitable decision by the PSC and our region will continue to lead the way in developing the renewable energy necessary to achieve the state's goals," he said in a statement.



Elon Musk

## MUSK PUTS \$44B TWITTER BUY 'ON HOLD'

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Elon Musk said Friday that his plan to buy Twitter is "temporarily on hold," raising fresh doubts about whether he'll proceed with the \$44 billion acquisition.

Musk tweeted that he wanted to pinpoint the number of spam and fake accounts on Twitter. Musk has been vocal about his desire to clean up Twitter's problem with "spam bots" that mimic real people and appeared to question whether the company was underreporting them.

But Twitter has disclosed in regulatory filings that its bot estimates might be low for at least two years, leading some analysts to believe that Musk could be raising the issue as a reason to back out of the deal.

"Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," Musk tweeted Friday morning, indicating he's skeptical that the number of inauthentic accounts is that low.

Musk later tweeted that he's "still committed to acquisition." Neither Twitter nor Musk responded Friday to requests for comment.

Sara Silver, a professor of business journalism and financial communication at Quinnipiac University, said it appears Musk is using the number of spam accounts as a pretext to pull out of the deal.

"To claim that this is the reason that he's putting the deal on pause, it's not credible," Silver said.

Stock in both Twitter and Tesla fell Friday, with Twitter's stock off more than 9% and Tesla down about 6%.



Four-term Rep. Lee Zeldin, of Shirley



Businessman Harry Wilson, who grew up in Johnstown



Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino



Andrew Giuliani, the son of ex-NYC mayor Rudy Giuliani

## GOP gubernatorial debate is set

The first debate among Republican candidates for governor will be held on June 13, WCBS-TV and WCBS/880-AM announced Friday.

The forum will feature former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, business CEO Harry Wilson, Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley) and Andrew Giuliani, son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. It will be held at 7 p.m. at the CBS

broadcast center in Manhattan.

Campaign officials with the candidates said more debates are being discussed but haven't been finalized.

The Republican and Democratic gubernatorial primaries will be held June 28.

In the GOP race, Zeldin, a four-term congressman and ally of ex-President Donald Trump, has lined up the backing of almost all the Republican county

chairs in the state. He was named the party's official designee at its convention in March.

Astorino and Wilson have sought to portray themselves as more electable Republicans than Zeldin in the November general election. Astorino was the party's 2014 candidate for governor; Wilson, its 2010 candidate for state comptroller.

Giuliani has touted he has the

highest name recognition in polls of any of the GOP candidates — but he also has the highest negative ratings in the polls.

On the Democratic side, Gov. Kathy Hochul will participate in two debates against her Democratic rivals — Rep. Tom Suozzi of Glen Cove and New York Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. The forums will be June 7, hosted by WCBS, and June 16, by WNBC.

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