



NOTICE OF JOINT SENATE AND ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARING

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND
COMMISSIONS
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES**

**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND
COMMISSIONS
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES**

SUBJECT: Power and communication failures from Tropical Storm Isaias

PURPOSE: To receive testimony on the electricity outages and communication failures following Tropical Storm Isaias.

August 20th, 2020
11:00 AM

Web Link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

On August 4th, Tropical Storm Isaias hit New York with heavy rain, tornadoes, and winds gusting up to 70 miles per hour. The storm left hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers without power across New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland, the Hudson Valley, and other areas of the state within the service territories of PSEG-LI, Con Edison, Orange and Rockland, National Grid, Central Hudson, NYSEG and other utility providers. The storm also disrupted the regions' telephone, cable, and internet services--services that are particularly essential for New Yorkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The outages and service disruptions lasted for multiple days, and in some areas of the State many homes and businesses are still waiting to be reconnected. With the increased frequency of extreme weather, it will be important for utility and telecommunications providers to more readily and effectively respond to emergencies.

The Committees will receive testimony on the widespread outages, communication failures, and emergency response plans of the region's utility and telecommunication providers. The hearing will gather information on utility and telecommunication provider storm preparedness; the pre-storm steps taken to protect the electric distribution grid and critical telecommunications infrastructure; the causes of the outages and service disruptions; the reasons for the lengthy post-storm repair, restoration of service and reconnection of customers; the extent of coordination between utility and telecommunication providers and municipalities in restoring service; and the reasons for the loss of customer service communication during and after the storm. The hearing will be conducted remotely in compliance with current COVID-19 guidance.

Persons invited to testify should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible so that they may be informed how testimony will be received and can be notified in the event of hearing postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

**Amy Paulin,
Chair, Assembly Committee on
Corporations, Authorities and
Commissions**

**Kevin Parker
Chair, Senate
Committee on Energy and
Telecommunications**

**Michael Cusick
Chair, Assembly
Committee on Energy**

**Todd Kaminsky,
Chair, Senate Committee on
Environmental Conservation**

**Steve Englebright,
Chair, Assembly Committee on
Environmental Conservation**

**Leroy Comrie,
Chair, Senate Committee on Corporations,
Authorities and Commissions**

**Kenneth Zebrowski,
Chair, Assembly Committee Governmental
Operations**

**John E. Brooks,
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans,
Homeland Security, and Military Affairs**

**Fred W. Thiele, Jr.,
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local
Governments**

**James Gaughran,
Chair, Senate Committee on Local
Government**

**Edward C. Braunstein,
Chair, Assembly Committee on Cities**

**Robert Jackson
Chair, Senate Committee on Cities**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to testify at the public hearing on the power and communication outages are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email it to:

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- I have been invited and plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

TELEPHONE: