Below was in a recent email broadcast news service highlighting New York issues concerning possible grid power outages as early as the summer of 2026.

"New York City Faces Increased Blackout Risk Next Summer As Grid Operator Warns New York City could struggle to keep the lights on beginning as soon as next summer with more frequent and prolonged power outages, as stated in reports published recently by the NYS state power grid operator, according to Crain's New York. New research from the New York Independent System Operator, a non-profit entity that manages the state's electric market, found that spikes in demand from energy intensive industries, aging infrastructure and constraints on quickly building new power systems threaten to overburden the five boroughs and Long Islands' electric grids. The findings are a full-throated warning from the NYISO that power disruptions are increasingly likely in the region over the next decade without new energy infrastructure coming online. Governor Kathy Hohchul, along with business and energy industry advocates, have cautioned that New York's future energy needs may have to be met with an "all-of-the-above" approach of wind, solar, natural gas, nuclear energy and upgrades to aging fossil fuel plants. At the same time, the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act passed into law in 2019 seeks to phase out fossil fuels from the electric grid by 2040. New York's top business leaders say they're supportive of the state's climate goals but back the approach of investing in planet-warming infrastructure if it means keeping the power on. President of the Independent Power Producers of New York, Gavin Donohue, said the moment presents an opportunity for private sector power players."

The above brings to mind energy industry concerns about the grid's future. Which entity would bear the far-reaching costs of new transmission lines into the City?

Typically, ratepayers who use the power are responsible for the cost within the rate base. However, given the pending retirement of power plants, and the major infrastructure improvements needed in Con Edison territory to serve projected winter peaks, these costs are believed by various energy grid experts to be in the billions.

A critical question: How do the prospects of substantial rate increases align with the politics of affordability and the continuous push by the City and State to steer consumers towards electrification via the grid? Since the CLCPA was enacted in 2019, emissions have reportedly increased by 56 percent, reliability has been seriously compromised, and prices continue to escalate.

Many also question at what point will policies shift from an unrealistic wish list to a more pragmatic reality?

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