

## **Preside or Lead?**

The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators

# **49. Competition for the Monopoly: Why So Rare?**

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Storms bring outages, outages bring anger, and the angry ask: Can we replace the utility? During the 2011–2012 outages, Long Islanders asked it about the publicly owned Long Island Power Authority; D.C. area residents asked it about the investor-owned Potomac Electric Power Company. During their 1999–2001 price and supply crisis, Californians asked it about their utilities. Crises are bad times to make long-term decisions, but good times to ask big questions, like “Why do we do things this way?”

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