



## **PURA Opens Proceeding Regarding Price Alterations by Suppliers in Fixed-Price Commercial Contracts**

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has initiated a new administrative proceeding to review the reported practice of certain third-party electric suppliers altering the prices in fixed-price contracts for electric generation supply. Based on information in the docket so far, the practice at issue appears to be confined to contracts between third-party suppliers and commercial and industrial—rather than residential—customers. In its [Notice of Proceeding](#), issued on February 22, 2019, PURA stated that the third-party supplier practice of changing prices in otherwise fixed contracts was allegedly in response to changes to capacity costs based on the ISO-New England Demand Report and Pay for Performance implementation. PURA further noted that it had received several complaints in regard to this issue. The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has been designated as a party to this proceeding and intends to fully participate in the docket moving forward.

A robust majority of PURA’s previous investigations and proceedings related to third-party suppliers have focused on various aspects of the residential market—including billing errors, deceptive marketing, and contract terms—rather than the commercial and industrial market. Issues in the commercial market are not, however, nonexistent. In 2018, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association filed a petition with PURA in response to a dispute with Mint Energy regarding price terms in multiple commercial contracts. That petition was ultimately withdrawn following Mint Energy’s exit from the retail supply market. Nonetheless, OCC encourages all consumers who do business with third-party suppliers—whether residential or commercial—to remain vigilant in reading the full terms of their contracts and reviewing their monthly electric bills. As always, OCC encourages those consumers who do wish to use third-party suppliers to explore their options on the rate board available at [www.energizect.com](http://www.energizect.com).

Any interested parties may refer to PURA Docket No. 19-02-13, *Declaratory Ruling Regarding Licensed Electric Supplier Practices of Altering the Prices in Fixed-Price Contracts*. Further information on this docket is available at PURA's [website](#).



Please visit

[OCC's website](#).