



PURA Fines Electric Supplier Liberty Power \$60,500

In a [Decision](#) dated April 13, 2016 in Docket No. 06-12-07RE05, *Application for Liberty Power Holdings, LLC for an Electric Supplier License- Rebilling*, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) levied a \$60,500 civil penalty against electric supplier Liberty Power Holdings, LLC (Liberty). PURA found that Liberty violated Connecticut General Statutes § 16-259a by back-billing commercial customers without establishing a payment plan. Specifically, Liberty submitted back-billing rates for 294 accounts into Eversource Energy's (Eversource) consolidated billing system in an effort to recover amounts it had under billed as a result of internal technical issues that resulted in the transmission of incorrect price and date data from Liberty to Eversource. Of these 294 accounts, 121 bills were generated and issued to Liberty customers by Eversource. In its Decision, PURA noted that the back-billed rates Liberty charged these customers were as high as \$2.241 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), which was more than 24 times the Eversource Standard Service rate of \$0.092 cents per kWh. Such high rates resulted in numerous bills over \$5,000, and one bill for over \$41,000. Liberty claims that each of the 121 bills issued was cancelled and rebilled before it became due or was paid by the customers. Still, PURA found that Liberty's issuance of the bills was sufficient to trigger the statutory payment plan requirements. Accordingly, PURA assessed a civil penalty of \$500 for each of the 121 bills that were generated and issued to customers, for a total civil penalty of \$60,500.

This docket was opened by PURA for the limited purpose of reviewing Liberty's back-billing. Liberty was licensed by PURA to provide electric generation services to commercial and industrial customers in Connecticut in February 2007, which license was expanded to include residential customers in July 2008.

In this docket, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) advocated that PURA impose a meaningful penalty upon Liberty given that the record demonstrated violations of Connecticut

law. OCC is currently engaged in other electric supplier investigation dockets before PURA, with allegations that include aggressive sales tactics and slamming. To file a complaint about an electric supplier or raise a concern with PURA, you may dial 1-800-382-4586 within Connecticut, or visit the [PURA website](#).



Please visit

[OCC's website](#).