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DOCKET NO. 17-12-03RE08

PURA INVESTIGATION INTO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING OF THE ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES – RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY STANDARDS AND
PROGRAMS

NOTICE REGARDING DOCKET TIMELINE AND PROCESS – Phase 2

In the Notice of Proceeding dated June 23, 2021, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) expanded the scope of this proceeding to include matters delegated to it by the General Assembly through Section 12 of Public Act 20-5 (Act), An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies, the Regulation of Other Public Utilities and Nexus Provisions for Certain Disaster-Related or Emergency-Related Work Performed in the State. Additionally, the Authority will consider guidelines specific to EDC response times, as well as reporting requirements and consequences for when response times exceed those guidelines, as discussed in the Interim Decision dated August 5, 2020 in Docket No. 19-07-36, Investigation into Electric Distribution Companies' Incident Response Procedures.

The Authority will also address storm performance standards and Emergency Response Plan (ERP), building off the updates ordered through the Decision dated April 28, 2021 in Docket No. 20-08-03, Investigation into Electric Distribution Companies' Preparation for and Response to Tropical Storm Isaias. In that Decision, the Authority discussed the resources the EDCs should have on hand at the onset of a major storm and during restoration, identifying and tracking life support customers, damage assessors needed to identify Make Safe locations and restoration duties, resource acquisition activities, stress testing communications channels, responding to the needs of major customers, tracking line crew work, and communication with municipalities. As such, the Authority mandated updates to the EDCs' ERPs to reflect the updated storm performance standards via compliance filings in Docket No. 20-08-03. The Authority will address those compliance filings and order updates to the companies' ERP in reviewing and approving said compliance filings through Docket No. 20-08-03. Any additional changes to the companies' ERP shall be explored through the instant proceeding.

The expanded scope items described herein will be referred to as Phase 2 of this proceeding. The timeline of Phase 2 of this proceeding is intended to align with the update of the EDCs' Emergency Response Plan (ERP), which is filed biennially, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat 16-32e(b) and the Decision dated November 1, 2012 in Docket No. 12-06-09, PURA Establishment of Performance Standards for Electric and Gas Companies, in an effort to streamline the related tasks.

Phase 2 will include three solutions paths, as follows:

- Path A: A review of the storm analysis reports submitted by the EDCs pursuant to Section 12(b) of Public Act 20-5;
- Path B: An investigation into the establishment of new standards and metrics for EDC minimum staffing levels; and
- Path C: An investigation into the standards for acceptable performance for outage planning and restoration.

Phase 2 Path A and Path B focus on the review of the EDCs’ storm response resource cost-benefit analysis as well as the establishment of minimum staffing levels. Accordingly, one hearing will be held soliciting information from the Connecticut EDCs. Phase 2 Path C seeks solutions to storm response standards and metrics based on past storm investigations and programs used by other jurisdictions. Two or more technical meetings will be held soliciting information from industry experts, including EDCs from Connecticut and other jurisdictions, the United States Department of Energy, and other local/regional/national organizations, detailing best practices establishing storm response standards and metrics. All three paths will run, roughly, in parallel; however, Phase 2 Path A and Path B will have shorter timelines than Path C due to the concurrent ERP update process and to allow for the EDCs to prepare for the 2022 storm season. Notices for the Request for Information and Hearings/Technical Meetings, which will detail the full scope of each, are forthcoming. The tentative meeting dates are presented below.

Figure 1: Tentative Schedule and Outline of Process

Event	Proposed Date	Path
Notice of Timeline and Process Update	June 2021	
Authority review of EDC reports and compliance filings	July 2021	A
Interrogatories	August 2021	A and B
Written Comments	September 2021	C
Hearing on Minimum Staffing	September 2021	A and B
Technical Meeting on ERPs	October 2021	C
Technical Meeting on Storm Standards	October 2021	C
Compliance Orders to EDCs – Data Collection	December 2021	C
Draft Interim Decision	December 2021	B
Final Interim Decision	January 2022	B
Hearing/Briefs	April 2022	C
Draft Decision	April 2022	C

Final Decision	June 2022	C
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Based on stakeholder input, and subsequent to the conclusion of the discovery process, the Authority will take additional steps, which may take the form of proposed interim and proposed final decisions in this matter.

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut this 23rd day of June, 2021.

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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Executive Secretary