

107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037 P.O. Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Vincent P. Pace Assistant General Counsel, Berlin, CT

March 3, 2025

Ms. Melanie Bachman Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: CL&P dba Eversource Energy Forecast of Loads & Resources for the Period 2025-2034

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Connecticut Light and Power Company dba Eversource Energy (the "Company") submits an original and 15 copies of the Company's 2025 Forecast of Loads and Resources, as required by Connecticut General Statute § 16-50r.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Pace

Vincent P. Pace Assistant General Counsel On behalf of CL&P d/b/a Eversource Energy

**Enclosure** 



# 2025 Forecast of Loads and Resources

for the Period 2025-2034

March 1, 2025

#### **List of Acronyms**

"ACEEE" American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy

"C&LM" Conservation and Load Management
"CAGR" Compound Annual Growth Rate
"CEAB" Connecticut Energy Advisory Board

"CSC" Connecticut Siting Council

"CMEEC" Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, Inc.
"DEEP" Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

"EE" Energy Efficiency

"EEB" Energy Efficiency Board
"EDC" Electric Distribution Company

"EV" Electric Vehicles

"FCA" ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction
"FCM" ISO-NE Forward Capacity Market

"FERC" Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

"FLR" Forecast of Loads and Resources

"IRP" Integrated Resource Plan

"ISD" In-Service Date

"ISO-NE" ISO New England Inc.
"kV" Kilovolt or 1,000 Volts
"kW" Kilowatt or 1,000 Watts

"kW-Month" Kilowatt month

"LREC" Low Emission Renewable Energy Credits

"MW" Megawatt or 1,000,000 Watts

"NERC" North American Electric Reliability Corporation

"NPCC" Northeast Power Coordinating Council

"NTA" Non-Transmission Alternative

"PA 11-80" Public Act 11-80, An Act Concerning the Establishment of the DEEP

"PAC" Planning Advisory Committee

"PV" Photovoltaic

"PURA" Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

"RFP" Request for Proposal

"RGGI" Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

"ROFR" Right of First Refusal

"RSP" ISO-NE's Regional System Plan

"TO" Transmission Owner

"ZREC" Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit

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#### **Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Overview of Eversource's 2025 Forecast of Loads and Resources Report

The Connecticut Light & Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") is a company engaged in electric distribution and transmission services in Connecticut, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-1. As such, Eversource has prepared this Ten-Year FLR pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50r. Eversource has provided an annual FLR to the CSC for over forty years. This 2025 FLR includes the following information:<sup>1</sup>

- 1. A tabulation of the peak loads, resources, and margins for each of the next ten years, using CL&P's 50/50 financial forecasting methodology.
- 2. Data on energy use and peak loads for the five preceding calendar years, including data on the energy savings provided by Eversource's conservation and load management ("C&LM") programs during that period.
- A list of planned transmission lines on which proposed route reviews are being undertaken or for which certificate applications have already been filed.

#### 1.2 Energy and Peak Demand Forecasts

There is uncertainty in any forecast, and weather can especially have a large impact on the realization of any forecast. Eversource's electric energy usage is expected to slightly increase with a weather-normalized CAGR of 0.8% per year, while peak demand is expected to increase by a weather-normalized CAGR of 1.3% per year over the 10-year forecast period from 2024 through 2034.

While Eversource is providing this forecast, which was developed for financial forecasting purposes, Eversource uses ISO-NE's load forecast for transmission planning purposes. Further discussion of Eversource's forecast is provided in Chapter 2.

#### 1.3 Evolving Load and Resource Influences

As part of the state's restructuring of the electric industry, which began in 1998, Eversource sold its generation assets while remaining a Connecticut electric distribution and transmission company. Since that time, the state has enacted a number of policies and programs which affect the developing wholesale electric market in the region.

#### 1.4 State-Mandated Integrated Resource Planning

In 2007, the Connecticut General Assembly passed PA 07-242, *An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency*, directing the annual development of an Integrated Resource Plan IRP for Connecticut. In 2011, the Connecticut General Assembly passed PA 11-80, *An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut's Energy Future*. PA 11-80 calls for DEEP to create an IRP by January 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, in consultation with the Connecticut

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pursuant to discussions with CSC staff, Eversource has removed the previously provided Table 2-3: Existing Customer Owned Facilities 1 MW and Above Providing Generation to the Eversource System from this filing.

Energy Advisory Board CEAB<sup>2</sup> and the EDCs.

On October 7, 2021, DEEP issued its 2020 IRP for Connecticut presenting a comprehensive plan for improving Connecticut's electric energy future and identifying pathways to achieve a 100% zero carbon electric supply by 2040.

#### 1.5 Energy Efficiency Programs

For over 20 years, Eversource has worked strategically with other Connecticut electric and natural gas utilities to deliver, develop, and implement nationally recognized C&LM programs for Connecticut's businesses, residential customers, and government entities to help them control their energy usage, save money and reduce overall electric consumption in the state. These successful programs are currently funded by the six-mill Conservation Adjustment Mechanism ("CAM") on customer electric bills<sup>3</sup>, systems benefit charge on customer bills, a Conservation Adjustment Mechanism ("CAM") less gross receipts tax assessed on customer electric bills, and contributions from natural gas customers (on firm rates) in a natural gas CAM. In addition, energy efficiency revenues are received from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ("RGGI") auctions and revenue from the ISO-NE Forward Capacity Market ("FCM").

Further discussion of Eversource's energy efficiency program forecast can be found in Chapter 3.

#### 1.6 Transmission Planning

Eversource plans, builds, and operates transmission infrastructure with a goal of safely and reliably delivering power to its customers under a wide variety of supply and demand conditions. A discussion of Eversource's transmission forecast can be found in Chapter 4. The key topics include:

- Eversource's transmission facilities are part of the New England regional grid and must be designed, operated, and maintained to ensure compliance with mandatory NERC, NPCC, ISO-NE, and Eversource reliability standards and criteria.
- Eversource proposes new transmission projects to strengthen the Connecticut transmission system.
- The New England transmission system is an important enabler of competitive markets and the region's efforts to meet environmental objectives and mandates.
- Asset condition evaluations of Eversource equipment are conducted to assess the state of the company's infrastructure in order to support continued safe and reliable power delivery to customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The CEAB was dissolved as of June 6, 2014. See General Statutes § 16a-3, repealed by Public Act 14-94, § 82.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Similar to a millage rate tax structure on property, the CAM charge is a 0.6 cent per kilowatt-hour charge to support energy efficiency programs

#### Chapter 2: FORECAST OF LOADS AND RESOURCES

#### **Chapter Highlights**

- Electric energy usage is expected to increase over the 10-year forecast period by 0.8% per year, while peak demand is expected to increase by 1.3% per year during this time.
- While Eversource uses its own Reference Plan Forecast for financial forecasting, it uses ISO-NE's load forecast for transmission planning purposes.

#### 2.1 Electric Energy and Peak Demand Forecast

The energy and peak demand forecasts contained in this chapter are based on the Company's budget forecast, which was prepared in the Fall/Winter of 2024, and are based on Eversource's total franchise area. The base case or 50/50.4 case is also referred to as the Reference Plan Forecast. Eversource's Reference Plan Energy Forecast is based on the results of econometric models, adjusted for Eversource's forecasted energy efficiency programs, projected reductions resulting from incremental solar installations, expected additions due to electric vehicles (EVs) and the electrification of heating systems, as well as large, individual new loads (Step Loads) as an out of model adjustment.

The Reference Plan *Peak Demand* Forecast is also based on an econometric model, adjusted for energy efficiency, solar, expected large customer additions and EVs. The Reference Plan Forecast is used for Eversource's financial planning and distribution system planning but is not used for transmission system planning. As ISO-NE is responsible for regional transmission planning and reliability, it independently develops its own forecast which the Company utilizes to plan and construct its transmission system. Section 2.1.3 discusses ISO-NE's forecast in general terms and how it conceptually compares to Eversource's forecast.

The Reference Plan *Energy* Forecast projects growth in the weather-normalized CAGR for total electrical energy output requirements of 0.8% for Eversource from 2024-2034. Without incremental contributions from the Company's energy efficiency programs, behind the meter solar installations, large customers, electric vehicles or heating electrification, the forecasted energy growth rate is projected to slightly decrease with a weather- normalized CAGR of -0.2 percent. Note that the forecast without adjustments includes impacts from existing behind the meter distributed generation.

The weather-normalized CAGR for summer peak demand in the Reference Plan *Peak Demand* Forecast is forecasted to increase by 1.3 percent over the ten-year forecast period. Similarly, if Eversource's energy efficiency, solar installations, EVs and our large customer additions were excluded, the increase in the CAGR for the forecasted peak demand in the same ten-year period would be 0.9 percent.

Table 2-1 provides historic output and summer peaks, actual and normalized for weather, for the 2020-2024 period and forecast output and peaks for the 2025-2034 periods. The sum of the budgeted class sales for each year, increased for losses, is the annual forecast of system electrical energy requirements or output. This is the amount of energy that must be supplied by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A "50/50 forecast" is a forecast that is developed such that the probability that actual demand is higher or lower than the forecasted amount is 50 percent.

generating plants to serve the loads on the distribution system. The Reference Plan Forecast is a 50/50 forecast that assumes normal weather throughout the year, with normal peak-producing weather episodes in each season. The forecasted 24-hour mean daily temperature for the summer peak day is 83° F and is based on the average peak day temperatures from 2015-2024. The Reference Plan Forecast's summer peak day is assumed to occur in July, since this is the most common month of occurrence historically. It should be noted, however, that the summer peak has occurred in June, August, and September in some years.

#### 2.1.1 Uncertainty in the Reference Plan Forecast

There is uncertainty in any long-run forecast because assumptions that are used in the forecast are selected at a point in time. The point of time chosen is generally insignificant unless the forecast drivers are at a turning point. Outlined below are eight areas of uncertainty that are inherent to this forecast:

- The Economy The Reference Plan Forecast is based on an economic forecast that was developed in October 2024. Business cycles represent normal economic fluctuations which are typically not reflected in long-run trend forecasts because recovery eventually follows recession, although it is difficult to pinpoint when. So, while the level of energy or peak demand that is forecasted for any given year of the forecast may be attained a little earlier or later than projected, the underlying trend is still likely to occur at some point and needs to be planned for.
- Solar Installations This forecast includes explicit reductions to electrical energy output requirements due to solar installations stemming from the Renewable Energy Solutions programs.
- Energy Efficiency This forecast includes explicit reductions to electrical energy output and peak demand due to company sponsored energy efficiency based on the most recent 3year plan.
- Electric Vehicles This forecast includes explicit additions to electrical energy output requirements and peak demand due to EVs. The EV forecast starts with historical actuals and builds a projection based on national and local market information such as new EV model release plans, state rebate programs and state planned infrastructure investments.
- Large Customers The peak demand forecast includes explicit adjustments for large customer additions with expected demands greater than 0.5 MW's.
- Heating Electrification This forecast includes explicit additions to electrical energy output
  requirements in the winter months due increasing installations of cold-climate heat pumps.
  It does not include additions to the peak forecast since the peak occurs in July and there are
  no heating loads at that time.

• Weather - The Reference Plan Peak Demand Forecast assumes normal weather based on a ten-year average (2015 - 2024). The historical peak day 24- hour mean temperatures range from 79° F to 86° F, with deviations from the average peak day temperatures being random, recurring and unpredictable occurrences. For example, the lowest peak day mean temperature occurred in 2017, while the highest occurred in 2019. This variability of peakproducing weather means that over the forecast period, there will be years when the actual peaks will be significantly above or below the forecasted peaks.

Despite the inherent risks outlined above, the Company believes its current forecast to be the most reasonable, given the information available today.

#### 2.1.2 Forecast Scenarios

Table 2-1 contains scenarios demonstrating the variability of peak load around the 50/50 peak forecast due to weather. The table shows that weather has a significant impact on the peak load forecast with variability of approximately 7 percent, or 400 MWs, above and below Eversource's 50/50 forecast, which is based on normal weather. To illustrate, the 2034 summer peak forecast reflecting average peak-producing weather is 4,856 MWs.

However, either extremely mild or extremely hot weather could result in a range of potential peak loads from 4,534 MWs to 5,270 MWs. This 736 MWs of variation, which is a band of approximately plus or minus 7 percent around the average, demonstrates the potential impact of weather alone on forecasted summer peak demand.

The Extreme Hot Weather scenario roughly corresponds conceptually to ISO-NE's 90/10 forecast, described in Section 2.1.3.

Table 2-1: Eversource 2025 Reference Plan Forecast

Net Electrical Energy

	Output Req	uirements	Net Ele	ctrical Peak	Loads						
		Annual		<u>Annual</u>	Load		<u>Annual</u>	Load		<u>Annual</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Change</u>	Load Factor
	GWh (1)	(%)	MW	(%)	(2)	MW	(%)	(2)	MW	(%)	(2)
<b>HISTORY</b>	•										
2020	20635		4802		0.489						
2021	20876	1.2%	4949	3.1%	0.481						
2022	20974	0.5%	4787	-3.3%	0.500						
2023	19647	-6.3%	4520	-5.6%	0.496						
2024	19953	1.6%	4521	0.0%	0.502						
Compoun	d Rates of G	rowth (2020-2	2024)								
	-0.8%		-1.5%								
HISTORY	NORMALIZE	D FOR WEAT	HER								
2020	20585		5090		0.460						
2021	20927	1.7%	4773	-6.2%	0.501						
2022	20644	-1.4%	4855	1.7%	0.485						
2023	20051	-2.9%	4520	-6.9%	0.506						
2024	19773	-1.4%	4260	-5.8%	0.528						
Compoun	d Rates of G	rowth (2020-2	2024)								

Compound	Rates	of	Growth	(2020-2024)

-1.0% -4.4%

FORECAST	<u>FORECAST</u>		Reference Plan (50/50 Case)			Extreme Hot Scenario			Extreme Cool Scenario		
2025	20233	2.3%	4563	7.1%	0.506	4968	16.6%	0.465	4253	-0.1%	0.543
2026	20178	-0.3%	4619	1.2%	0.499	5025	1.1%	0.458	4308	1.3%	0.535
2027	20190	0.1%	4615	-0.1%	0.499	5022	-0.1%	0.459	4302	-0.1%	0.536
2028	20295	0.5%	4634	0.4%	0.499	5042	0.4%	0.458	4320	0.4%	0.535
2029	20312	0.1%	4636	0.0%	0.500	5045	0.1%	0.460	4321	0.0%	0.537
2030	20407	0.5%	4668	0.7%	0.499	5078	0.7%	0.459	4352	0.7%	0.535
2031	20537	0.6%	4725	1.2%	0.496	5136	1.1%	0.457	4407	1.3%	0.532
2032	20765	1.1%	4762	0.8%	0.496	5174	0.8%	0.457	4443	0.8%	0.532
2033	20928	0.8%	4805	0.9%	0.497	5218	0.8%	0.458	4485	0.9%	0.533
2034	21342	2.0%	4856	1.1%	0.502	5270	1.0%	0.462	4534	1.1%	0.537
Compound	Rates of Gre	owth (2024-	2034)								
	0.7%		0.7%			1.5%			0.0%		
Normalized	I Compound	Rates of Gre	owth (2024-2	2034)							
	0.8%		1.3%			2.2%			0.6%		

<sup>1.</sup> Sales plus losses.

Forecasted Reference Plan Peaks are based on normal peak day weather (83° mean daily temperature). Forecasted Extreme Hot Scenario Peaks are based on the weather that occurred on the 2019 peak day (86° mean daily temperature). Forecasted Extreme Cool Scenario Peaks are based on the weather that occurred on the 2017 peak day (79° mean daily temperature).

<sup>2.</sup> Load Factor = Output (MWh) / (8760 Hours X Season Peak (MW)).

#### 2.1.3 Long-Term Demand Assessment

In addition to the outlined 10-year forecast, the Company is introducing capabilities to develop a long-term electric demand assessment to reflect the overall impacts from electrification objectives across mobility and heating, as well as the aggressive deployment of distributed energy resources on the distribution system in response to both state and federal level objectives and incentives.

It is the Company's objective to consider future scenarios of electrification in the design of capital projects with the intention to ensure that every investment made by the Company can be leveraged to support electrification goals for the foreseeable future.

For this purpose, the company is working together with a wide variety of vendors to build detailed electric demand assessment models, specifically:

- **Electric Vehicles**: EVs, due to their mobility, introduce a high degree of uncertainty into electric demand modeling. The Company EV demand analysis has two main components:
  - Adoption Rate Model: This estimates proportion of future vehicle stock that are EVs (includes light duty, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles), and aligned with the state's IRP.
  - Charging Demand Model: The Company has acquired vehicle travel data with onboard GPS (medium/heavy duty) and mobility (cellular) tracking data. The data is used to estimate the charging requirements of EVs based on existing vehicle travel patterns. When combined with the adoption rate, this gives a 24-hour profile of load demand (at 15 min intervals) for an unmanaged charging scenario.
- **Electric Heating:** Through the introduction of electric heat pumps over the next few decades, a significant amount of electric load will be added to the system. The trend is expected to convert a large portion of the system to winter peaking in 1 to 2 decades.
  - o **Adoption Rate Model**: Adoption rate model using customer-level data, various technology adoption scenarios and aggregated by substation.
  - Weather Normalized Heating Model: Using temperature correlated heat pump load and efficiency assumptions.

#### Distributed Solar Generation:

- Adoption Rate Model: Uses Company historical solar deployment data, customer information and state level projections to provide solar capacity penetration.
- Geospatial Deployment Model: Based on statewide parcel analytics, to enable adoption propensity results by region/bulk station in terms of available parcels, project economics, as well as zoning / land use restrictions.
- o **Power Generation Model**: Uses seasonal weather factors and solar irradiance data to estimate 24-hour peak day solar generation profiles.

#### 2.1.4 ISO-NE Demand Forecasts

The CSC's <u>2008 Review of the Ten-Year Forecast of Loads and Resources</u> provides a concise description of the ISO-NE's "90/10" forecast used by Eversource for transmission planning purposes. A relevant excerpt is provided below.

Called the "90/10" forecast, it is separate from the normal weather (50/50) forecasts offered by the Connecticut utilities. However, it is the one used by both ISO-NE and by the

Connecticut utilities for utility infrastructure planning, including transmission and generation.

The 90/10 forecast is a plausible extreme hot weather scenario. It means there is only a 10 percent chance that the projected peak load would be exceeded in a given year, while the odds are 90 percent that it would not be exceeded in a given year. Put another way, the forecast would be exceeded, on average, only once every ten years. While this projection is extremely conservative, it is reasonable for facility planning because of the potentially severe disruptive consequences of inadequate facilities: brownouts, blackouts, damage to equipment, and other failures. State utility planners must be conservative in estimating risk because of the potentially catastrophic consequences of capacity deficits.

Just as bank planners should ensure the health of the financial system by maintaining sufficient collateral to meet worst-case liquidity risks, system planners must ensure the reliability of the electric system by maintaining adequate facilities to meet peak demand in extreme weather conditions. While over-forecasting can have economic penalties due to perceived excessive and/or unnecessary expenditures on infrastructure, the consequences of under-forecasting can be much more serious. Accordingly, the Council will base its analysis in this review on the ISO-NE 90/10 forecast.

As Eversource has reported in the past, there is one other major difference between the Eversource and ISO-NE forecasts, aside from the difference between the 50/50 forecast methodology used by Eversource and the 90/10 forecast methodology used by ISO-NE. The Eversource peak demand forecasts include explicit reductions for the Company's EE programs, solar resources and explicit large customer additions, while the ISO-NE demand forecasts do not include these adjustments; instead, ISO-NE considers EE and large scale solar to be supply resources in their capacity forecast. ISO-NE has developed a new PV forecast such that small scale solar is calculated and explicitly reduces the ISO-NE demand forecast. ISO-NE publishes the PV forecast annually as part of their load forecast documentation.

Table 2-2 shows Eversource's Reference Plan Forecast with savings from Eversource's EE programs, solar, electric vehicles, heating electrification, and large customer additions added back in to make it easier to compare Eversource's forecast with ISO-NE's forecast.

Table 2-2: Adjustments to Output and Summer Peak Forecasts

	i able 2	-		-	equirements (G		ecasis	
		1101	Company_	<u>Large</u>	oquii omonio (O	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Annual
	<u>Unadjusted</u>		Energy	Customer	<u>Heating</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Adjusted</u>	Change
<u>Year</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Solar</u>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<u>Additions</u>	Electrification	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>(%)</u>
	Y NORMALIZE	D FOR WE	<u>ATHER</u>					
2024							19,773	
FOREC/								
2025	20,106	(66)	-	131	29	33	20,233	2.3%
2026	20,030	(134)	-	131	45	107	20,178	-0.3%
2027	19,960	(227)	-	131	66	260	20,190	0.1%
2028	19,949	(315)	-	131	87	444	20,295	0.5%
2029	19,817	(405)	-	131	110	659	20,312	0.1%
2030	19,730	(497)	-	131	135	909	20,407	0.5%
2031	19,643	(596)	-	131	163	1,196	20,537	0.6%
2032	19,619	(703)	-	131	194	1,524	20,765	1.1%
2033	19,480	(811)	-	131	228	1,900	20,928	0.8%
2034	19,402	(927)	-	131	249	2,488	21,342	2.0%
Normaliz	zed Compound -0.2%	d Rates of	Growth (202	4-2034)			0.8%	
			50/50 R	eference Pla	n (MW)			
			Company	<u>Large</u>				Annual
	<u>Unadjusted</u>		Energy	Customer	Heating	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Adjusted</u>	Change
Year	Peak	<u>Solar</u>	Efficiency	Additions	Electrification	Vehicles	<u>Peak</u>	(%)
	Y NORMALIZE							<del></del>
2024							4,260	
FOREC/	AST						,	
2025	<u>4,467</u>	(20)	(9)	58	-	67	4,563	7.1%
2026	4,478	(45)	(24)	98	-	112	4,619	1.2%
2027	4,486	(71)	(38)	103	-	135	4,615	-0.1%
2028	4,500	(97)	(52)	103	-	180	4,634	0.4%
2029	4,520	(125)	(64)	103	_	202	4,636	0.0%
2030	4,543	(151)	(74)	103	_	247	4,668	0.7%
2031	4,570	(178)	(84)	103	_	314	4,725	1.2%
2032	4,599	(207)	(93)	103	_	359	4,762	0.8%
2033	4,632	(233)	(100)	103	_	404	4,805	0.9%
2034	4,669	(258)	(107)	103	_	449	4,856	1.1%
	zed Compound	, ,	, ,				.,000	
	0.9%		( )	,			1.3%	
			Extreme Hot	Weather Sce	enario (MW)			
			Company	<u>Large</u>				Annual
	<u>Unadjusted</u>		<u>Energy</u>	<u>Customer</u>	<u>Heating</u>	Electric	Adjusted	Change
<u>Year</u>	Peak	<u>Solar</u>	Efficiency	Additions	Electrification		<u>Peak</u>	<u>(%)</u>
	Y NORMALIZE			raditiono	Lioumidation	<u> </u>	<u>r oan</u>	<u>(70)</u>
2024							4,260	
FOREC	AST						1,	
2025	4,872	(20)	(9)	58	_	67	4,968	16.6%
2026	4,884	(45)	(24)	98	_	112	5,025	1.1%
2027	4,893	(71)	(38)	103	_	135	5,022	-0.1%
2028	4,908	(97)	(52)	103	_	180	5,042	0.4%
2029	4,928	(125)	(64)	103	_	202	5,045	0.1%
2030	4,953	(151)	(74)	103	_	247	5,078	0.7%
2000	г, ооо	(101)	(17)	100		471	5,010	5.1 /0

(258) Normalized Compound Rates of Growth (2024-2034) 2

(178)

(207)

(233)

(84)

(93)

(100)

(107)

103

103

103

103

1.8%

4,980

5,011

5,044

5,083

2031

2032

2033

2034

2.2%

5,136

5,174

5,218

5,270

1.1%

0.8%

0.8%

1.0%

314

359

404

449

#### **Chapter 3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

#### **Chapter Highlights**

- Energy savings resulting from Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund ("Fund")
  programs are the most cost-effective and reliable resource for Connecticut's energy
  policymakers and stakeholders. The C&LM programs help Connecticut residents,
  businesses, and local/state governments reduce their energy bills and help mitigate
  peak energy prices.
- Fund programs are nationally recognized and are perennially ranked in the top 10 states for energy efficiency and demand management. Connecticut's Electric Companies (Eversource and United Illuminating) and Natural Gas Companies (Eversource, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas), collectively "the Companies", develop and implement C&LM programs.
- Connecticut's energy efficiency and demand management strategies are designed to help the state in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy usage in buildings, and to provide economic benefits.

#### 3.1 Connecticut's Energy Efficiency Programs

For over 20 years, the Companies have delivered nationally recognized programs that drive energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, employ a highly skilled and local clean energy workforce, and strengthen the state's economy by increasing energy affordability and improving business productivity.

The Companies' Residential, Commercial and Industrial ("C&I"), and Education, Workforce and Community Outreach Portfolios are nationally recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), US Department of Energy ("DOE"), and the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy ("ACEEE") for their innovative C&LM programs and initiatives. Since 2000, the ACEEE has ranked Connecticut as one of the top 10 states for energy efficiency. In the ACEEE's 2022 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard (most recent publication), Connecticut ranked ninth in the nation. This ranking reflects the success and expertise of the Companies in developing and administering innovative energy efficiency programs.

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective resource available to policymakers to address rising energy costs, reliability challenges, and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Connecticut's C&LM programs reduce the amount of energy used by residential, municipal, and C&I customers. This decreases energy demand from power plants, reduces the amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted due to power generation, and helps to lower customers' energy bills across all sectors. C&LM programs also provide economic development benefits for Connecticut and help mitigate peak energy prices resulting from natural gas pipeline constraints during high-use periods.

Eversource, with guidance from the Energy Efficiency Board ("EEB"), maintains its energy efficiency and demand management programs' success through a flexible and integrated approach that reaches out to customers in their homes, at their jobs, in schools, and in the community. Through seminars,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The primary greenhouse gas reduced by C&LM programs is carbon dioxide ("CO<sub>2</sub>"). Other air pollutants that are reduced due to the implementation of the three-year C&LM Plan's programs include nitrous oxides ("NOx") and sulfur oxides ("SOx") and chlorofluorocarbons (from refrigerants)..

workshops, community outreach, trade ally and professional affiliations, retail partnerships, educator trainings, and marketing, Eversource is helping to shape a more efficiency-minded consumer who not only participates in innovative programs, but also makes wise energy choices every day.

#### 3.2 Legislative History

In 1998, the Connecticut General Assembly passed *Public Act 98-28—An Act Concerning Electric Restructuring*, establishing the Fund and the EEB to advise Connecticut's Electric Companies in developing their annual C&LM plans.

In 2005, *Public Act 05-01—An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency* was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly. This legislation created a funding mechanism for the Natural Gas Companies to develop and implement cost-effective programs that reduce natural gas consumption for residential and C&I customers. Additionally, under Public Act 05-01, the EEB's role was expanded to provide guidance for the Companies in their development of energy efficiency programs for electric and natural gas customers.

In 2007, new legislation called for the Companies to pursue "all cost-effective energy efficiency" with the passage of *Public Act 07-242—An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency*. This legislation envisioned energy efficiency as the focal point for statewide energy policy. In 2011, the Connecticut General Assembly passed *Public Act 11-80—An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut's Energy Future*. This landmark legislation created DEEP and laid the groundwork for pursuing all cost-effective energy efficiency. Additionally, Public Act 11-80 established ambitious energy-saving targets for the state, including reducing state buildings' energy consumption by 10 percent by 2013 and an additional 10 percent by 2018, and weatherizing 80 percent of Connecticut's residential homes by 2030.

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly passed *Public Act 13-228—An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Strategy and Various Revisions to the Energy Statutes*. Public Act 13-228 modified how the Companies developed their C&LM plans with a requirement for them to develop a three-year combined plan, beginning on November 1, 2015. The 2022-2024 Plan, filed November 1, 2021, is the third three-year plan developed after the passage of Public Act 13-228.

During the 2016-2018 term, significant funding for the Fund's programs was diverted to the state's General Fund through the Connecticut General Assembly's passage of June Special Session's *Public Act 17-2—An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2019, Making Appropriations Therefor, Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Implementing Provisions of the Budget (SS Public Act 17-2)* on October 31, 2017. The Act diverted \$63.5 million per year for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 from the Fund and diverted an additional \$10 million per year in proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative's ("RGGI") carbon trade auctions. These diversions negatively impacted the Companies' Portfolios for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

In 2018, the Connecticut General Assembly passed *Public Act 18-50*—An Act Concerning Connecticut's *Energy Future*. Due to the passage of this legislation, the Companies saw partial restoration of funds for Program Year 2019, and full funding for Program Years 2020 and 2021. To deter future funding diversion efforts, Public Act 18-50 changed the structure of how energy efficiency programs are funded in the state. In addition, the Act introduced a new energy savings goal policy for the state, requiring the Companies to reduce energy consumption by 1.6 million MMBtus (one million British Thermal Units), or the equivalent megawatts of electricity, "annually each year for calendar years commencing on and after January 1, 2020, through calendar year 2025."

 $^\prime$  Public Act 18-50,  $\S$  8. "It shall be the policy of the state to reduce energy consumption by not less than 1.6 million MMBtu, orthe

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Public Act 18-50, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future*, approved May 24, 2018. Also known as Senate Bill 9 ("SB 9"). Available online at: <a href="https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/act/pa/pdf/2018PA-00050-R00SB-00009-PA.pdf">https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/act/pa/pdf/2018PA-00050-R00SB-00009-PA.pdf</a>.

Public Act 18-50 also revised the state's general statutes, specifically § 16-245, adding "demand management" to the Companies' legislatively directed program mandates and requiring the Companies to be fuel blind in the delivery of energy efficiency programs. Another piece of legislation passed in 2018 was *Public Act 18-82: An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency*. This legislation requires the state to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions of at least 45 percent below 2001 greenhouse gas emissions levels by January 1, 2030 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% below 2001 levels by January 1, 2050.

In 2023, the Connecticut General Assembly passed *Public Act 23-102, An Act Strengthening Protections for Connecticut's Consumers of Energy.* <sup>10</sup> The legislation requires the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA") to investigate and create an approval process for stakeholder compensation for traditionally underrepresented groups, including small businesses, environmental justice communities, or those receiving protection as hardship cases.

#### 3.3 Conservation & Load Management Plans

The 2025-2027 Plan is a \$706 million investment in making Connecticut more energy efficient. The Plan's three priorities are equitable access, decarbonization, and energy affordability. For the 2025-2027 term, program design, outreach efforts, and budgets have all been crafted with these three priorities in mind and this consideration is reflected across the Portfolios.

#### 2025-2027 Plan Priorities

Priority One: Equitable Access

Equity is defined as the process of establishing more equal access to and participation in energy efficiency and demand management programs, particularly among those groups who have historically participated at lower rates. For the 2025-2027 term, the Companies' first priority is to ensure that the Portfolios are equitable in their distribution of programs and benefits across the state, including communities and neighborhoods, market segments, and customer types. The Companies' equity efforts have been established and will continue to evolve by DEEP's Equity in Energy Efficiency ("E3") proceeding.

For the 2025-2027 term, the Companies will support participation in C&LM programs of customers, particularly in environmental justice communities and in neighborhoods and communities where business owners and property managers do not speak English. For the 2025-2027 term, the Companies will use baselines to establish metrics for customer participation within environmental justice communities. Through the qualified installer networks, the Companies plan to create equitable access for customers to choose qualified installers.

The Companies will use the Community Partnership Initiative to reach customers in environmental justice communities and will implement a rolling Community Grants process to provide more statewide

resources and support to communities and groups working to promote and increase C&LM program participation. The Companies also plan to support increased Green STEP (Sustainability Technical Education Program) certifications and participation by offering more after school and summer energy

equivalent megawatts of electricity, as defined in subdivision (4) of section 22a-197 of the general statutes, annually each year for calendar years commencing on and after January 1, 2020, up to and including calendar year 2025." While PA 18-50 refers to "megawatts," the technical conversion of MMBtus (as an energy unit) to an electric unit would be megawatt hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Public Act 18-50, § 9(d)(1). "...of implementing "cost effective energy conservation programs, demand management and market transformation initiatives." This directive started in 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Public Act 18-50, § 9(d)(1). "...provided a customer of an electric distribution company may not be denied such services based on the fuel such customer uses to heat such customer's home."

Public Act 23-102, An Act Strengthening Protections for Connecticut's Consumers of Energy, Jun. 29, 2023.

training programs in environmental justice communities and with non-technical high schools. For the C&I Portfolio, the Companies will create tailored solutions for new market sectors including controlled environment agriculture, clean water and wastewater facilities, nonprofits, and K-12 schools.

#### Priority Two: Decarbonization

Decarbonization is the second key priority. C&LM programs are key tools in protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas and other air pollutant emissions. The Companies will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector by promoting high-efficiency, low-carbon space and water heating technologies, such as heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. The Companies will track greenhouse gas emission reductions for the Residential and C&I Portfolios and will look to expand active demand response offerings including smart thermostats and air conditioning load control for the Residential Portfolio and smart thermostats, air conditioning load control, lighting/dimming, and industrial shifting offerings for the C&I Portfolio.

For the 2025-2027 term, the Companies will maintain their qualified installer networks, including the Energize CT Heat Pump Installer Network ("HPIN"), Connecticut Insulation Installer Network ("CTIIN"), and Advanced Duct Sealing Network ("ADSN"). For the HPIN, the Companies will maintain their Qualified Products List ("QPL") to standardize efficiency and qualifying criteria for heat pump technologies in the Northeast.

The Companies will continue to implement the all-electric Residential New Construction program and promote an enhanced level of energy efficiency in new construction by increasing builder and consumer awareness of all-electric, energy-efficient, and sustainable building practices. For the commercial building sector, the Companies will progress toward all-electric and sustainable building practices in the next term including requiring all new building and major renovation projects taking part in the Energy Conscious Blueprint program's Path 1 to be fully electric to participate.

The Companies will continue to enhance their weatherization efforts for commercial and municipal buildings and promote existing homes' weatherization efforts through the Home Energy Solutions™ ("HES") and Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible ("HES-Income Eligible") programs. Pairing weatherization measures with heat pump adoption provides many benefits including helping participating customers maximize bill savings and reducing the size, upfront cost, and operating costs of a heat pump system.¹¹

Additionally, the Companies will review potential new measures and explore factoring in electric service and electrical wiring upgrades as part of project financing. The Companies will also look to bundle weatherization measures for customers.

#### Priority Three: Energy Affordability

The Companies' third priority is energy affordability—promoting economic development through lower energy bills, enhanced energy security, and increased reliability. For the 2025-2027 term, the Companies will continue to prioritize energy affordability for residential and C&I customers across the state, including low-income customers who have high energy burdens. The Companies will conduct education and outreach through the Community Partnership Initiative, which is designed to reach communities, customers, and market segments where participation in energy efficiency and demand management has been limited due to multiple factors. The combination of energy savings goals by

As part of DEEP's Final Determination for the 2024 Plan Update, the agency "requires the Companies to evaluate best practice and strategies for encouraging customers to pair cost-effective weatherization measures with heat pump investment. For example, the Companies should evaluate whether the current heat pump bonus incentives are adequate for achieving widespread adoption of weatherization in homes receiving a rebate for a heat pump. In addition, the Companies should propose other programmatic changes which will further encourage weatherization in households installing heat pumps. The evaluation and proposals shall be included in the 2025-2027 Plan." For information about the Companies' plan, please see section 3.5: HES and HES-Income Eligible Programs.

segment and continuing to reach customers who contribute to install energy-efficient measures will both increase customers' energy savings and reduce their energy burdens, therefore making energy more affordable to all customer segments.

The Companies will establish a HES Moderate-Income offering in coordination with federal Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") programs for residential customers whose households have incomes above 60% of the State Median Income ("60% SMI") and at or below 80% Area Median Income ("80% AMI"). The HES Moderate-Income offering will qualify eligible customers for IRA rebates, as well as offer them added HES program incentives, potentially including advanced duct sealing, insulation, and windows.

The Companies will continue to refer HES-Income Eligible participants with health and safety barriers to DEEP's Residential Energy Preparation Services ("REPS") program. The Companies will also provide customers with health and safety barrier customer education.

#### **Funding**

For the 2025-2027 term, the primary funding sources for Connecticut's energy efficiency programs will be:

(1) a six-mill CAM on customer electric bills. 12 and (2) contributions from natural gas customers (on firm rates) through the natural gas CAM. Additional funding sources for the 2025-2027 term will include the RGGI, a Northeast carbon trade system and the ISO-NE FCM.

#### **Ten-Year C&LM Forecast**

Table 3-1 below presents the potential cumulative annualized energy savings and summer and winter peak-load reductions forecasted for energy efficiency programs implemented in Eversource's (f/k/a CL&P) service territory for the 2025-2027Plan. The forecast is based on anticipated savings from the 2025-2027 Plan filed in November 2024. Forecasted savings beyond 2027 assume similar programs funding as in 2027. However, savings in years 2028 and beyond reflect anticipated changes in energy efficiency budgets and production costs due to market transformation, stringent building codes, federal standards, and increase in electrification measures.

#### **Forecast Sensitivity**

Connecticut's C&LM programs use a complementary mix of lost opportunity, retrofit, and market transformation implementation strategies to achieve energy savings. The energy savings and peak-load reductions projected in this forecast are sensitive to changes in several factors including changes in the electricity marketplace and consumer attitudes. In particular, the impact of federal policy on lighting standards is unclear at this point and may impact future savings.

<sup>12</sup> Similar to a millage rate tax structure on property, the CAM charge is a 0.6 cent per kilowatt-hour charge to support C&LM programs.

			2023-2032	2					
		011/							
		GWh	Sales S	aved					
2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(8)	(10)	(11)
47	88	87	122	154	182	208	231	252	271
14	124	136	146	156	164	172	179	185	191
61	212	221	266	306	342	374	402	428	450
MW Re	duction	s (Passiv	ve Resor	urce Sur	nmer Im	pacts)	·		
2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
3	7	10	13	16	19	21	23	25	27
10	18	27	34	41	47	52	57	61	65
3	5	8	10	12	14	16	17	18	20
16	21	45	58	60	80	80	97	105	112
10	31	40	30	09	80	09	31	103	112
MW D	o du oti o	no (Doos	ive Beer	ouroo Wi	nto r Imr	na ata)			
							2022	2022	2034
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	8
6	10	14	18	21	24	27	29	32	34
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	10
8	15	22	27	33	37	42	45	49	52
	47 14 61  MW Re 2025 3 10 3 16  MW R 2025 1 6	47 88  14 124  61 212  MW Reduction  2025 2026  3 7  10 18  3 5  16 31  MW Reduction  2025 2026  1 2 6 10 2 3	47       88       87         14       124       136         61       212       221         MW Reductions (Passive 2025)         3       7       10         10       18       27         3       5       8         16       31       45         MW Reductions (Passive 2025)         2025       2026       2027         1       2       3         6       10       14         2       3       4	47       88       87       122         14       124       136       146         61       212       221       266         MW Reductions (Passive Resolutions)         10       18       27       2028         3       7       10       13         10       18       27       34         3       5       8       10         16       31       45       58         MW Reductions (Passive Resolutions)         2025       2026       2027       2028         1       2       3       4         6       10       14       18         2       3       4       5	47       88       87       122       154         14       124       136       146       156         61       212       221       266       306         MW Reductions (Passive Resource Sur 2025         3       7       10       13       16         10       18       27       34       41         3       5       8       10       12         16       31       45       58       69         MW Reductions (Passive Resource Wiggles)         2025       2026       2027       2028       2029         1       2       3       4       5         6       10       14       18       21         2       3       4       5       6	47         88         87         122         154         182           14         124         136         146         156         164           61         212         221         266         306         342           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Summer Im           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030           3         7         10         13         16         19           10         18         27         34         41         47           3         5         8         10         12         14           16         31         45         58         69         80           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Winter Img           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030           1         2         3         4         5         6           6         10         14         18         21         24           2         3         4         5         6         7	47         88         87         122         154         182         208           14         124         136         146         156         164         172           61         212         221         266         306         342         374           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Summer Impacts)           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030         2031           3         7         10         13         16         19         21           10         18         27         34         41         47         52           3         5         8         10         12         14         16           16         31         45         58         69         80         89           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Winter Impacts)           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030         2031           1         2         3         4         5         6         6           6         10         14         18         21         24         27           2         3         4	47       88       87       122       154       182       208       231         14       124       136       146       156       164       172       179         61       212       221       266       306       342       374       402         MW Reductions (Passive Resource Summer Impacts)         3       7       10       13       16       19       21       23         10       18       27       34       41       47       52       57         3       5       8       10       12       14       16       17         16       31       45       58       69       80       89       97         MW Reductions (Passive Resource Winter Impacts)         2025       2026       2027       2028       2029       2030       2031       2032         1       2       3       4       5       6       6       7         6       10       14       18       21       24       27       29         2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9	47         88         87         122         154         182         208         231         252           14         124         136         146         156         164         172         179         185           61         212         221         266         306         342         374         402         428           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Summer Impacts)           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030         2031         2032         2033           3         7         10         13         16         19         21         23         25           10         18         27         34         41         47         52         57         61           3         5         8         10         12         14         16         17         18           16         31         45         58         69         80         89         97         105           MW Reductions (Passive Resource Winter Impacts)           2025         2026         2027         2028         2029         2030         2031         2032         2033 <tr< td=""></tr<>

#### Notes:

- 1) Table 3-1 includes only passive resources. It does not include 192MW of Active Demand Response ("ADR") resources that is planned during the 2025-2027 term.
- 2) Total savings assumes that all measures will continue to provide savings for their measure lives throughout the forecast period.

#### Chapter 4: TRANSMISSION PLANNING AND SYSTEM NEEDS

#### 4.1 Transmission is Planned and Constructed with Consideration for the Long Term

Transmission systems enable varying amounts and sources of generation to serve load over the long term. The retirement of local generation or the addition of significant amounts of in-state generating capacity may increase the need to import power to or export power from Connecticut, and therefore the transmission system may need to be enhanced or expanded. Transmission system upgrades and additions are proposed and built to accommodate the future by considering many possible scenarios.

#### 4.2 Transmission Planning and National Reliability Standards

Eversource's transmission facilities are part of the New England regional grid and must be designed, operated, and maintained to ensure compliance with mandatory NERC, NPCC, ISO-NE, and Eversource reliability standards and criteria.

On December 20, 2012, the FERC issued a final ruling (FERC Order 773) approving revisions to NERC's "Bulk Electric System" definition. Key revisions to the approved definition removed language allowing for broad discretion across the reliability regions in North America and establish a "bright-line" threshold that includes all facilities operated at or above 100 kilovolts. The revised definition requires that more facilities be compliant with the NERC Transmission Planning Reliability Standards than under the previous definition. Periodic transmission planning assessments and studies have been expanded to adhere to this revised definition in order to comply with the NERC reliability standards.

On March 19, 2015, FERC approved Order 1000 that requires a transition in the way New England plans the transmission system. In May 2015, ISO New England implemented changes to the regional and interregional transmission planning process to comply with the directives in FERC Order No. 1000 which establishes new electric transmission planning and cost allocation requirements for public utility transmission providers. This introduced competition into the development of regulated transmission solutions. It removed arrangements that protect the ROFR for incumbent transmission providers.

On March 27, 2020, NPCC approved revisions to the Criteria A-10 "Classification of Bulk Power System Elements" that requires a more targeted approach to how bulk power system elements 69-kV and above are identified and classified as critical elements and thus included on the NPCC Bulk Power System list. Key revisions that were approved eliminated the automatic inclusion of system elements on the Bulk Power List and introduced a test that will allow NPCC members to exclude elements that are impactful to Bulk Power Transfer and inter-area reliability. All future regional and local studies conducted by ISO-NE and New England Transmission Owners will include the revised Criteria A-10.

On June 10, 2020, FERC approved Reliability Standard TPL-001-5.1 (Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements) submitted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC"), the Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization, with an effective date of July 29, 2020. Reliability Standard TPL-001-5.1 revised the prior version of the TPL-001-4 standard in these key respects:

- Reliability issues concerning single points of failure in Protection Systems, as identified in:
  - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 754, issued on September 15, 2011; and
  - the report dated September 2015 by two subcommittees under the NERC Planning Committee, the System Protection and Control Subcommittee and System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee titled Assessment of Protection System Single Points of

Failure Based on the Section 1600 Data Request.

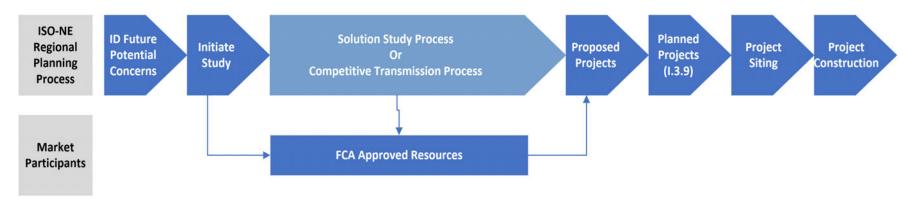
- Directives from FERC Order No. 786 (October 17, 2013) approving Reliability Standard TPL-001-4, relating to:
  - o modeling known outages with a duration of less than six months; and
  - adding stability analysis for the outage of major Transmission Equipment with a lead time of one year or more; and,
  - References to the Reliability Standards MOD-010 and MOD-012 which have been superseded by the MOD-032 Reliability Standard.
- Modifying the Footnote 13.d exception to apply to any monitored and reported components of the control circuitry to be consistent with Protection System design and operational functionality. Footnote 13.d now applies to control circuitry from the DC supply through and including the circuit breaker trip coil. However, the footnote only provides an exclusion for a single (non-redundant) monitored and reported trip coil, but not the control circuit itself. By only excluding the trip coil and not permitting the control circuitry to be excluded, it implies that the remainder of the Protection System control circuitry is not excluded, even if it is monitored and reported.

#### 4.3 Transmission Planning Process

Within the ISO-NE regional planning process established for compliance with NERC and NPCC planning standards, ISO-NE performs reliability assessment studies of the New England transmission system. Individual sub-area studies ("Needs Assessments") are performed to identify system deficiencies over a ten-year horizon. When a system reliability problem is identified from a needs assessment, ISO-NE first determines whether the system reliability problem is expected to develop within three years or beyond three years. Where the reliability problem is expected within three years, ISO-NE and the Transmission Owners ("TOs") develop one or more transmission system options to resolve the transmission reliability needs and ensure that NERC and NPCC reliability standards are met. If the system reliability problem is not expected to materialize until more than three years from the completion of the Needs Assessment, ISO-NE uses its competitive transmission development process to solicit regulated transmission solutions from any qualified developer, including Eversource.

The transmission system solution options are then further evaluated to determine their feasibility of construction, potential for environmental impacts, estimated costs, longevity, operational differences, etc. When analysis of the options is complete, ISO-NE recommends a proposed transmission project to the Planning Advisory Committee.

The transmission studies and any needed transmission system upgrades are documented in a series of reports prepared by ISO-NE as depicted in the sequence shown in Figure 1 below:



**Figure 1: Transmission Planning Process** 

#### 4.4 Connecticut's Transmission System and Serving Load

Eversource plans, builds, and operates transmission infrastructure with goals of safely and reliably delivering power to its customers under a wide variety of supply and demand conditions.

Eversource is required to meet reliability standards mandated by the FERC and implemented by NERC. Penalties for non-compliance can be up to \$1,584,648 per event per day, based on the severity of the violation.

#### 4.5 Assessment of Transmission Needs in Connecticut's Sub-areas

Both Eversource and ISO-NE divide Connecticut into several areas for the purpose of assessing the reliability of the transmission system. ISO-NE has previously identified reliability projects that are needed to maintain system reliability within each of those areas.

- The Southwest Connecticut ("SWCT") area is the largest load area within Connecticut which comprises fifty-four towns, including all Avangrid's service territory, Wallingford Electric, and some of the CMEEC service territory. This area includes the towns essentially west of Interstate 91 and south of Interstate 84, and accounts for approximately half of the state's peak electric load demand. In July of 2014, the Southwest Connecticut 2022 Preferred Solution was presented to ISO-NE PAC. Eversource received ISO-NE approval for the SWCT preferred Solution in April of 2015. Eversource has since successfully constructed and placed the SWCT 2022 Solution in service at the end of 2020.
- The Eastern Connecticut ("ECT") Area extends in a westerly direction for about twenty miles from the Rhode Island border and north from Long Island Sound to the Massachusetts border. The area is served by both Eversource and CMEEC. In May of 2018, ISO-NE completed a 2027 Needs Assessment that analyzed the performance of the sub-area. In March of 2019, ISO-NE announced a re-assessment of the Eastern Connecticut Needs due to the reduction of load resulting from the 2018 and 2019 CELT Report load forecasts. The Eastern Connecticut 2029 Needs Assessment results were presented to ISO- NE PAC in September of 2019. ISO-NE subsequently presented the ECT 2029 Preliminary Preferred Solution at the May 20, 2020 Planning Advisory Committee ("PAC") meeting. A draft ECT 2029 Solutions Study was then posted on June 3, 2020 and the final version on June 19, 2020 on ISO-NE's external website. This report established the preferred solution to address the identified time-sensitive needs for the ECT area. Eversource's components of the ECT 2029 Solutions were in-service at the end of 2023.

In addition to transmission system additions, replacing age-related degraded equipment is an on-going need. Much of the existing electric grid has been in-service for over 40-years and some of it is nearly 100-years old. While the structures and equipment holding electric wires above the ground do not transport electricity, they are integral for the safe delivery of electricity. Eversource's Transmission Line Department is continuing to improve the reliability of the transmission system as a result of inspections which have found degradation of many overhead wood transmission structures and older steel lattice structures. Replacing these structures over the next several years resolves multiple structural/hardware issues and supports continued safe and reliable operation.

Seven of the nine existing high-pressure fluid-filled (HPFF) cables on the Eversource system average over 51-years old. These cables will be replaced in stages because the sole remaining manufacturer has told the industry that they are considering discontinuing manufacturing of this type of cabling. Given the combination of age and soon unavailability of replacement cabling, Eversource has begun the process to replace these cables.

A list of all transmission projects and their components by transmission line and substation is provided in Tables 4-1 and 4-2 below. Transmission line reinforcements and asset condition projects are identified by entries under the "from" and "to" station headings in Table 4-1. Station reinforcements are identified by single line entries under the "from" station heading in Table 4-2. The term "station" is interchangeable with both substation and switching station. The tables also include the project's targeted in-service date.

Table 4-1: Eversource Proposed Asset-Condition Transmission Line Projects in Connecticut

Circuit	kV	From Station	From Town	To Station	To Town	ISD	Mileage	Project Description	Status
Line 3754	345	Beseck	Wallingford	Southington	Southington	03/2025	11.83	Structure Replacements	Under Construction
Line 376	345	Haddam Neck	Haddam	Scovill Rock	Middletown	06/2025	4.99	Structure Replacements and OPGW Installation	Under Construction
Line 1637	115	Norwalk	Norwalk	Weston	Weston	06/2025	6.34	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 1714	115	Weston	Weston	UI Ownership		06/2025	12.56	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 1720	115	Norwalk	Norwalk	UI Ownership		06/2025	13.93	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 1222	115	Border (Hawthorne)		Border (Old Town)		06/2025	1.9	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 387	345	Scovill Rock	Middletown	UI Ownership		06/2025	26.87	Structure and PINCO insulator Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1268	115	Plumtree	Bethel	Stony Hill	Brookfield	06/2025	4.19	Copper Conductor and Shield Wire Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1485	115	Stony Hill	Brookfield	Bates Rock	Southbury	06/2025	11.14	Copper Conductor and Shield Wire Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1622	115	Shepaug	Newtown	Bates Rock	Southbury	06/2025	5.42	Copper Conductor and Shield Wire Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1887	115	Shepaug	Newtown	Brookfield Junction	Brookfield	06/2025	6.51	Copper Conductor and Shield Wire Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1690	115	Hanover		Southington		06/2025	5.43	Copper Conductor and	Under Construction

Circuit	kV	From Station	From Town	To Station	To Town	ISD	Mileage	Project Description	Status
								Shield Wire	
				<u> </u>	147 111 6 1	40/0005	45.0	Replacement	<del> </del>
Lines 362	345	Haddam Neck	Haddam	Beseck	Wallingford	12/2025	17.8	Reconductoring	Planned
Lines 376	345	Haddam Neck	Haddam	Scovill Rock	Middletown	12/2025	4.99	Reconductoring	Planned
Lines 1772	115	Haddam	Haddam	P&W Aircraft	Middletown	12/2025	12.45	Reconductoring	Planned
Line 348	345	Millstone	Waterford	Haddam	Haddam	12/2025	26.48	Line Rebuild, Structure Replacements, and OPGW Installation	Planned
Line 364	345	Montville	Montville	Haddam Neck	Haddam	12/2025	22.64	Structure Replacements and OPGW Installation	Under Construction
Line 1580	115	South Naugatuck	Naugatuck	Devon	Milford	12/2025	23.91	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1808	115	Beacon Falls	Beacon Falls	Derby Junction	Oxford	12/2025	14.16	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1403	115	Oxford	Oxford	Towantic	Oxford	12/2025	1.42	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1142	115	Towantic	Oxford	South Naugatuck	Naugatuck	12/2025	7.42	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1319	115	Oxford	Oxford	Beacon Falls	Beacon Falls	12/2025	4.57	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1580	115	South Naugatuck	Naugatuck	Devon	Milford	12/2025	23.91	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 1808	115	Beacon Falls	Beacon Falls	Derby Junction	Oxford	12/2025	14.16	Line Rebuild	Under Construction
Line 1580	115	South Naugatuck	Naugatuck	Devon	Milford	12/2025	23.91	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1483	115	Devon	Milford	UI Ownership		12/2025	5.24	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1545	115	Devon	Milford	UI Ownership		12/2025	4.63	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1710	115	Devon	Milford	Trumbull Junction	Trumbull	12/2025	4.2	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1730	115	Devon	Milford	Trumbull Junction	Trumbull	12/2025	4.31	Line Rebuild	Planned

Circuit	kV	From Station	From Town	To Station	To Town	ISD	Mileage	Project Description	Status
Line 362	345	Haddam Neck	Haddm	Beseck	Wallingford	12/2025	18.4	Structure Replacements and OPGW Installation	Under Construction
Line 3041	345	Scovill Rock	Middletown	Southington	Southington	12/2025	19.28	Structure Replacements	Under Construction
Line 348	345	Millstone	Waterford	Haddam	Haddam	12/2025	26.48	Line Rebuild, Structure Replacements, and OPGW Installation	Proposed
Line 3041	345	Scovill Rock	Middletown	Southington	Southington	12/2025	19.28	Structure and PINCO insulator Replacement	Under Construction
Line 1772	115	Haddam	Haddam	P&W Aircraft	Middletown	10/2026	12.45	Structure Replacements and OPGW Installation	Under Construction
Line 362	345	Haddam Neck	Haddam	Beseck	Wallingford	12/2026	17.8	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 376	345	Haddam Neck	Haddam	Scovill Rock	Middletown	12/2026	4.99	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1772	115	Haddam	Haddam	P&W Aircraft	Middletown	12/2026	12.45	Line Rebuild	Planned
Line 1722	115	NW Hartford	Hartford	SW Hartford	Hartford	12/2026	2.7	Cable Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1704	115	South Meadow	Hartford	SW Hartford	Hartford	12/2026	3.8	Cable Rebuild	Proposed
Line 680	69	Black Rock	New Britain	Burritt	New Britain	2026	0.98	Line Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1670-3	115	Reservoir Junction	New Britain	Black Rock	New Britain	2027	1.13	Line Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1820	115	Southington	Southington	Black Rock	New Britain	2027	6.3	Line Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1830	115	Southington	Southington	Black Rock	New Britain	2027	6.19	Line Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1753	115	Glenbrook	Stamford	Cedar Heights	Stamford	2028	4.89	Cable Rebuild	Planned
Line 1792	115	Glenbrook	Stamford	Cedar Heights	Stamford	2028	4.8	Cable Rebuild	Planned
Line 1270	115	Middle River	Danbury	Triangle	Danbury	2028	3.64	Cable Rebuild	Proposed
Line 1337	115	Middle River	Danbury	Triangle	Danbury	2028	3.66	Cable Rebuild	Proposed

Table 4-2: Eversource Proposed Substation Projects in Connecticut

Substation	Town	ISD	Project Type	Project Description	Status
Southington	Southington	03/2025	Relay Upgrades	115kV Relay Upgrades	Under
					Construction
Enfield	Enfield	04/2025	Transformer	Replace 2X 115/27.6kV 50 MVA transformer with a	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	62.5 MVA transformer.	
Salisbury	Salisbury	08/2025	Transformer	Replace 69/13.2kV 13 MVA transformer with 62.5	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	MVA transformer.	
Campville	Harwinton	09/2025	Relay Upgrades	115kV Relay Upgrades	Planned
Bunker Hill	Waterbury	12/2025	Substation	Addition of three (3) new 115-kV circuit breakers and	Under
			Reconfiguration/Expansion	reconfigure the Bunker Hill 115 kV substation into a	Construction
				six-breaker ring bus including substation	
				modifications.	
Manchester	Manchester	06/2026	Circuit Breaker	345kV Circuit Breaker Replacements	Planned
			Replacements		
Sasco Creek	Westport	2026	Transformer	Replace two 115/27.6kV 15 MVA single-phase 1X and	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	2X transformers with two 115/26.4kV 30 MVA	
				transformers.	
Bokum	Old Saybrook	2026	Transformer	Replace 1X and 2X 115/27.6kV 50 MVA transformers	Planned
			Additions/Replacements	with two 62.5 MVA transformers.	
Beacon Falls	Beacon Falls	2026	Transformer	Replace 1X and 2X 115/13.8kV 46.7 MVA	Planned
			Additions/Replacements	transformers with 62.5 MVA transformers.	
Southington	Southington	2026	Transformer	Add 7X 115/13.8kV 62.5 MVA transformer to increase	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	capacity and improve reliability.	
Franklin Drive	Torrington	2026	Transformer	Replace 4X and 5X 115/13.2kV 25 MVA transformers	Concept
			Additions/Replacements	with 62.5 MVA transformers.	
North Canaan	North Canaan	2026	Transformer	Replace the existing 1X 69/13.8 kV 25 MVA	Concept
			Additions/Replacements	transformer with a 115-69/13.8 kV 40 MVA	
				transformer. Add new feeder position. Replace aging	
				infrastructure.	
Falls Village	Canaan	2026	Substation	Replace 69/13.2kV 25 MVA transformer with 40 MVA	Planned
_			Reconfiguration/Expansion	transformer. Reconfigure existing switchyard by	
				replacing 2 existing and adding 6 new circuit breakers.	
Devon Railroad	Milford	2026	Transformer	Upgrades to the Devon Railroad substation	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	associated with Metro North and CDOT	

Substation	Town	ISD	Project Type	Project Description	Status
Hopewell	Glastonbury	2027	Transformer	Replace 2X and 3X 115/23kV 46.7 MVA transformers	Planned
			Additions/Replacements	with two new 62.5 MVA transformers.	
Glenbrook	Stamford	2027	Transformer	Replace 2X 115/13.2kV 46.7 MVA transformer with	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	62.5 MVA transformer.	
UCONN	Mansfield	2027	New Substation	Conversion of the Card to Mansfield corridor from 69-	Concept
				kV to 115-kV, expansion of the existing Mansfield to a	
				ring bus by the addition of 4 circuit breakers, addition	
				of a tie to a new UCONN substation and associated	
				upgrades	
Enfield	Enfield	2027	Substation	Replace the existing tie breaker with a PASS-M0	Proposed
			Reconfiguration/Expansion	breaker to improve load serving reliability.	
Rocky Hill	Rocky Hill	2027	Substation	Upgrade the substation to increase the substation	Concept
			Reconfiguration/Expansion	load carrying capacity and to address transmission N-	
				1 reliability violations.	
West	Brookfield	2027	Transformer	Replace 1X and 2X 115/13.8kV 25 MVA transformers	Concept
Brookfield			Additions/Replacements	with 62.5 MVA transformers and tie breaker.	
Bloomfield	Bloomfield	2027	Substation	Replace the existing tie breaker with a PASS-M0	Concept
			Reconfiguration/Expansion	breaker to improve load serving reliability.	
Berlin	Berlin	2027	Transformer	Replace 1X and 2X 115/13.8kV 46.7 MVA	Concept
			Additions/Replacements	transformers with two new 62.5 MVA transformers.	
Stevenson	Monroe	2028	Transformer	Replace 1X and 7X 115/27.6kV 30 MVA transformers	Concept
			Additions/Replacements	with new 115/23kV 60 MVA transformers.	
Windsor Locks	Windsor Locks	2029	Substation	Replace the existing tie breaker with two series	Planned
			Reconfiguration/Expansion	breakers to improve load serving reliability.	
Westside	Stamford	2029	Transformer	Replace 1X 115/13.2kV 47 MVA and 3X 42 MVA	Proposed
			Additions/Replacements	transformers with 62.5 MVA transformers and tie	
				breaker.	
Millstone	Waterford	2029	Circuit Breaker	345kV Circuit Breaker Replacements	Under
			Replacements		Construction
Burrville	Torrington	2031	New Substation	New 115 kV bulk substation in Torrington, CT with two	Concept
				62.5 MVA transformers supplied via two 115 kV	
				transmission circuits from the existing transmission	
				circuits at Weingart Road Junction in Harwinton, CT	

## 4.6 Incorporation of Renewables on the Eversource Transmission and Distribution System

There is a significant amount of solar PV and offshore wind development in southern New England that is supported by Eversource's transmission and distribution system in Connecticut.

Solar PV interconnections in Connecticut are increasing at a rapid pace due largely to the LREC/ZREC and other financing programs noted in Section 2.1.1. Two of the most notable transmission interconnected projects are the 175 MW Gravel Pit Solar Project (QP892/940/1030/1247/1357/1507) which is currently partly operational and the 49 MW Quinebaug Solar Project (QP588) which went in service in late 2021. Most PV systems however are interconnecting to the distribution system which is driving the need to modernize the electric distribution system. (PURA Dockets 17-12-03RE01 – 17-12-03RE11).

As of 2/4/2025, there were approximately 1,714 MW of installed DER in Connecticut. The trend toward more PV DER has been consistent over the past decade and is expected to continue. The impact of this growing PV penetration is more pronounced on the distribution system. Several stations, such as Tracy and Frybrook in Eastern Connecticut and Rocky River in Western Connecticut, already have large amounts of online DER with much more in the queue. The technical issues related to high DER penetration at congested stations, especially ones with low load levels, are significant and have the potential to slow DER growth in these areas. Infrastructure upgrades needed to both resolve technical issues and safely, reliably integrate DER at these stations can sometimes be costly. Solutions and incentives that promote proactive infrastructure buildout, optimal DER location, and progressive cost allocation frameworks have the potential to promote renewable growth and integration which is in alignment with the state's comprehensive energy strategy.

Offshore wind interconnections are impacting the Eversource T&D system in Connecticut both as physical interconnections to the grid in Connecticut and as energy contracts with offshore wind projects located in other areas. DEEP, through competitive RFPs, secured offshore wind resources that will provide a percentage of the state's electricity supply, although none of those projects are interconnecting to the electric system in Connecticut.

Deepwater Wind's Revolution Wind project (QP781) is a 704 MW joint venture offshore wind project by Eversource Energy and Ørsted. This project will be interconnected to a switching station in the state of Rhode Island and will provide approximately 5 percent of the electrical supply in the state of Connecticut.

Vineyard Wind's Park City Wind project (QP624) is an 800 MW offshore wind project that was selected as part of the 2019 RFP. This project will make a landfall in Barnstable County, Massachusetts and is expected to provide approximately 14 percent of the electrical supply of the Connecticut.

Other large offshore wind projects have submitted interconnection requests to ISO-NE. Notably, five projects seek to interconnect 1,200 MW each into Eastern Massachusetts, one project seeks to interconnect 1,200 MW into Rhode Island, and three projects seek to interconnect 1,200 MW each into Southeastern Connecticut. These projects combined could provide approximately 35 percent of the electrical supply in the state of Connecticut, but the energy from these projects could be purchased by other states in the region in the same way that Connecticut has purchased energy from projects interconnecting to Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The offshore wind projects in New England are in various levels of regulatory approval, contract negotiations, study, and development. However, the two projects that are selling energy to Connecticut have contracts approved by PURA.

Eversource will continue to monitor and incorporate these projects in the reliability planning of the electrical system in Connecticut. There are activities underway to address the integration of all these

clean energy resources. ISO-NE initiated two cluster studies to address the interconnection of significant amounts of offshore wind on Cape Cod, some of which plans to sell energy to Connecticut. ISO-NE has also performed a pilot study to assess potential modifications to the reliability planning process to address the integration of clean energy resources. Planning assumptions were updated late in 2021 based on the results of the pilot study. CT DEEP's Draft Integrated Resource Plan found that electric transmission is an essential part of integrating enough clean energy to meet state targets, and DEEP has recommended that the region undertake a coordinated, scenario-based approach to planning the future electric grid.