

## Energy Changes Related to COVID-19

### Utility Shut-off Moratoriums/Moratoria:

On March 12, 2020 the CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA), entity that regulates and approves utility rates and other things related to regulated utilities:

1. Ordered a moratorium on all terminations for regulated, residential electric, gas and water utilities during the pendency of the Civil Preparedness Emergency declared by Governor Lamont on March 10, 2020.

On March 18, 2020 PURA issued additional orders to assist utility customers:

1. Regulated utilities (gas, water, electric) are to refrain from terminating utility service to all non-residential customer classes;
2. Regulated utilities may Not require any financial security deposits or balance reduction payments in order for restoration of utility service until May 1, 2020, or until such other time as determined by PURA;
3. PURA shall require the utilities to maintain a detailed record of costs incurred and revenues lost, as a result of Orders 1-3.

### Regulated Utilities:

- Gas: Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and Eversource
- Electric: Connecticut Light & Power Company (Eversource) and the United Illuminating Company

- Water: Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, the Avon Water Company, the Connecticut Water Company, the Hazardville Water Company, Heritage Village Water Company, the Jewett City Water Company, the Torrington Water Company, Valley Water Systems Inc., Old Newgate Ridge Water Company Inc., and Preston Plains Water Company

**Remember:** These orders differ from the annual Winter Moratorium (shut-off protection) for financial and medical hardship gas and electric customers (Nov. 1-May1) in that they include prohibition of termination, and require restoration of services by regulated water utilities as well.

PURA noted that its rulings only apply to regulated utilities, but that other utilities have been adopting similar policies. (Each unregulated utility should have information on its website.)

### **Connecticut Energy Assistance Changes:**

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

Administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS) through community agencies

1. Change – **increase** in funding through 2021:
  - Federal Stimulus package provided an additional \$900 M to states
  - CT has not yet been told what its allocation will be
  - DSS will decide how the monies will be distributed but welcomes input
2. Change – application date for energy assistance extended:
  - New application deadline is June 1 (prior date May 1)
3. Change – heating fuel delivery date extended
  - New deadline is April 30 (prior date April 1)

### **Other Providers - Internet Providers:**

According to the Governor's office, virtually every internet provider in Connecticut has pledged not to terminate service and to waive any late fees for

both residential and small business customers due to an inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. These providers have also pledged to open all Wi-Fi hotspots to the general public. This applies to the following internet providers in Connecticut: Comcast, Frontier, Altice (Optimum), Charter (Spectrum), Cox, Atlantic, Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, and others. A full list can be found at: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363033A1.pdf>.