

# PURA Quarterly Newsletter

2022

Q4



Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

# PURA Outlook

## January 3, 2023

The beginning of each new year brings the excitement of opportunity and possibility; 2023 is no different. This year, PURA is excited to launch a new initiative called the Innovative Energy Solutions (IES) Program aimed at deploying novel solutions to provide electric customers value at scale. We also look forward to implementing enhancements to offerings such as the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions program that focus on lowering barriers to entry for low- and moderate-income customers, as well as expanded options for multifamily buildings in the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Program.

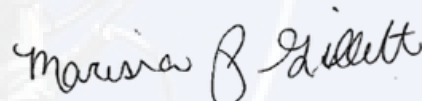
This year will also see the launch or continued implementation of other solutions identified through PURA's Equitable Modern Grid (EMG) initiative. Of the eleven investigations that comprise the EMG initiative, PURA has completed nine to date, inclusive of the IES and EV Charging Programs. Additionally, in 2023, PURA will begin reviewing the electric utilities' maintenance and vegetation management work through the lens of the first ever Reliability and Resilience Framework adopted last August. PURA and its stakeholders will also develop the final implementation details of the state's inaugural Non-Wires Solutions process to ensure third-party competition on the electric distribution grid, where appropriate, and to drive lower cost, innovative approaches to electric sector investments. The progress made in 2023 on these fronts will improve the long-term cost-effectiveness and equity of electric sector outcomes for all Connecticut ratepayers.

While my colleagues and I are proud of the work accomplished in 2022 to ensure long-term improvements to the electric system and increased value for Connecticut's ratepayers, as well as our planned efforts for 2023, everyone at PURA recognizes more progress is urgently needed, particularly for those struggling the most with a high energy burden. Indeed, the volatility of the regional electric market is projected to yield unprecedented electric supply rates effective January 1 to June 30 as a result of the region's reliance on natural gas generation and the global economic dynamics. In response, PURA approved measures to provide relief this winter, first announced by Governor Ned Lamont in his Short-Term Customer Relief Plan last month, including:

- Fast-tracked bill credits of around \$10 a month through April to all customers from earnings on a long-term power contract with Millstone Power Station;
- Directed \$8.7 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative proceeds to be distributed as bill credits to customer through April; and
- Approved an interim 10% discount for financial hardship customers starting in January 2023, until the new PURA-approved low-income discount rate goes into effect in 2024.

Nonetheless, there is more work to be done, both in the short- and long-term, on the topic of fuel diversity and supply rates. As a first step, PURA will hold a joint Technical Meeting on January 3rd with our colleagues in Massachusetts to understand how the electric utilities can better prepare for and protect customers from surges in electric supply prices. Additionally, during this upcoming legislative session, PURA is committed to supporting any reasonable measures aimed at giving Connecticut's ratepayers the resources and support they need.

2023 represents a year of new opportunities. PURA stands committed to redoubling our efforts both in the PURA hearing room and in other venues to effectuate changes to improve the lives of all Connecticut ratepayers.



Marissa P. Gillett  
Chairman

If you are struggling to pay your energy bills this winter, know that there are multiple resources and programs available to help you. Contact your utility company to learn more about all your options to make your bill more affordable.

# Q4 Docket Decisions

## ELECTRIC SECTOR

- 22-08-02 - Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2
- 22-06-03 - GB II New Haven LLC Application to Establish 2023 Revenue Requirements
- 22-08-03 - Annual Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2
- 22-06-01- 2021 RPS Compliance Review
- 22-08-33 - Application Of Eversource Energy for Approval of The Issuance of Long-Term Debt
- 22-03-16 - Investigation into the United Illuminating Company and Eversource Energy Regarding Collections Practices During the Covid-19 Moratorium
- 22-08-04 - Annual Shared Clean Energy Facility Program Review – Year 4
- 22-08-14 - Petition Of Nupower Cherry Street Fc LLC For a Declaratory Ruling Concerning the Installation of Master Metering at The Cherry Street Lofts Property
- 22-06-02 - GenConn Energy LLC Application to Establish 2023 Revenue Requirements
- 22-10-13 - Petition of FuelCell Energy, Inc. for Declaratory Ruling Concerning a Project Selected During the Year 2 Solicitation of the Shared Clean Energy Facility Program
- 22-08-16 - 2022 PURA Report to The General Assembly on Electric Distribution Company System Reliability
- 22-09-08 - PURA Proceeding to Consolidate Guidance on The Rate Adjustment Mechanism Docket Procedures and Filings



# Q4 Docket Decisions



## GRID MODERNIZATION

- 22-05-01 - 2022 Energy Affordability Annual Review
- 17-12-03RE11 - New Rate Designs & Rate Review
- 17-12-03RE07 - Non Wires Alternatives
- 22-08-06 - Annual Review of the Electric Vehicle Charging Program - Year 2
- 22-08-05 - Annual Energy Storage Solutions Program Review - Year 2



## WATER SECTOR

- 22-08-18 - Application Of Aquarion Water Company to Dispose Of 4.69 Acres of Unimproved Real Property Located At 5 Old Turnpike Road, Bethel, Connecticut
- 12-07-07W117 - Application of Hazardville Water Company for a Water Infrastructure Conservation Adjustment Semi Annual Filing Report



## GAS SECTOR

- 22-04-37 - Application Of the SCG for Approval of The Sale of Improved Land in Orange, Connecticut
- 22-08-21 - Assessment of Civil Penalty Against Norbert E. Mitchell Co., Inc. for Pipeline Safety Violations
- 22-09-01 - CBYD Proposed Budget for CY 2023
- 22-03-03 - Review Of The 2021 System Expansion Reconciliation Mechanisms Filed By: CNG, SCG, and Yankee Gas Services Company



## TELECOMM SECTOR (+ UTILITY POLES)

- 21-07-29 - Single Visit Transfer Process for Double Poles



# Electric Sector

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

### 22-08-02

#### Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2

- Review of key RRES program metrics to ensure that the program is on track to deliver at least historic deployment levels and to approve modifications to better align the program with its objectives.
- Approves an increase to the adder provided to LMI participants; implements multifamily housing eligibility starting in 2023 and expands the previously-approved multifamily affordable housing eligibility to include naturally occurring affordable housing; and approves automatic enrollment in the income eligibility and distressed municipality adders.
- Improves the accessibility of LMI customers to renewable energy in Connecticut.

### 22-08-03

#### Annual Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2

- Review of key NRES program metrics to ensure that the program is on track to deliver at least historic deployment levels, and to approve modifications to better align the program with its objectives.
- Adopts the Public Act 22-14 language increasing the total annual megawatts from 60 MW to 110 MW; increasing the allowable bidding size for projects, and allowing participants to use all available rooftop space.
- Adds a solar canopy and carport bid preference to encourage the preservation of undeveloped land.
- Requires updates hosting capacity maps regarding available grid capacity before upgrades are required.

### 22-06-03

#### GB II New Haven LLC Application to Establish 2023 Revenue Requirements

- By statute, the peaking project developers are required to demonstrate revenue requirements on an annual basis to recover their expenses, taxes, interest costs, and their respective return on capital. This docket covered the revenue requirement for 1/1/2023-12/31/2023.
- Generation Bridge (GB) II filed an application requesting approval of a revenue requirement amount of \$20.183 million.
- PURA approved an annual fixed revenue requirement of \$17.8 million and directed the Company to bid into the Summer 2023 and Winter 2023/2024 Locational Forward Reserve Market.

# Electric Sector

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

### 22-08-33

#### **Application Of Eversource Energy for Approval of The Issuance of Long-Term Debt**

- Eversource submitted an application to issue mortgage bonds or unsecured notes up to \$2 billion through 12/31/2026.
- Eversource also submitted an alternative proposal of up to \$1.150 billion through 12/31/2024.
- PURA approves the second proposal as it is more conducive to the financial issues the Authority examines when reviewing debt issuance under CGS 16-43(b).

### 22-08-04

#### **Annual Shared Clean Energy Facility Program Review – Year 4**

- Approves SCEF Program Manual, appendix B, price caps, and bid preferences for year 4 of the program.
- Incorporates Public Act 22-14 definition changes to low- and moderate-income customer thresholds.
- Introduces new solar canopy definition and a modified brownfield definition to improve transparency and clarity.
- Improves hosting capacity maps to show accurate, up-to-date information for developers.

### 22-03-16

#### **Petition of the Office of Consumer Counsel for an Investigation into the United Illuminating Company and Eversource Energy Regarding Collections Practices During the COVID-19 Moratorium**

- Investigates whether the public service utilities violated any statutes or orders, particularly those established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the utility shut-off moratorium.
- PURA found that some companies engaged in concerning collections practices.
- Decision summarizes the collections activities of each public service company highlighting disparate treatment of customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Docket No. 22-03-16RE01 settled the violations by the Avangrid companies found by the Authority in the Decision of Docket No. 22-03-16. Settlement for \$3.3 million will be immediately disbursed to Operation Fuel.

# Electric Sector

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

**22-06-02**

### **GenConn Energy LLC Application to Establish 2023 Revenue Requirements**

- By statute, the peaking project developers are required to demonstrate revenue requirements on an annual basis to recover their expenses, taxes, interest costs, and their respective return on capital. This docket covers the revenue requirement for 1/1/2023-12/31/2023.
- The PURA-approved ratemaking methodology, which was previously appealed by GennConn and affirmed by the Connecticut Superior Court in January of 2022, results in a savings of \$8.214 million for customers.
- Approves a 2023 Revenue Requirement amount of \$43.979 million using the approved methodology and confirms the participation of these units during peak periods in the Summer 2023 and the Winter 2023-2024 Locational Forward Reserve Market.

**22-09-08**

### **Proceeding to Consolidate Guidance on The Rate Adjustment Mechanism Docket Procedures & Filings**

- Ensures all applicable orders from prior Rate Adjustment Mechanism proceedings are captured in a clear, consistent manner by consolidating and standardizing the existing framework for future proceedings.
- Directs the EDCs to adopt standard file formats and naming conventions for compliance filings.
- Establishes an index of exhibits common to both Eversource and UI to improve PURA's and docket participants' abilities to comprehensively and timely review materials.

**22-08-16**

### **2022 PURA Report to The General Assembly on Electric Distribution Company System Reliability**

- Each EDC is statutorily required to report reliability data exclusive of outages caused by major storms or scheduled outages by October 1 each year to PURA.
- PURA must report this data for each company, and the state as a whole, to the Energy & Technology Committee by the following January 1st.
- PURA provides the Committee with data regarding outages both with and without major storms.



# Grid Modernization

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

### 22-05-01

#### 2022 Energy Affordability Annual Review

- Annual review of electric and gas companies' joint arrearage forgiveness program proposal.
- Helps reduce uncollectibles by providing more flexible eligibility criteria, which will allow more customers to make monthly on time payments.
- Winter Protection began on 11/1/2022 and goes through 5/1/2023.
- Directs CL&P and UI to use third-party data auto enrolling income-eligible customers for Winter Protection by coding past due balances with hardship designation.

### 17-12-03RE11

#### New Rate Designs & Rate Review- LIDR

- As authorized by Public Act 20-5, PURA directs the EDCs to establish a two-tiered LIDR for low-income customers at or below 60% SMI by 1/1/2024.
- Customers < 60% are eligible for a 10% discount (Tier 1). Enrollment occurs either through EDC auto-enrollment of identified eligible customers or through customers contacting their EDC or CAA.
- Customers < 150% of FPL are eligible for a 50% discount (Tier 2). Enrollment occurs by contacting EDC or CAA.
- Designed to provide direct assistance to help customers limit their household energy burden to 6% of their household income, and reduce uncollectible costs borne by all ratepayers.

### 17-12-03RE07

#### Non-Wires Alternatives

- Establishes a transparent process for the EDCs to capture the competitive benefits of non-wires solutions (NWS) to meeting distribution system needs.
- Lays out transparent stakeholder and analytical processes that build upon existing prudence review practices to launch the NWS Program in 2025.
- Provides the EDCs with an incentive to pursue non-wires solutions that will ultimately save ratepayers money and provide better societal outcomes.





# Grid Modernization

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

### 22-08-06

#### Annual Review of the Electric Vehicle Charging Program – Year 2

- Annual review of the EV Charging Program to ensure it is continuing to meet objectives and deployment goals.
- Modified the managed charging program for single family residential customers, establishing a Baseline Tier with passive demand charging and summer demand response events, and an Advanced Tier that allows direct load control by the EDCs to maximize grid services.
- Establishes a managed charging program for light duty fleets and a managed charging pilot for multi-unit dwellings.
- Also provides direction on establishing a level 2 EV charging lease program for multi-unit dwellings.
- Establishes new tariffs for separately metered DCFC and level 2 chargers serving light duty fleets.

### 22-08-05

#### Annual Energy Storage Solutions Program Review – Year 2

- Annual review of the Energy Storage Solutions Program to ensure it is continuing to meet objectives and deployment goals.
- Provides new guidance on the future front-of-the-meter (FTM) storage program related to interconnection issues and establishes a working group to focus on future FTM incentives and tariff designs.
- Increases the low-income and underserved community adders in incentive steps two and three.
- Imposes an upfront incentive cap of 150% of customer peak load or 2MW, whichever is greater.
- Directs program administrators to develop an active managed charging program to maximize emissions benefits of the program starting in 2024.

# Water Sector

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

**22-08-18**

**Application Of Aquarion Water Company to Dispose Of 4.69 Acres of Unimproved Real Property Located At 5 Old Turnpike Road, Bethel, Connecticut**

- Request to donate 4.69 acres not currently used by the company to the town of Bethel for use as open space.
- Property was acquired in 2012 for the water supply well, which was later abandoned in 2016.
- Authority finds that the property is not necessary or useful in the company's duty or service.
- PURA determines that 50% of the net tax benefit from the donation is distributed to shareholders and 50% to ratepayers.

**12-07-07W117**

**Application of Hazardville Water Company for a Water Infrastructure Conservation Adjustment Semi Annual Filing Report**

- Authority found that the two completed projects were installed by 12/31/2021 and will benefit customers and are eligible for WICA.
- Also approves five new WICA projects at an estimated cost of \$1.53 million.
- Authorizes a total Water Infrastructure Conservation Adjustment (WICA) surcharge of 7.83% on customer bills for Hazardville Water Company to recover \$2.85 million in WICA-eligible project costs in 2023.
- Complies with the requirement that WICA charges shall not exceed 10% of company's annual retail water revenues.

# Natural Gas Sector

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

### 22-04-37

#### Application Of the Southern Connecticut Gas Company for Approval of The Sale of Improved Land in Orange, Connecticut

- SCG is relocating its employees, materials, and equipment from this location and submitted an application to sell it.
- PURA found that the parcel was not essential to the franchise and approved the sale of 14.1 acre parcel in Orange, CT by SCG for \$11 million. However, PURA will further consider the prudence of this sale in the next SCG rate case.

### 22-09-01

#### Call Before You Dig (CBYD) Proposed Budget for CY 2023

- CBYD proposed CY 2023 budget of \$2.544 million, which is a 2.4% increase over the prior year; this includes the cost of funding a new “Coastal Waters” ticket, which will enable CBYD to identify and locate facilities crossing the Long Island Sound.
- Authority finds that the Board of CBYD has taken steps to maximize the effectiveness of the CBYD program and its activities at the lowest possible cost.
- Finds the proposal to be sufficient and reasonable for CBYD to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and approves the budget.

### 22-03-03

#### Review Of The 2021 System Expansion Reconciliation Mechanisms Filed By: Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and Yankee Gas Services Company

- Examines the SER rates proposed by the companies to determine if they are consistent with the Gas Expansion Decision in Docket No. 13-06-02.
- Approves only SEP marketing costs that were incurred before the 2022 SEP Modification Decision in Docket No. 21-08-24 ordered the companies to cease marketing activities on April 27, 2022.
- Approves each company’s Hurdle Rate Calculation Methodology, but directs the companies to use a 15-year payback period to balance impacts on new and existing customers.
- Approves each company’s 2021 SER filing but rejected the recovery of any carrying costs associated with Avangrid’s accounting errors.

# Telecomm Sector (+ Poles)

## Q4 Major Decision Summaries

21-07-29

### Single Visit Transfer Process for Double Poles

- Double poles present safety hazards, and operational and aesthetic issues.
- There is a substantial backlog of delayed double poles awaiting removal and an increase in new ones.
- Implements a program in which one contractor transfers multiple facilities on a pole in one visit to efficiently remove double poles.
- Directs pole custodians and attachers to transfer their attachments and remove bare poles within 45 days of notification, or risk being subjected to civil penalties.

[Click here for more information on how to participate](#)

# Q1 Upcoming Procedural Events



## Planned Procedural Meetings

Date	Docket No.	Docket Name	Event & Registration
1/3/2023 10:00am	<a href="#">17-12-03RE10</a>	PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies – Building Blocks of Resource Adequacy and Clean Electric Supply	<a href="#">Tech Meeting #3</a>
1/4/2023 10:30am	<a href="#">22-08-02</a>	Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2	<a href="#">Tech Meeting</a>
1/11/2023 1:00pm	<a href="#">22-10-07</a>	PURA Proceeding to Investigate Waste-to-Energy Pursuant to Special Act No. 22-11	<a href="#">Tech Meeting #3</a>
1/24/2023 2:00pm	<a href="#">22-08-07</a>	Innovative Energy Solutions Program Cycle 1	<a href="#">Information Session</a>
2/1/2023 11:00am	<a href="#">21-05-15</a>	PURA Investigation into a Performance-Based Regulation Framework for the Electric Distribution Companies	<a href="#">Stakeholder Workshop #4</a>
2/17/2023– 3/2/2023	<a href="#">22-08-08</a>	Application of the United Illuminating Company to Amend its Rate Schedule	Hearings – In Person
3/21/2023– 3/23/2023	<a href="#">28-08-08</a>	Application of the United Illuminating Company to Amend its Rate Schedule	Late File Exhibit Hearings – In Person
3/29/2023 12:30pm	<a href="#">17-10-34RE01</a>	Appeal Petition Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 16-235 Aquarion Water Tank, Westport, CT – Project Review	<a href="#">Hearing</a>

## Planned Final Opportunities to Comment

Date	Docket	Docket Title	Event Type
2/15/2023	21-05-15	PURA Investigation into a Performance-Based Regulation Framework for the Electric Distribution Companies	Written Comments/Briefs Due

## PURA Regular Meeting Dates & Planned Final Decisions

Regular Meeting Date	Docket No.	Docket Title
01/04/2023	18-08-14RE01	PURA Review of the Combined Heat and Power Project Solicitation Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-258e – Request to Modify Order No. 4
2/8/2023	21-12-21	PURA Implementation of Process and Procedures for Conduit Excavations for Telecommunications Service Providers and Broadband Internet Access Service Providers
3/15/2023	22-07-01	Application of Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut to Amend Its Rate Schedule
	22-10-05	Petition of Sunnova Energy Corporation for A Declaratory Ruling Regarding Ownership of Capacity Rights Re: Class I Renewable Energy Sources Participating in the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program
3/22/2023	21-01-03	PURA Annual Review of the Rate Adjustment Mechanisms of The Connecticut Light and Power Company
3/29/2023	22-11-01	2022 PURA Report to the General Assembly Regarding the State of Electric Competition
	22-06-29	PURA Investigation Into Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection Cost Allocation

**[Click here to file comments or other documents into a docket](#)**

# PURA In the News

## 10/13/2022 CT News Junkie

[PURA Approves Matching Payment Program For Winter 2022-23](#)

## 10/20/22 Westchester & Fairfield County Business Journal

[PURA creates new tier to help lower-income households with electric bills](#)

## 10/21/2022 CT Examiner

[State Regulators Approve Discounted Electricity for Lower-Income Customers](#)

## 10/21/2022 Hartford Business Journal

[Verde Energy suspended from CT energy market for 7 years, ordered to pay \\$1.5M](#)

## 11/1/2022 Connecticut Post

[CT utility companies fined \\$4.48 million for bill collection practices during COVID](#)

## 12/21/2022 Connecticut Public Radio

[Fix approved for 'unintended consequence' that locked some CT residents into service with Eversource](#)

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