Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation
The Southern Connecticut Gas Company

Witness: Stephanie Chasse
Kathleen Wasilnak

Docket No. 26-05-01

Date Submitted: June 29, 2026

CAE-016 Q:

Prior Period MPP Insights, p. 7. Explain further the statement that "[p]ayments made to [Community Action Agencies (CAAs)] for completing [Below Budget Worksheets (BBWs)] do not include customers who were not required to complete a BBW in order to receive a below budget payment." (emphasis added)

CAE-016 A:

The Companies' statement refers to accounts receiving a Below Budget Plan payment amount that were excluded from payments to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) for completion of Below Budget Worksheets (BBWs) because no BBW was required for those customers.

As established in the September 30, 2020 Final Decision in Docket No. 20-07-04, certain customers are to be automatically placed on a Below Budget Plan (BBP) amount without completion of a BBW. Specifically, Section III.B. (p. 15) states:

"Furthermore, the Companies should continue with their current procedure of automatically enrolling a customer on BBW payment for three years. This, too, alleviates the cost for BBW evaluations, but ensures customers that are eligible for a BBW receive the lower payment."

In addition, Order No. 3 provides:

"No later than November 1, 2020, customers receiving the government benefits described in Section III.B. shall automatically receive a Below Budget Worksheet payment amount."

These requirements are also reflected in the Companies' Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the CAAs, which provide that customers receiving certain government benefits, as identified in Exhibit B, are assigned a $50 Monthly Payment Plan amount without the need for a BBW. The MOUs further provide that CAAs are not to complete or submit BBWs for those customers and instead notify Avangrid through the commitment files. In addition, if a customer was approved for a $50 Below Budget payment and received Energy Assistance during the prior program year, Avangrid will automatically enroll that customer at the same $50 MPP amount in the new program year for up to three years, after which the customer's financial status must be reevaluated.

Accordingly, the payments made to CAAs for completing BBWs do not include customers who were automatically assigned a BBP amount under these requirements, because no BBW was completed or required for those customers.