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September 2, 2026

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

Re: Docket No. 26-05-10 – Application of CL&P dba Eversource Energy to Amend its Rate Schedule

Dear Commissioners:

The Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") respectfully submits this objection to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("Authority") regarding Motion No. 38, where The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") filed a proposed, revised compensation policy for Emergency Response Plan ("ERP") awards in compliance with Order No. 3 in Docket No. 25-12-13.

Order No. 3 stated, "No later than August 31, 2026, the Company shall, in consultation with the OCC, submit to the Authority for review and approval a revised compensation policy that permits ERP Awards only for ERP Level 3 events or more severe, consistent to the greatest extent possible with its New Hampshire and Massachusetts affiliates, and that excludes a minimum of nine overtime hours before an ERP Award applies, as discussed in Section III.F.2.b, Exempt Employee Emergency Response Plan Payments." Docket No. 25-12-13, Final Decision dated July 29, 2026, p. 144. The Decision explained that the Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement ("EOE") "observes that the Company's Massachusetts and New Hampshire affiliates permit ERP Awards only for events at ERP Level 3 or more severe and questions why the Company applies a less stringent standard in Connecticut." *Id*. at p. 67. The Decision then explains, "In response, the Company states that the comparison is inapt because its affiliates operate in different regulatory environments, are subject to different storm-response requirements, and do not define storm events in the same manner." *Id*.

Contrary to Eversource's position in Motion No. 38, the Authority did not fail to understand the difference between jurisdictions. The Authority acknowledged Eversource's argument (explained it, even) and rejected it, instructing Eversource to file "a revised compensation policy for the Authority's review and approval that: (1) permits ERP Awards only for ERP Level 3 events or lower (i.e., more severe events), consistent with the Company's New

Hampshire and Massachusetts affiliates; and (2) excludes a minimum of nine overtime hours before an ERP Award applies." *Id*. The Decision appeared to accept OCC's and EOE's arguments that an overly generous ERP Award program and paying salaried employees excessive overtime does not benefit ratepayers, and accordingly, instructed Eversource to trigger ERP awards only at a Level 3 event or above. Therefore, it is irrelevant if Eversource "does not support Order No. 3's change to the policy." Motion No. 38, p. 4. Eversource had its opportunity to oppose the Decision and that opportunity has passed.

It appears to OCC that the current proposal does not comply with what the Authority ordered in Docket No. 25-12-13 and the Authority could deny Motion No. 38 as filed and either require Eversource to refile a proposal that aligns with Order No. 3 – permitting ERP Awards for only Level 3 or lower and excluding the first nine hours of overtime – or unilaterally revise the proposal to comply with Order No. 3. This would save the Authority from unnecessarily readjudicating an issue it decided only one month ago. Alternatively, OCC will continue to adjudicate this issue if the Authority incorporates it into this proceeding.[1]

Respectfully submitted,

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

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[1] If the Authority is incorporating this topic into the rate case, then it might need to clarify the current state of ERP Awards. The parties demonstrated in Docket No. 25-12-13 that Eversource's current ERP Award policy was not approved by the Authority and the Authority removed awards that were inconsistent with the July 2019 revision; therefore, presumably, the July 2019 revision should govern the storms in this proceeding.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on this day the foregoing document was filed with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and copies thereof were served upon each person designated on the official service list in this proceeding in accordance with R.C.S.A. § 16-1-15.

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut this 2nd day of September, 2026.

/s/ *Andrew W. Minikowski*
Commissioner of the Superior Court