Date Filed: October 22, 2026

Witness: Douglas P. Horton
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

Provide the current CL&P franchise agreement.

Response:

CL&P acquired the authority to provide electric distribution service within its service territory through numerous special legislative acts, including special legislative acts that conferred such rights on several predecessor utility companies such as the Hartford Electric Light Company, the Connecticut Railway & Lighting Company, the Northern Connecticut Power Company and the Housatonic Power Company that CL&P acquired through a series of mergers and consolidations. For example, Connecticut Light & Power Co. v. Costello, 161 Conn. 430, 433 (1971) (stating CL&P's "corporate existence stems from the charter granted to The Rocky River Power Company in 1905 by special act of the legislature. 14 Spec.Laws p. 860. In 1917, The Rocky River Power Company was authorized [by a special legislative act] to acquire the property and franchises of The Housatonic Power Company and to change its name to The Connecticut Light and Power Company. 17 Spec.Laws p. 833.")

As a result, CL&P's "franchise rights" are not located within a single "franchise agreement". Instead, the franchise rights are contained within numerous special legislative acts that were granted by the legislature to CL&P and the predecessor utility companies CL&P acquired by merger and consolidation over the past approximately 130 years. Please refer to OCC-964 Attachment 1, for CL&P's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. Table A to that Certificate of Incorporation in Attachment 1 hereto, at pages 22-89, lists the numerous special legislative acts that granted franchise rights to CL&P and the predecessor utilities that CL&P acquired by merger and consolidation.