STATE OF CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

October 30, 2026
In reply, please refer to:
Docket No. 26-05-10
Motion No. 88

Andrew Minikowski, Esq.
Agency Legal Director
Office of Consumer Counsel
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 26-05-10 – Application of The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend its Rate Schedules

Dear Attorney Minikowski:

On October 15, 2026, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) submitted a motion (Motion No. 88) to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA). In Motion No. 88, OCC requests the Authority find good cause for OCC to spend up to $500,000 on consultants in this proceeding, a contested proceeding to review the application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Company or Eversource) amend its existing rate schedules. The motion is granted.[1]

General Statutes § 16-18a(a) provides, in relevant part:

> In the performance of their duties . . . the Office of Consumer Counsel may retain consultants . . . in proceedings before the authority by providing expertise in areas in which staff expertise does not currently exist or when necessary to supplement existing staff expertise. In any case where the . . . the Office of Consumer Counsel determines that the services of a consultant are necessary or desirable, the authority shall (1) allow opportunity for the parties and participants to the proceeding for which the services of a consultant are being considered to comment regarding the necessity or desirability of such services, (2) upon the request of a party or participant to the proceeding for which the services of a consultant are being considered, hold a hearing, and (3) limit the reasonable and proper expenses for such services to not more than two hundred thousand dollars for each agency per proceeding involving a public service company . . . provided . . . the Office of Consumer Counsel may exceed such limits for good cause. . . .

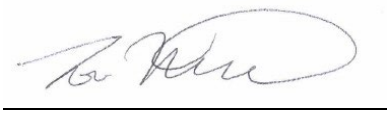
[1] This ruling is issued by the undersigned. A motion for full panel review of this ruling by the commissioners assigned to this docket may be filed within 14 days of this ruling.

By motion dated May 21, 2026, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) notified the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) that it determined that it is necessary and desirable to retain one or more consultants, pursuant to General Statutes § 16-18a to supplement or complement its existing staff expertise in the rate case. Motion No. 1, p. 1. OCC stated that its expenses for such services will comply with the statutory limitations set forth in General Statutes § 16-18a. Motion No. 1, p. 1. On June 3, 2026, the Authority provided parties and intervenors the opportunity to comment on OCC's retention of a consultant. Notice of Opportunity to Comment, June 3, 2026, p. 1.

In Motion No. 88, OCC states that good cause exists to exceed the statutory limit of $250,000 because (1) "OCC and its consultants must review the previous eight years of costs incurred by Eversource, in addition to the next four years of proposed costs included in Eversource's request," (2) "OCC and its consultants must examine Eversource's proposed performance based rate design, which differs significantly from that discussed" previously, (3) "OCC must examine substantiation associated with fourteen different storms (filings so voluminous Eversource originally indicated it was too difficult to redact them)," (4) "consultant pricing has significantly increased over recent years," "the $200,000 per-docket limit was established . . . on May 5, 1992, and has never been increased," and "[t]he present inflation-adjusted value of $200,000 in May of 1992 is approximately $479,570." Motion No. 88, pp. 1–2. Accordingly, "OCC respectfully requests that the Authority expand the amount that OCC can spend on consultants in this proceeding to up to $500,000." Id., p. 3.

The Authority finds that good cause exists for OCC to exceed the limit of $200,000 to retain consultants in this proceeding. Accordingly, Motion No. 88 is granted.

By the following commissioner,



Thomas H. Wiehl
Chairman

cc: Service List