The Office of Consumer Counsel

Public Hearing Presentation

Docket No. 26-05-10
Application of the Connecticut Light and Power Company
d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend Its Rate Schedules

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About the OCC

- The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is an independent state agency with statutory responsibility to represent customers of Connecticut's regulated utilities – electric, gas, water, and telecommunications providers – primarily in matters that go before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).

Electric 

Gas 

Water 

Telephone 

Cable television* 

- The OCC is authorized to participate on behalf of consumer interests in all administrative and judicial forums and in any matters in which the interests of consumers with respect to public utility matters may be involved.

Overview:

- What are rate cases and what is included in distribution rates?
- Who are the parties involved and what are their respective roles?
- What is the process of a utility rate case?
- How can the public participate and follow along?
- Where are we currently in the process of Eversource’s rate case and what happens next?

Purpose of a rate case

- **Utilities are regulated monopolies**. They provide an essential public service – the provision of electricity – and have been granted the exclusive right to serve on condition of regulatory oversight.

- A **rate case** is a formal process where a utility company seeks approval from PURA, its regulator, to adjust its rates for distribution services.

- **PURA** determines the amount the utility is legally entitled to recover for costs incurred to provide safe, reliable service, and a reasonable rate of return consistent with constitutional and state law requirements.

What Is Included in the Local Delivery Category of My Bill?

The costs Eversource incurs in building, maintaining, and operating the distribution grid, including their authorized return, or profit. During a rate case we evaluate costs related to:

- Utility Infrastructure (including depreciation)
- Operating Income, e.g. Employees, Payroll Benefits, Expenses…
- Vegetation Management
- Storm Response Costs
- Taxes
- Return on Equity/Rate of Return

Eversource's Requested Increase for Local delivery services

- Eversource is seeking the **largest electric utility rate increase in Connecticut history:**
- **Includes $727 million in new revenue on top of its current revenue:**
  - **$451 million** in base distribution rates
  - **$276 million** in deferred storm costs
- If Approved in full, the local **Delivery** portion of the bill would **increase by about 50% -- increasing the average residential customer's bill by approximately $33 per month**

OCC is recommending significant cuts to these increases –
final recommendations will be submitted to PURA after discovery and hearings conclude.

OCC's job in a rate case is to protect and advance the interests of customers of regulated utilities.

Our **focus** is on affordability, reliability, resiliency, leveraging cost-effective advanced technologies and grid modernization, customer empowerment, and fair rate designs.

We achieve this by:

- Examining company evidence
  - OCC has issued over 1,000 interrogatories to date
  - Cross-examining company witnesses
- Submitting counter-evidence to PURA:
  - Utilizing experts to assist with challenging costs and projects we deem unreasonable
- Recommending the best alternative and outcome for customers, including:
  - ensuring capital investments are cost-effective
  - performance-based metrics, incentives & penalties
  - reducing utility profits

Roles in Rate Proceedings

- **Parties:**
  - **Utility Company:** Requests a rate change and has the burden of justifying the request
  - **Office of Consumer Counsel:** Statutory Ratepayer Advocate
  - **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection** (DEEP): State Energy & Environmental Agency
  - **PURA's Office of Education, Outreach & Enforcement (EOE)**: The "ex parte" rules that apply to PURA's decisional staff do not apply to EOE, meaning ratepayers and other parties may pose questions and concerns to the office.
- **Intervenors:** Formal participants representing a particular perspective:
  - The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is an intervenor in this proceeding
  - Commercial & Industrial Energy Consumers; Environmental and clean energy advocates are also intervenors, among others
- **Customers:** Share how the proposal would affect them through comments and testimony
- **PURA**: Reviews the evidence and makes the final decision

Process of a rate case



Evidentiary Hearings & Technical Meetings

In-person or virtual meetings held to gather information for the record, and for parties to present their arguments and comments to PURA.



Briefs

Written submissions to PURA in which parties and intervenors advocate for their position or the outcome of the proceeding that they want.

Draft Decision

PURA's preliminary decision in a docket

*in response to draft decisions, participants in the docket may file written exceptions to express disagreement or concern with a specific component of the draft decision

Written Exceptions

Written exceptions can be in the form of a letter or brief to PURA, and alert PURA to any mistakes it might have made in the draft decision.



Final Decision

PURA presents their decision to approve or deny a rate change amendment application during one of their Regular Meetings.

What happens next?

- Your oral comments become part of the official record
  - Submit written comments to Pura.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov
- Discovery continues with additional evidence submitted and considered
- OCC and other parties review the application, cross-examine company witnesses and submit a final brief to PURA
- PURA considers the full record before making a final decision

Next Public Hearings:

23 NOV

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.

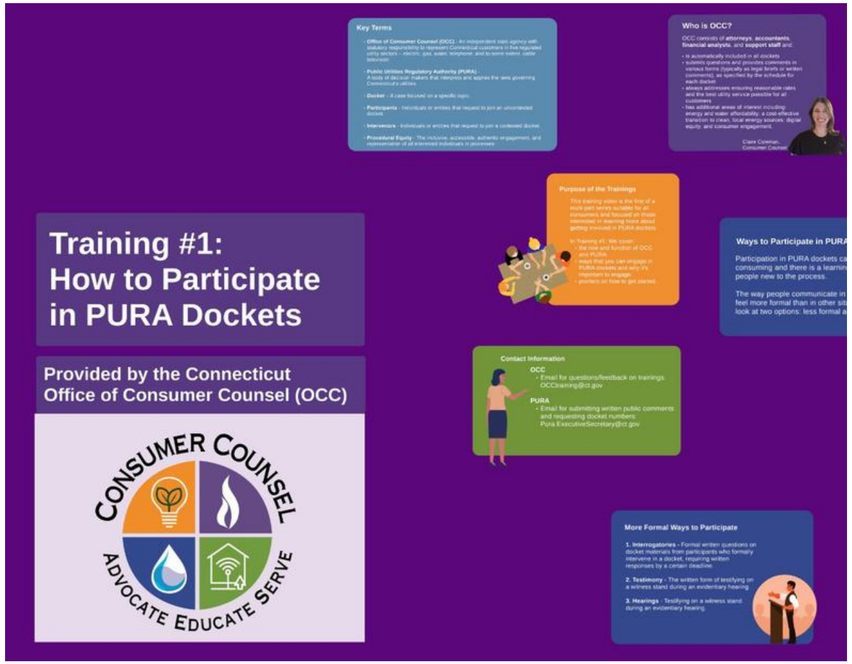
Ives Concert Hall
Western Connecticut State University
Danbury, CT 06810

9 DEC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026 AT 12:00 P.M.

Via remote teleconference
To listen in or participate, register at:
tinyurl.com/Eversource2026-register

OCC Resources



Check out our website!

Here you can find important information and guides for consumers, video trainings, and more!





Stakeholder Engagement Trainings

Are you interested in learning more about how to get involved in PURA dockets? OCC's online trainings can help!
You can find them on our site or our YouTube channel. More trainings coming soon!





Connect with us!

OCC's social platforms help us communicate timely information to consumers. From alerts and recent news, to reminders for public hearings and utility assistance info—we got you covered!
Find us on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

The Office of
Consumer Counsel

Thank You!

Contact Us

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