STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

September 3, 2026
In reply, please refer to:
Docket No. 26-05-10
Motion No. 36

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Re: Docket No. 26-05-10 – Application of CL&P d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend its Rate Schedules

Dear Attorneys Pace, Crisp, Bidra, and Tisler:

On August 26, 2026, The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or Company) submitted a motion for extension of time (Motion No. 36) to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA). In Motion No. 36, the Company requests an extension of time to respond to certain interrogatories, as detailed in Table 1, below. On August 27, 2026, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) filed a comment regarding Motion No. 36 (OCC Comment), noting that (1) the Company elevated "form over substance" by requesting OCC's position at 4:55 PM before filing Motion No. 36 at 6:15 PM on the same day, (2) the Company submitted the request for extension with respect to 27 interrogatories that were "already late," and (3) the state parties have long "lamented how regulated entities manipulate the Authority's motions practice to their advantage." OCC Objection, p. 1. On August 27, 2026, the Company filed a response to OCC's comment (Company Response). The Company stated that it "want[ed] to make it eminently clear that there is no 'manipulation' intended or achieved, but rather the Company is simply striving to adhere to an orderly administrative process documenting the need for, and timing of, filing extensions." Company Response, p. 1.

Table 1: Requested Extensions

Interrog. No.	Set	Original Date	Requested Date	Ruling
OCC-289	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-302	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-327	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-328	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-351	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-354	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot

OCC-356	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-361	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-363	OCC Set 4	Aug. 25, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-366	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-367	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-369	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-370	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-374	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-375	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-376	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-377	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-379	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-380	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-381	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-384	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-385	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-386	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-387	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-388	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-389	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-391	OCC Set 5	Aug. 26, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Moot
OCC-397	OCC Set 7	Aug. 31, 2026	Sept. 8, 2026	Granted
OCC-398	OCC Set 7	Aug. 31, 2026	Sept. 8, 2026	Granted

The Authority recognizes and understands both sides of this discovery dispute. On one hand, OCC has limited time to issue discovery requests; analyze responses; and potentially issue follow-up requests prior to key procedural events in this proceeding, including but not limited to, the due date for pre-filed testimony on October 21, 2026, and the commencement of evidentiary hearings on February 1, 2027. Late discovery responses can prejudice OCC's ability to perform its statutory duty pursuant to General Statutes § 16-2a(a) to "act as the advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may affect consumers in the state with respect to public service companies," and potentially violate OCC's right to fundamental fairness.[1] Moreover, late discovery responses can erode the efficiency and orderly conduct of a proceeding, because each interrogatory response that is not fully and clearly answered may result in prolonged cross examination and late-filed exhibits during the evidentiary hearings.

On the other hand, as discussed in the Company Response, Eversource's time and resources to respond to discovery requests have practical limits, and the Company

[1] See Megin v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 106 Conn. App. 602, 608–09 (2008) ("While proceedings before [administrative commissions] are informal and are conducted without regard to the strict rules of evidence . . . they cannot be so conducted as to violate the fundamental rules of natural justice . . . [which] require that . . . no one may be deprived of the right to produce relevant evidence or to cross-examine witnesses produced by his adversary.") (citations omitted).

cannot control the number of requests it must process within the standard two-week deadline for responses.

As of the issuance of this motion ruling, Eversource has already filed responses to all but two of the above-listed interrogatories. This appears to demonstrate OCC's point that Motion No. 36 was more a request for forgiveness than permission. In the interest of an orderly and fair process, the Authority is not inclined to grant such forgiveness. The Notice of Proceeding provides that:

> Motions for extension of time shall be filed in advance of the prescribed deadline **and should provide sufficient time for the Authority to consider timely objections and to rule on the motion**, except that motions for extension of time for submissions of interrogatory responses may be filed up to the business day before the due date of the interrogatory response if the party seeking the extension has **obtained** the consent of the party or intervenor that propounded the interrogatories.

Notice of Proceeding, June 2, 2026, p. 3 (emphasis added). Eversource failed to either: (1) provide sufficient time for the Authority to consider its motion or (2) obtain the consent of OCC. Although the Authority understands Eversource's explanation that it is processing responses as fast and efficiently as possible, Eversource failed to explain why it did not contact OCC until five minutes before the close of the business day on which the motion was filed; nor did the Company justify why the motion was not filed until after the due date for some interrogatories had already passed.

The Authority appreciates zealous advocacy from all parties and observes that adversarial tensions in this particular proceeding appear to be heightened, even at this relatively early stage of the process. However, the commissioners expect that all parties and intervenors will treat one another courteously and professionally and communicate with each other to resolve disputes before escalating them. In this instance, the Authority determines that the Company Response would have been better directed to OCC on or before August 25, in the context of a good faith request for OCC's position on the motion.

The Authority finds that the motion is moot with respect to all but two interrogatories, OCC-397 and OCC-398, because the commissioners were not provided with a meaningful opportunity to consider it. With respect to those two interrogatories, the Company's request is granted, and responses to interrogatories OCC-397 and OCC-398 are now due September 8, 2026. The Authority expects that, in the future, all motions will adhere to the requirements established in the Notice of Proceeding.

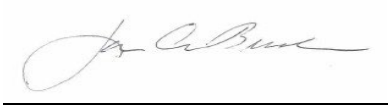
By the following commissioners,



Thomas H. Wiehl
Chairman



David Arconti, Jr.
Vice Chairman



Janice A. Beecher
Commissioner



Holly H. Cheeseman
Commissioner



Everett Smith, III
Commissioner

cc: Service List