Order No. 1, Sec. II.A.4 - Annual Compliance Filings – Additional Filings

The United Illuminating Company **Witness: Brian Sullivan**

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Date Submitted: November 15, 2025

Clean Energy Options Program (CEOP) and Voluntary Renewable Option (VRO) Programs

The Voluntary Renewable Option (VRO) Program is a modification and continuation of the Clean Energy Options Program (CEOP) that establishes rules for power generation supply offers that market renewable energy attributes that exceed the annual minimum requirement for renewable portfolio standards (RPS). In general terms, the VRO establishes rules for electricity supply offers that encompass renewable energy attributes beyond the minimum requirement.

The modified CEOP will continue to provide customers who remain with their utility's Standard Service (SS) generation supply an option to support renewable energy through the purchase of incremental renewable energy certificates (RECs). The Authority established universal standards for the REC-only and VRO offers, including that the certificates that support such offers may only originate from the ISO-NE, New York, or PJM control areas and that the certificates must reflect resources defined as Class I in Conn.
Gen. Stat. § 16-1.

The Authority further modified the Disclosure Label required for all supplier offerings to better explain to consumers how certificates support renewable energy and how their generation is supplied. These changes further Connecticut's energy policies by reducing local greenhouse gas emissions and supporting local, sustainable, renewable energy sources, and they offer a more transparent process for customers purchasing offers with renewable energy attributes that exceed the statutory requirements.

CEOP Background

PURA established the CEOP, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-244c, in 2005 to allow consumers to support renewable energy above the minimum RPS. At the time of CEOP's inception, customers had limited options for supporting renewable resources in excess of the RPS. CEOP allowed customers, whether they received supply from SS or a third-party supplier, to participate in a REC-only program that was applied as an adder to their bill. The Authority modified and extended the program over time.

CEOP to VRO

Since 2005, nationwide REC markets have emerged and matured, and suppliers began marketing offers that exceeded Connecticut's RPS. Some supplier offers now include energy plus the RECs claimed by suppliers in excess of the RPS, creating a bundled product, commonly referred to as a voluntary renewable offer. Over time, the number of suppliers offering voluntary renewable offers has increased. Due to the presence of voluntary renewable offers in the market, in 2016 the Authority announced it would develop and implement a new program in place of CEOP to advance Connecticut's voluntary renewable market and established a proceeding to do so. Although the Authority indicated it was ending CEOP at the time, it continued the program pending approval of a successor program.

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See, Motion No. 5 Rulings, in Docket No. 16-12-29, dated July 11, 2018 and October 2, 2019. As noted above, the successor program to the CEOP is the VRO Program, which was approved through the Decision dated October 21, 2022 in Docket No. 16-12-29, PURA Development of Voluntary Renewable Options Program.

Key Elements of VRO Program
• The VRO Program commenced January 2021
• Only 1 REC-only suppliers until 2025 (Sterling Planet)
• 2 options for REC-only suppliers – 50% or 100% option
• PURA will monitor the program and participation though compliance filings under Docket No. 16-10-22 and under each individual CEOP supplier license dockets
• Any new REC-only contracts entered into with customer as of January 1, 2021 must meet the new VRO program standards as revised in the VRO Decision
• RECs may originate only from ISO-NE, New York, and/or PJM control areas

PURA Docket
Docket No. 16-12-29, PURA Development of Voluntary Renewable Options Program, Final Decision dated October 21, 2020.

Program Timeline
Enrollment to the Clean Energy Options Program / Voluntary Renewable Options Program is open-ended. Customers can enroll anytime by visiting https://sterlingplanet.com/utility-programs-connecticut-united-illuminating.

Key Changes
There have not been any key changes to this program in the past year.