STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 26-08-08
NON-WIRES SOLUTIONS PROCESS CYCLE 2

NOTICE OF DOCKET CLOSING & PROCEDURAL ORDER

NOTICE OF DOCKET CLOSING

On November 9, 2022, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) established a Non-Wires Solutions (NWS) Process applicable to The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and The United Illuminating Company (UI; together, with Eversource, the Companies or EDCs). Decision, Nov. 9, 2022, Docket No. 17-12-03RE07, PURA Investigation Into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies – Non-Wires Alternatives (NWS Decision).

On December 18, 2024, the Authority approved key NWS Process Materials and design documents subject to certain modifications, which concluded the Process Initiation Phase of the NWS Process. Decision, Dec. 18, 2024, Docket No. 24-08-08, Non-Wires Solutions Process Initiation Phase (24-08-08 Decision).

On January 23, 2026, the Authority initiated the instant proceeding to serve as the administrative record of the second annual NWS Process Cycle pursuant to the NWS Decision, the 24-08-08 Decision, and General Statutes § 16-19e(a).

Throughout the first two process cycles, the Authority and the Process Monitor have identified structural and methodological limitations impacting the NWS program's effectiveness. Docket No. 25-08-08, Non-Wires Solutions Process Cycle 1, Dunsky Corresp. Mar. 4, 2026, Process Monitor Year End Report, (PM Year End Report); First Process Cycle Decision, p. 11. Therefore, program reforms are warranted to successfully implement an effective NWS process in Connecticut. Accordingly, the Authority is closing this docket without issuing a Screening Decision, pausing further process cycles, and initiating an NWS process redesign docket to consider program reforms.

Despite closing the proceeding, the EDCs should continue to submit the compliance filings set forth in the NWS and 24-08-08 Decision, respectively. Additionally, the Authority may choose to issue interrogatories to the EDCs from time to time regarding such compliance fillings. Accordingly, the orders of the NWS Decision and the 24-08-08 Decision remain in effect until the Authority indicates otherwise. As such, the EDCs shall continue filing the annual EDC Data and Grid Needs Filing as well as the quarterly filings in the instant proceeding.

PROCEDURAL ORDER

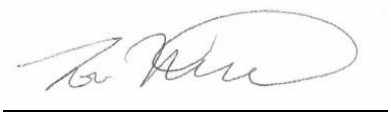
The EDCs and the Process Monitor collaborated to develop a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) tool to aid in the screening of grid needs. PM Year End Report, p. 5;

Docket No. 25-08-08, Non-Wires Solutions Process Cycle 1, Eversource Corresp., Sep. 5, 2025, Att. 1, p. 2.

The Authority directs the EDCs to:

1. Submit as compliance the BCA tool, a narrative description of the tool, and a worked example of how the BCA tool would be used or has been used to evaluate the feasibility of pursuing an alternative to traditional wires solution at the screening phase. The Compliance shall be submitted no later than **May 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

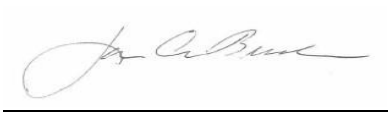
By the following commissioners,



Thomas H. Wiehl
Chairman



David Arconti, Jr.
Vice Chairman



Janice A. Beecher
Commissioner



Everett Smith
Commissioner



Holly H. Cheeseman
Commissioner

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, this 17th day of April, 2026.