STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 26-08-16
APPEAL OF TREE WARDEN'S DECISION
PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 16-234(C)(6) – 452 LOCKWOOD ROAD,
FAIRFIELD, CT

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING

On August 24, 2026, Dariusz Zumbrzycki (Applicant) submitted an appeal of the Town of Fairfield's Tree Warden's determination to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA).[1] See General Statutes §§ 23-65(f) and 16-234. Specifically, the Applicant appeals the determination made by the Tree Warden for the Town of Fairfield, that The United Illuminating Company (UI) trim the subject tree. In response, the Authority is conducting this proceeding to address the issues raised in the appeal. See General Statutes §§ 23-65(f) and 16-234.

Additional information is available at the Authority's website, http://www.ct.gov/pura/, regarding the procedural practices of the Authority. All of the filings in this docket are available on the Authority's website under the "Docket Information" link. Persons may register to receive email notifications when documents are filed or issued in this docket. For assistance with any Authority online service, contact the **PURA case coordinator assigned to this docket, Laura Lupoli, who can be reached via email at Laura.Lupoli@ct.gov.**

PANEL OF COMMISSIONERS AND HEARING OFFICER

In accordance with General Statutes § 16-2(c), the chairperson assigns this proceeding to a panel of all appointed and qualifying commissioners—presently, Chairman Wiehl, Vice-Chairman Arconti, and Commissioners Beecher, Smith, and Cheeseman. The panel designates Commissioner Cheeseman as the presiding officer.

DELEGATION TO THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND ENFORCEMENT

The Authority hereby delegates the review of this matter to its Office of Education, Outreach and Enforcement (EOE) pursuant to General Statutes § 16-19j, and **directs EOE to hold a mediation session no later than Friday, October 2, 2026**. EOE shall file a report on the outcome of that mediation no later than Wednesday, October 2, 2026.

The delegation of this docket to EOE is intended to provide ratepayers and parties that interact with the Authority an improved customer service experience by allowing trained EOE staff to interact directly with parties. Notably, the prohibition against ex parte communications is waived between EOE staff and the public or regulated entities.

[1] The Applicant's appeal is dated August 13, 2026.

Although EOE staff are prohibited from speaking on behalf of the Authority or speculating regarding the Authority's ultimate disposition of a matter, EOE staff may use their training and expertise to answer questions and facilitate the completion of applications. However, the prohibition on ex parte communications remains in effect between EOE staff and PURA decisional staff, and between PURA decisional staff and the applicants and any other parties in this proceeding, as discussed in more detail below. In the event the matter requires adjudication, EOE will be afforded all rights and obligations ascribed to parties in the proceeding.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

The Authority has designated the Applicant, the Town of Fairfield, UI, EOE, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), and the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as parties to this proceeding. Parties must serve a copy of each filed document to every person or entity on the service list, which is available on the Authority's website at http://www.ct.gov/pura. Conn. Agencies Regs. § 16-1-15.

ATTORNEYS

Attorneys representing a party or intervenor or otherwise appearing before the Authority shall promptly file a written notice of appearance in this docket. Attorneys not admitted to practice law before the Connecticut Superior Court must comply with Connecticut's *pro hac vice* procedures prior to making an appearance.

REQUEST FOR PARTY OR INTERVENOR STATUS

Other persons seeking party or intervenor status in this proceeding must file a motion, in accordance with General Statutes § 4-177a, no later than **September 24, 2026,** before 4:00 p.m., Eastern time. Each person seeking party or intervenor status may designate up to two persons for inclusion on the service list. Others who wish to receive email notifications, but do not seek official status in the matter, may register on the PURA website, http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DPUCPublicList.NSF, for an email notification account. Persons seeking intervenor status have the option to do so by completing and filing the Motion for Intervenor/Participant Status form as a motion in this docket.

MOTIONS

Any person seeking a procedural change or other Authority approval must file a motion with the Authority. Motions must be served on the service list for this proceeding. 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. Objections and responses to all other motions are due no later than seven (7) calendar days following Authority receipt.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF FILINGS

Unless otherwise specified, the Authority requires electronic submission of all filings, including applications and motions, using the Authority's online filing system (links and instructions at http://www.ct.gov/pura). Persons filing electronically or wishing to be

listed as a contact must first create an account through the Authority's website under Docket Services (Make a Filing). Unless otherwise specified, filings are to be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the due date.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

The Authority operates with the strong presumption that all documents filed with it are public records subject to the right of public inspection and copying in accordance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, General Statutes § 1-200 *et seq*. In those exceptional circumstances where a party or intervenor believes that information is confidential under law, a motion for a protective order requesting an exemption from public disclosure may be filed. The motion must provide specific facts and legal arguments, with reference to state or federal law, explaining why the information should be kept confidential. A certified affidavit supplied by a competent witness in support of the motion must be appended to the motion. **Until otherwise directed by the Authority, all confidential material must be submitted electronically by email to Jeff.Gaudiosi@ct.gov contemporaneously with the filing of a motion. The email's subject line shall state in all capital letters "CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE." Each page of any electronic confidential information shall also contain a header "CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE."** The associated motion for a protective order shall be filed publicly.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATION PROHIBITED

Legal restrictions on ex parte communications apply to this proceeding. Therefore, parties, intervenors, and other persons may not communicate, directly or indirectly, with commissioners or PURA staff[2] on any issue of fact or law pertaining to this matter except upon notice and opportunity for all to participate. See Conn. Agencies Regs. § 16-1-28; General Statutes § 4-181. Accordingly, any such communication with the commissioners or PURA staff is to (1) occur only during a noticed public hearing or meeting or (2) be submitted in writing through the public case management system, with service to all other parties and intervenors. Communication with the PURA case coordinator regarding scheduling or administrative matters is permitted.

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATION

The Authority, which is within DEEP for administrative purposes only, is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or via email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number, 7-1-1. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an

[2] Authority staff members designated as a party to this proceeding under General Statutes § 16-19j are not subject to the prohibition on ex parte communications when communicating with other parties.

accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program, or event.

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, this 10th day of September, 2026.

By direction of the Presiding Officer,



Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq.
Executive Secretary

cc: Service List