



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CONNECTICUT RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS OF ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS PAID \$58 MILLION MORE THAN STANDARD SERVICE IN 2015**

**NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (April 20, 2016)** – Data submitted to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) shows that in 2015, Connecticut residential customers of retail electric suppliers paid, in aggregate, approximately \$58 million over what they would have paid if they remained with the utility Standard Service price.<sup>i</sup> The chart below shows the amount residential customers of retail electric suppliers paid for electric generation in 2015, on average, compared to the Standard Service price.<sup>ii</sup> A red positive number represents customers’ overpayment compared to Standard Service. A blue negative number represents customers’ savings compared to Standard Service. The chart was prepared from publicly-available data filed by the electric suppliers with PURA.

Supplier Summary for 2015 (Eversource Territory)	
Abest Power & Gas	-\$473,019.52
Aequitas Energy Inc.	-\$442,581.49
Ambit Energy LLC.	-\$478,134.86
Choice Energy	\$1,417,698.34
Clearview Electric	\$2,043,969.06
Connecticut Gas & Electric Inc.	\$513,938.60
Consolidated Edison Solutions Inc.	-\$562,650.68
Constellation Energy Power Source Inc.	\$2,422,977.83
Constellation Newenergy	\$19,288.35
Direct Energy Services	\$7,425,102.05
Discount Power Inc.	-\$641,876.38
Energy Plus Holdings	\$2,734,919.60
Golf Oil Limited Partnership	-\$531,564.68
Hiko Energy LLC	\$83,413.24
Liberty Power Holdings	\$2,119,838.25
Nextera Energy Services	-\$17,428.00
North American Power & Gas LLC	\$5,692,477.55
NRG Retail Solutions	\$2,615,019.08
Palmco Power CT LLC	\$1,792,814.71
Perigee Energy LLC.	-\$194,874.57
Public Power LLC.	\$8,357,818.10
Spark Energy LP	\$2,993,821.79
Starion Energy Inc.	\$3,262,222.31
Sunwave Gas & Power CT	-\$365,661.14
Town Square Energy	-\$1,234,394.24
Verde Energy USA Inc.	\$6,641,050.40
Viridian Energy Inc.	\$2,264,998.52
Xoom Energy	\$652,572.42
<b>Total Overpayment</b>	<b>\$48,111,754.63</b>

Supplier Summary for 2015 (UI Territory)	
Abest Power & Gas	-\$180,083.91
Aequitas Energy Inc.	-\$139,397.71
Ambit Energy LLC.	-\$677,287.17
Choice Energy	\$670,783.90
Clearview Electric	\$420,281.39
Connecticut Gas & Electric Inc.	\$44,170.23
Consolidated Edison Solutions Inc.	-\$1,129,815.92
Constellation (F/K/A MX Energy)	\$709,071.83
Constellation Newenergy	-\$25,811.05
Direct Energy Services	\$1,989,428.63
Discount Power Inc.	-\$309,862.95
Energy Plus Holdings	\$716,017.77
Gulf Oil LP	-\$170,995.59
Hiko Energy LLC	\$29,624.05
Integrus Energy Services Inc.	-\$92,355.32
Liberty Power Holdings	\$927,128.78
North American Power & Gas LLC	\$2,111,192.80
Palmco Power CT LLC	\$896,635.04
Perigee Energy LLC	-\$92,763.71
Public Power LLC.	\$1,064,072.96
Reliant Energy Retail Holdings, LLC.	\$528,159.60
Spark Energy LP	\$895,766.71
Starion Energy Inc.	\$821,148.17
Sunwave Gas & Power CT	-\$330,717.63
Think Energy	\$23,052.78
Town Square F/K/A Community Power	-\$362,389.77
Verde Energy USA Inc.	\$1,326,842.24
Viridian Energy Inc.	\$284,678.90
Xoom Energy CT LLC	\$118,949.93
<b>Total Overpayment</b>	<b>\$10,065,524.95</b>

In 2015, retail suppliers served, on average, 33.55% of Eversource Energy (Eversource) residential customers and 37.84% of United Illuminating (UI) residential customers. During that time, 64.21% of residential supplier customers paid more than Standard Service, on average, in Eversource territory, and 59.82% of residential supplier customers paid more than Standard Service, on average, in UI territory.

“One of the trends we have seen in analyzing this data is that those supplier customers who pay more than Standard Service often pay much more, while those who save money often only save a small amount,” said Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz. “This may be due to higher prices in automatically renewed contracts, after an initial contract period with attractive pricing expires. I encourage customers who want to contract with an electric supplier to be mindful of the end of the initial contract period, and to shop for the best rate or switch to Standard Service at the end of that contract period.”

Consumer Counsel Katz reminds customers to monitor their electric bills to ensure they are not overpaying for electricity. Customers can always choose to stay with Eversource or UI Standard Service instead of choosing a third-party supplier. Moreover, there is no fee for customers to return to the Eversource or UI Standard Service rate from a third-party supplier, and that transaction takes less than 72 hours to complete. When switching back to Standard Service or a new supplier prior to the end of their contract term, customers should consider whether an early termination fee is applicable. Such fees may not exceed \$50 for residential customers. Katz also advises consumers to be wary of upfront “enrollment” fees.

Effective January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, the Standard Service rate for Eversource customers is 9.55 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), while the Standard Service rate for UI customers is 10.73 cents per kWh. New rates for both utilities for the period of July 2016 through December 2016 will be announced in a few weeks. Since rates have typically been lower in the second half of the year in recent years, consumers are reminded to check their rate again at that time. Customers who wish to return to Standard Service or have questions about their current supply rate are encouraged to call their electric distribution company, Eversource at 1-800-286-2000, or UI at 1-800-722-5584. Consumers who wish to shop for current third-party supplier rates may do so at <http://www.energizect.com/>, or call 1-800-382-4586 for more information.

2015 is the first full calendar year for which pricing data for each supplier has been available. The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) tracks the data and compares it to the standard offer pricing on both a monthly and a rolling twelve-month basis.

Attached to this Press Release is the OCC Fact Sheet for the Electric Supplier Market for 2015.

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*The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut’s advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ).*

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<sup>i</sup> Based on an average monthly usage of 750 kWh.

<sup>ii</sup> Only retail electric suppliers with 250 or more customers are included in the chart.