



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**State Officials and Advocates Warn Consumers to Plan for Significant
Increases in Electric Rates This Winter and to Use Caution When
Considering Electric Suppliers**

Gathering in response to impending electric bill increases for Connecticut residents, Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney, Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, AARP Advocacy Director John Erlingheuser, and Connecticut Consumer Action Group Executive Director Tom Swan met today with members of the press to discuss high electric rates that will take effect this winter. Attorney General George Jepsen also issued a statement echoing these concerns. With Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and United Illuminating (UI) announcing sharp increases in electric prices for January 1, 2015, as well as an anticipated increase in CL&P's electricity distribution rate, consumers are advised to budget for higher bills, take steps to conserve energy, and to use caution when shopping for better prices from electric suppliers. The group, along with other state officials, urged consumers to be prepared and educated as they review their electric bills.

“Rising electric rates place an increased burden on Connecticut’s families and small businesses alike,” said Sen. Looney. “Yesterday’s reduction to CL&P’s rate request is a step in the right direction but I hope more can be done before a final decision is issued later this month. Consumers should take advantage of energy efficiency programs to lower their usage. We passed legislation this year to make the process of shopping for an electric supplier simpler and more transparent than ever before. Consumers should carefully consider their options before making a choice.”

"With the increases to the cost of CL&P's and UI's standard service rates – and the significant potential rate increases announced by PURA yesterday – Connecticut ratepayers may be tempted to seek savings on their electric bills in the third-party markets," said Attorney General George Jepsen. "While there may be savings to be had, consumers should proceed with caution before signing on with a third-party supplier. Legislation passed this year provides for greater disclosures and transparency in the third-party electric market, but it remains important to understand all of the terms and conditions of a contract before signing up with a supplier, including if a rate is fixed or variable, when the term ends and if there are termination fees. They must be sure to pay close attention to when their contract expires so they can reenter the market before their rates increase."

Consumer Counsel Katz detailed the reasons for the group's concern. "We are seeing a sharp rise in energy prices in the New England market due to constraints on the natural gas pipelines coming into the region during the coldest periods of the year." This has caused an increase in CL&P's residential generation rate for standard offer customers beginning on Jan. 1, from 9.96 cents per kilowatt/hour (kWh) to nearly 12.63 cents per kWh. UI's residential generation rate will increase from 8.66 cents per kWh to 13.31 cents per kWh. This will result in a generation charge increase of about \$18.48 for the average CL&P residential customer. For the UI average residential customer, this is an increased generation service charge of \$32.55 per month.

"In addition," Katz explained, "CL&P customers will see an increase to their distribution portion of their electric bill." Pursuant to a draft decision released from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority yesterday, the CL&P distribution rate increase will \$7.12 for the average residential customer. "That is a \$25.60 increase in CL&P bills in a two week period, both of which will hit in January," Katz said. The consumer bill includes two types of charges: one for "distribution," i.e., the cost to maintain the poles and wires; and one for "generation," that is, how much energy a customer actually uses.

Because of the impending increases in electric bills, the group anticipates increased marketing efforts by competitive electric suppliers. Competitive electric suppliers offer an alternative generation supply for consumers, so instead of obtaining energy from the "standard offer" from CL&P or UI, customers may choose a supplier.

Katz cautioned that consumers, especially residential consumers and small businesses, be very educated if they are considering an alternative electric supplier. "There are opportunities to save money, as much as \$15, \$16, or \$17 per bill. However, if you choose the wrong supplier, or end up on a variable rate, you could pay as much as \$70 more per month over what you'd pay for standard service from CL&P or UI. So review the terms

carefully, compare offers either by visiting the state rate board, www.energizect.gov, or calling 1-800-WISE-USE. There is simply no reason for a consumer to pay \$70 more per month for electric generation,” Katz stated, although noting that some may choose to pay more for electricity generated largely by renewable sources. Katz distributed a copy of the competitive supplier offers available to a typical CL&P customer today on the www.energizect.com website showing the wide disparity in cost and offers from competitive suppliers.

“Seniors and people on fixed incomes already pay the highest percentage of their income on utility bills and CL&P’s increase in the fixed customer service charge will disproportionately impact them. Ratepayers are getting hit with multiple rate increase, all of which will go into effect in January,” AARP Advocacy Director John Erlingheuser stated. “These are the classic market conditions for some unscrupulous third party electric suppliers to take advantage of frustrated ratepayers. We can’t allow a repeat of the variable rate crisis that caused the bills of many residents and seniors to skyrocket last winter, some that are still being paid off today. Consumers need to do their homework and fully understand contract terms and conditions before they consider switching their supplier.”

CCAG’s Tom Swan also voiced his concerns: “While CCAG continues to push PURA to lessen its draft ruling that could allow CL&P to significantly increase its distribution charges, we will also work to educate our members on the dangers of the competitive market place. For many people, taking advantage of the state’s conservation and efficiency programs would result in the greatest savings.”

Consumers can find more information about state energy efficiency programs, alternate electric suppliers and other savings opportunities by calling 1-877-WISE-USE or visiting www.energizect.com.

Those with concerns about the CL&P transmission rate increases still can and should write to PURA to make sure their perspective is heard and considered before a final decision is rendered on December 17th. Write to PURA at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 or by email at PURA.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov. Be sure to mention Docket No. 14-05-06.

Consumer Counsel Katz offered the following tips for consumers choosing an electric supplier:

If you are with an electric supplier:

- Make sure you know whether you are currently on a fixed rate plan, and if so, when the fixed rate period ends.

- If you don't know who your supplier is, call CL&P or UI to find out.
- If you do know who your supplier is but you don't know whether you are on a fixed or variable rate and when your fixed rate expires, call your supplier to find out.
- Mark your calendar for the expiration of your fixed rate plan, or you could get moved into variable rates or into a new fixed rate plan that is not cost-effective.
- Pay attention to all notices you receive from your electric supplier.
 - The legislature has required them to send you notices regarding what you are currently paying and when that term ends, and whether your rate is going to increase by more than 25%.
- If you are currently on a variable rate, they cannot charge you a termination fee. To avoid higher rates in the winter, you should either switch back to standard service or choose a supplier with a fixed rate that is lower than what standard service is going to be in January.
- If you don't want to bother staying on top of when your fixed rate expires and making sure you don't either end up on variable rates or get rolled into a renewal with a higher fixed rate at the end of your term, consider staying with standard service.
- A new law passed last year requires that by July of 2015, the electric rate for the upcoming month will appear on your bill. We are working on implementation of that. You will also be able to count on that rate being your fixed rate for that month, so consumers can avoid the surprise of undisclosed spiking electric rates when they open their bills. The industry asked for a year to implement what they see as a major change in how they do business, but we working to ensure that change gets implemented by the date required on the legislation. In the meantime, until that change is in place, suppliers are required to send quarterly notices detailing your rate, how much it is, whether it is variable or fixed, and the term, how long the contract is.

Katz also noted that the new law governing electric suppliers that passed the Connecticut Legislature with unanimous support will help provide more information for consumers and a clearer process.

“We had an incredible coalition of support, including Governor Malloy, Attorney General Jepsen, Senator Looney, Senator Don Williams, Speaker Sharkey, the chairs of our Energy

and Technology Committee Senator Bob Duff and Representative Lonnie Reed, AARP, CCAG, really a host of forces who were concerned about Connecticut residents overpaying for electricity, an essential life service,” Katz said. “I will continue to work with this coalition to address any other issues that arise in the competitive supplier market if we see other consumer confusion or abuse this winter.”

*****END*****

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.

Offers available to CL&P residential customer with 700 kWh monthly usage as of 12/2/14 for January 2015, Per Energizect.com

SUPPLIER OPTIONS

Click the grey column headers below to sort information by column.

Supplier	Plan Description	Energy Source(s)	Generation Costs & Potential Savings		
			Rate	Cost/Mo.	Monthly Savings
YOUR UTILITY'S CURRENT STANDARD GENERATION RATE					
 (800) 286-2000	Fixed Fixed to 6/30/15.	18% Renewable Energy	12.629¢	\$88.40	
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (800) 400-5574	Fixed Fixed for 4 months, early termination fee applies.	18% Renewable Energy	10.39¢	\$72.73	\$15.67 savings
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (800) 400-5574	Fixed Fixed for 24 months, early termination fee applies.	18% Renewable Energy	10.79¢	\$75.53	\$12.87 savings
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (866) 469-4362	Fixed 24 months No cancellation fee New customers	18% Renewable Energy	10.95¢	\$76.65	\$11.75 savings
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (888) 354-4415	Fixed Fixed price for 12 months. Early termination fee applies	18% Renewable Energy	10.99¢	\$76.93	\$11.47 savings
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (877) 997-9995	Fixed 36 month fixed rate early termination fee applies	18% Renewable Energy	10.99¢	\$76.93	\$11.47 savings PLAN DESCRIPTION Use the advanced search options to explore different plan options.
More about supplier			<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
	Fixed Price fixed for 12 billing cycles, then changes to monthly variable	18% Renewable Energy	10.99¢	\$76.93	\$11.47 savings <input type="checkbox"/> Print List



thereafter. \$50 early termination fee.

(800) 600-304 [More about supplier](#)



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.02¢** **\$77.14** **\$11.26 savings**
 3 month fixed price. No early termination fee.

(877) 282-6248

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.1¢** **\$77.70** **\$10.70 savings**
 12 month fixed price. No early termination fee.

(877) 282-6248

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.35¢** **\$79.45** **\$8.95 savings**
 fixed for 12 months, with termination fee applies

(855) 799-8200

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.39¢** **\$79.73** **\$8.67 savings**
 fixed for 12 months starting in December, with termination fee applies

(855) 799-8200

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.39¢** **\$79.73** **\$8.67 savings**
 12 month fixed rate early termination fee applies

(877) 997-9995

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.39¢** **\$79.73** **\$8.67 savings**
 Fixed price to November 2015. Cancellation fee applies.

(855) 485-3353

[More about supplier](#) Print List



Fixed **18% Renewable Energy** **11.49¢** **\$80.43** **\$7.97 savings**
 12 months No cancellation fee. New customers.

Print List

<p> (866) 469-4362 More about supplier</p>					
	<p>Fixed Fixed price for 4 months. No cancellation fee. \$75 cash bonus for new enrollments.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.49¢ \$80.43</p>	<p>\$7.97 savings</p>	<p> 800-388-3862</p>
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (877) 259-POWER	<p>Fixed Fixed price for 12 months. Early Termination fee applies</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.49¢ \$80.43</p>	<p>\$7.97 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (877) 374-8013	<p>Fixed Fixed for 12 months, no early termination fee.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.9¢ \$83.30</p>	<p>\$5.10 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (855) 485-3353	<p>Fixed Fixed price through June 2016. Cancellation fee applies.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.9¢ \$83.30</p>	<p>\$5.10 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (888) CLR-VIEW or (888) 257-8439	<p>Fixed 12 month fixed price.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.99¢ \$83.93</p>	<p>\$4.47 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (888) 98-POWER / (888) 987-6937	<p>Fixed Fixed through November 2015. No early termination fee.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.99¢ \$83.93</p>	<p>\$4.47 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
<p></p>					
 (866) 663-2508	<p>Fixed Fixed price 36 months, cancellation fee applies.</p>	<p>50% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.99¢ \$83.93</p>	<p>\$4.47 savings</p>	
<p>More about supplier</p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		

 (877) 374-8013	Fixed Fixed for 12 months, \$50 early termination fee.	18% Renewable Energy	12¢ \$84.00	\$4.40 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (508) 833 3500	Fixed 12 months. \$50 cancellation fee.	18% Renewable Energy	12.039¢ \$84.27	\$4.13 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (508) 833 3500	Fixed 12 months. \$50 cancellation fee.	100% Renewable Energy	12.239¢ \$85.67	\$2.73 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (888) 565-4490	Fixed Fixed Rate through May 2017. Early termination fee applies	18% Renewable Energy	12.359¢ \$86.51	\$1.89 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (866) 469-4362	Fixed 12 months. No early termination fee. New customers.	100% Renewable Energy	12.49¢ \$87.43	\$0.97 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (888) 313-9086	Fixed Fixed price for 12 months. Cancellation fee applies.	25% Renewable Energy	12.49¢ \$87.43	\$0.97 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		
 (866) 878-3492	Fixed Fixed price for 24 months.	18% Renewable Energy	12.51¢ \$87.57	\$0.83 savings
More about supplier		<input type="checkbox"/> Print List		

	<p>Fixed Fixed price through 06/2015. Cancellation fee applies.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List 12.56¢ \$87.92</p>	<p>\$0.48 savings</p>
<p> (877) 390-7155</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
	<p>Fixed 12 month fixed. Cancellation fee applies</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>12.8¢ \$89.60</p>	<p>\$1.2 additional cost</p>
<p> (855) 478-6928</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
	<p>Fixed Fixed price for 12 months.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>12.82¢ \$89.74</p>	<p>\$1.34 additional cost</p>
<p> (866) 878-3492</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
	<p>Fixed Fixed price for 9 months.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>12.94¢ \$90.58</p>	<p>\$2.18 additional cost</p>
<p> (866) 878-3492</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
	<p>Fixed Fixed for 12 billing cycles. No termination fee.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>12.95¢ \$90.65</p>	<p>\$2.25 additional cost</p>
<p> (888) 998-6415</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
	<p>Fixed Fixed price 36 months, cancellation fee applies.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>12.99¢ \$90.93</p>	<p>\$2.53 additional cost</p>
<p> (866) 663-2508</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
	<p>Fixed 12 month fixed price. No cancellation fee.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.1¢ \$91.70</p>	<p>\$3.3 additional cost</p>
<p> (877) 282-6248</p>				
<p>More about supplier</p>				
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>				
<p>Fixed 18% Renewable Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Print List 13.19¢ \$92.33 \$3.93 additional cost</p>				

 <p>Direct Energy</p> <p>(888) 998-6415</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p>Fixed for 36 billing cycles, termination fee applies</p>	<p>Fixed</p> <p>Fixed price for 18 months.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.22¢ \$92.54</p>	<p>\$4.14 additional cost</p>	
 <p>PERIGEE ENERGY</p> <p>(866) 878-3492</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>	<p>Fixed</p> <p>Fixed for 24 billing cycles, termination fee applies</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.29¢ \$93.03</p>	<p>\$4.63 additional cost</p>	
 <p>Direct Energy</p> <p>(888) 998-6415</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>	 <p>Gulf</p> <p>(855) 485-3353</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p>Fixed</p> <p>Fixed price through June 2015. Cancellation fee applies.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.9¢ \$97.30</p>	<p>\$8.9 additional cost</p>
 <p>townsquare energy</p> <p>(877) 430-0093</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>	 <p>Direct Energy</p> <p>(888) 998-6415</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p>Fixed</p> <p>Fixed for 18 billing cycles</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.95¢ \$97.65</p>	<p>\$9.25 additional cost</p>
 <p>North American Power</p> <p>(888) 313-9086</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>	 <p>AMBIT ENERGY</p> <p>(877) 282-6248</p> <p>More about supplier</p>	<p>Fixed</p> <p>6 month fixed price. No early termination fee.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>14.6¢ \$102.20</p>	<p>\$13.8 additional cost</p>

	<p>Fixed Fixed price through November 2015. No early termination fee. Applicable to new and renewing customers.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>14.9¢ \$104.30</p>	<p>\$15.9 additional cost</p>	
<p>(877) 430-0093</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Fixed Fixed for 6 billing cycles. No termination fee</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>16.25¢ \$113.75</p>	<p>\$25.35 additional cost</p>	
<p>(888) 998-6415</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>9.89¢ \$69.23</p>	<p>\$19.17 savings</p>	
<p>(888) 264-4908</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>10.97¢ \$76.79</p>	<p>\$11.61 savings</p>	
<p>(877) 390-7155</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>11.29¢ \$79.03</p>	<p>\$9.37 savings</p>	
<p>(866) 568-0289</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Monthly Variable No monthly or cancellation fees.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>13.82¢ \$96.74</p>	<p>\$8.34 additional cost</p>	
<p>(877) 282-6248</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		
	<p>Monthly Variable No cancellation fee.</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>15.82¢ \$110.74</p>	<p>\$22.34 additional cost</p>	
<p>(877) 282-6248</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>		

	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>16.9¢</p>	<p>\$118.30</p>	<p>\$29.9 additional cost</p>
<p>(877) 259-POWER</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>16.9¢</p>	<p>\$118.30</p>	<p>\$29.9 additional cost</p>
<p>No early termination fee.</p>					
<p>(877) 430-0093</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>25% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>17.49¢</p>	<p>\$122.43</p>	<p>\$34.03 additional cost</p>
<p>(888) 313-9086</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>17.99¢</p>	<p>\$125.93</p>	<p>\$37.53 additional cost</p>
<p>This is the rate the customer will receive after promotional rate ends</p>					
<p>(888) 354-4415</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>18.99¢</p>	<p>\$132.93</p>	<p>\$44.53 additional cost</p>
<p>No cancellation fee. \$75 cash bonus for new enrollments.</p>					
<p>800-388-3862</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>100% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>19.44¢</p>	<p>\$136.08</p>	<p>\$47.68 additional cost</p>
<p>(888) 313-9086</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					
	<p>Monthly Variable</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p>21.97¢</p>	<p>\$153.79</p>	<p>\$65.39 additional cost</p>
<p>No early termination fee.</p>					
<p>(800) 600-3040</p>					
<p>More about supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>					

	<p>Promotional Price for the 1st three billing cycles. Monthly variable price thereafter. No cancellation fee. New customers only.</p>	<p>18% Renewable Energy</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Print List</p>	<p>7.78¢</p>	<p>\$54.46</p>	<p>\$33.94 savings</p>
<p> (877) 726-5867</p>	<p>More about supplier</p>					