

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: "[pura.executivesecretary@ct.gov](mailto:pura.executivesecretary@ct.gov) under the subject header "Docket No. 20-01-01 Comments."

Kindly add this as  
"comments" to the investigation into the rate increases by Eversource and tropical Storm Isaias.

We have lived in our 1,950 square foot, three bedroom home in Newtown, Connecticut since 1973. As young home owners, we decided to go with an electric home, mainly because we wanted to burn a cleaner fuel source. We put in a hydronic, hot water, hot air system. Over the years, as our budget would allow, we made investments in tightening up our home i.e., insulation, windows, siding with insulation, calking, energy efficient lighting, energy efficient appliances, attic insulation, and a wood burning stove! Our last energy audit proved that we could not insulate our home any tighter than it was! Still on a yearly average in 1990's we expended anywhere between 18,000 to over 20,966 kilowatts! We didn't even install central air until 2010. We also burned wood, which cost back then \$150 a chord and you go through at least four chord a winter! Can you imagine what our electric bills would be today at the latest rate increase!

We had many problems over the years with CL&P before they became Eversource! Our transformer blew up at the top of our hill twice and we had fayed lines which they finally replaced. Our electrical meter failed on numerous occasions, surges and the inside of the meter jaws broken by a lineman that put the box on backwards! We lost our refrigerator contents several times because we did not own a generator at the time, not only that, but because of the surging within our home, we lost our circuit board of our refrigerator! We had to constantly call, fight for what we felt was their responsibility! It was never easy!

In 2014 we made our final investment, by installing solar, hoping that in our golden years, we would be doing something great for the environment, while getting some sort of a break in the long run. We also thought we would recoup our investment in a few years! And actually it hasn't gone that way! How can it with price of electricity going up as fast as it is!

Electrical costs in the State of Connecticut have always been high, in fact, they are one of the highest in the United States! And our power outages over the

years have been more frequent, and most more damaging! Not only do homeowners spend more money during outages, but it also costs them in tree removal (which is very expensive)! The length of time for restoration is much longer than it was years ago! In reference to this latest tropical storm, we lost the “sun” as our solar does not work when we have no power. It cost us 7 days of sun that could have helped our budget!! It also cost us a \$400 dollar bill to get a small limb taken off our wires! It also cost us \$150.00 in gasoline to keep our generator going, just to run a refrigerator and lights. The last micro burst that went through Newtown, the tree work costs us over \$3,000. Honestly when you are in your 70’s all this is much too hard to deal with!

When you spend your whole married life in Connecticut, you have seen lots of changes, moreover, our State is becoming the most expensive State overall in one tax or another that is levied on us. We feel sorry for young people, actually they love it here, but cannot afford to live here! It’s the same for seniors that are on budget like us! Who’s looking out for us?? I haven’t seen anything from Hartford, nor anywhere else, put in any measures to stop this sort of thing from happening. Most increases are approved! And why is that?

We cannot have electrical rates climbing the way they have been! It’s been going on for too long! Deregulation did not help us whatsoever! It really doesn’t help the situation when people are so aware of how well paid (to the extreme), the executives of Eversource are!! Those that are trying to just exist, have limited budgets; it gets impossible to do so and its very discouraging! More and more people will be moving out of state! And more people will enter the rolls of welfare! Something has to be done.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
William J. Johnston, Jr.  
Judith A. Johnston  
Newtown, Connecticut