



After Irene CT

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Tropical Storm Irene put Connecticut to the test. Democratic leaders of the...

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Hurricane Irene - Connecticut



Connecticut Light & Power

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Arthur Fish

I live in Griswold & was told to ck the web site to see an estimated time of restoration, but for that you need power. So I hooked up my generator trying to save the fridge & freezer then extended a cord to the router & modem fired up the laptop only to find out there were no outages in my area, so I checked the switch again to make sure I was doing it right, but still nothing so I had my wife & daughter try just in case I was doing it wrong, but still nothing, huh what could be wrong I paid the bill early, my street has underground utilities I just dont understand. Then amazingly 3 1/2 days later it came back on as I walked in the bathroom at 1:30 in the morn to get ready for work, I dont have sensor lights so I must of left the switch on & it was like magic.

Like · Comment · 14 minutes ago

Arthur Fish likes this.



Arthur Fish But really the C L & P line workers are hero's its the talking heads that need to go because you can guarantee we will be paying for this with a rate hike that will only go towards bonuses for all exec's and pay raises to go with it.

14 minutes ago · Like

Write a comment...



Elizabeth Platt

We've become a society that wants instant gratification and someone to blame for everything. The people who were restoring our power are only human. Things sometimes take more time than we would like. I want to thank those who worked tirelessly while enduring verbal abuse from those who feel it should have been quicker. We're there miscommunications? Perhaps. But having state government looking into this is the pot calling the kettle black. They don't listen when there are concerns about the job they are doing. They are encouraging people to act as victims. Everyone lost something. For Gods sake people it was a storm! Stuff happens.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago

Marcia Patterson likes this.

Write a comment...



Ron Bish

Think NU did a Great Job, based o what they had to restore, I am in the trade, am glade no one got killed. Saw a lot of site's were home owners had generators NOT installed correctly.....Very dangerous job.

Like · Comment · 8 minutes ago



Carol Klingele

The CITY OF MILFORD did an OUTSTANDING job before, during and after the storm... and still are! The communication with the citizen's could not have been better! It sounds to me like CL&P and UI need to get better organized and have a better plan as to how to handle a storm. They should also educate their customers as to how outages are handled. Maybe if people understood it takes more that one truck to fix an outage and also coordination with tree removal etc., people might be a little more patient and compassionate.

Like · Comment · 11 minutes ago



Kim Brolet

As soon as the tide went out on the shore, bucket loaders were out shoveling the sand and other debris off the road during the the storm. I can't say much for the idiots who were trying to drive on said roads while the storm was still high. Maybe if theses dumb--asses were to stay off the roads the state could be a little more effective in cleanup and there'd be less injuries.

Like · Comment · 11 minutes ago



Tracey Cropley Bohuslaw



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Hurricane Irene - Connecticut

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We knew this storm was coming well over a week in advance, we were prepared. I think they should have been as far as better communication.
Like · Comment · 40 minutes ago



Candace Van Auken
I'm from Sterling, the last town to be completely without power. We cleared the trees ourselves and then waited. We heard that the area was "flooded" with out-of-state workers, but for days and days, we didn't see a single one. When a lone Michigan phone company worker arrived to reconnect our phone/Internet, I had to handle traffic for him. Eleven days after the storm and there weren't two people to send? Kudos to him, personally, but not to AT&T.
Like · Comment · about an hour ago



Candace Van Auken
I have severe sleep apnea and need a CPAP machine -- something I've told CL&P. So, how did they handle my condition? The day before the storm, we were bombarded with robo-calls telling me to "leave." Given the size of the storm, my budget, and my unwillingness to abandon my 87yo mother, where exactly did they expect me to go? The entire town lost power for over a week. We went 9 days without power, 11 without phone or Internet. I'm still recovering. It was horrible.
Like · Comment · about an hour ago



Carey Avery Boyd
CL & P did a great job. We were with out power from Sunday am - Friday around noon. With what they were working against we think the did amazing. Things could have been a lot worse. The trees and debris were their biggest obstacle. Not to mention why should they have put anyone in harms way during the storm. The state needs to consider clearing trees more often. GREAT JOB CL&P. You are not going to make everyone happy. Unfortunately we live in a society where everyone wants to blame someone other than take ownership or make the best of a situation.
Like · Comment · about an hour ago

👍 2 people like this.

Write a comment...



Bryan Dowd
First the workers of CL&P and other companies who responded did a great job. I personally have seen crews working hard and fast. The route cause of the issue is clear, the infrastructure is not protected because there is no ownership of it. Threatening trees and debris need to be proactively removed from threatening positions. This simply has not been done good enough. Stop the blame game and come up with a plan to trim the trees.
Like · Comment · about an hour ago

👍 2 people like this.

Write a comment...



Carrie King
For paying some of the highest electric rates in the country, I am disgusted at the lack of foresight by CT Light and Power. They have not cleared the lines as they should have been doing along (particularly when vines are reaching both sides of a street as they do near a sub base gate). More tree trimmers should be hired and some of management should look for jobs with less responsibility.
Like · Comment · about an hour ago

👍 Marcia Patterson likes this.

Write a comment...



Janet Kipphut Ainsworth
<https://www.facebook.com/notes/janet-kipphut-ainsworth/my-irene-tale-of-woe/10150817834925696>

My Irene tale of woe

We went six days without power or water. Guilford seemed to be ignored for the first two or three days. I kept hearing reports from people out and about in town that no line crews were seen - anywhere. The town was listed as 100 percent without power for days. I...
By Janet Kipphut Ainsworth

👍 Like · Comment · Share · about an hour ago



Karie-anne Emmons Everlith
We know those that work for CL&P and we were told that they sat around doing nothing the first night then were told to go home the next day due

 to overtime not being available. They were waiting to respond because the longer it went on, the easier it would be for them to get funding for it from emergency funds. Personally I live on a grid that had over 1500 people on it.... we did not get our power back for 7 days. That is a large amount of people to not be considered a priority grid- certainly when most of the others in our town were powered 4 days before we were. What made it worse was their automated system said that we would get power back by that evening 3 days in a row and it was false generated statements. Response was absolutely not acceptable.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago



Karie-anne Emmons Everlith I also think that CL&P should credit customers something because we lost large amounts of food (but our deductible for homeowners is too high to cover it) We spent large amounts of \$ on gas for the generator and all of the stress of being in the dark for so long is just unacceptable. They will recover their losses- we will not. Fema only aids that which insurance did not.

about an hour ago · Like

Write a comment...



Ellen Kudron

i was without power for 7 days and lost both refrigerator freezer food as well as a well stocked standup freezer. i do not have a generator, We definitely deserve a credit on our electric bill from clnp. very poor response in woodstock.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago



James F Murphy Sr

Did CL&P and U I Have to provide 85 copies of their testimony? And only 3 minutes to "defend" themselves? You will hear from 50 out of 800,00 people who were affected. You have the GUTS to say you want to hear from the Public. This Hearing is to make you feel better about taking money from those companies for reelection. SHAME ON YOU !! Members of the public will speak from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 8:30 AM until 9:15 AM.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago



Kathryn Esposito-weber

I feel that even small things that would have helped people were not available. I couldn't find batteries or even regular ice. dry ice would have helped alot of people at least save their food. I lost about \$300 of just food. CL&P should not assume that everyone has a way or a place to go at times like this.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago



David Nesbitt

As a person that is close to the Line Clearance Industry, I can say that the level of basic line maintenance in the New London County area is deplorable. Most of the damage I witnessed was completely preventable by cutting the trees away from the lines properly. Many companies that charge significantly less have figured this out.

Like · Comment · 2 hours ago



After Irene CT

In addition to Facebook, electronic testimony will be accepted either in MS Word or PDF format via e-mail to AfterIreneCT@cga.ct.gov for posting on the Committees' web sites and inclusion in the hearing transcript.

Like · Comment · Share · September 22 at 3:46pm

👍 Scott Lydem likes this.

Write a comment...



After Irene CT

Concerning Public Portion of this Monday's Hearing (9/26)

Members of the public will speak from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 8:30 AM until 9:15 AM in the first floor Atrium of the Legislative Office Bldg. in Hartford. The list of speakers registered through the lottery system will be posted outside of Room 2C at 9:15 AM. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony.

If you have written testimony, please submit 85 copies at the time of sign-up. Testimony delivered after the start of the hearing may not be distributed until the following day.

Like · Comment · Share · September 22 at 3:46pm



Richard Tomlinson

Don't lose sight of the central issue ... CT's electrical distribution system is shockingly fragile!!! Most of the state did not experience winds above 40 MPH. The resulting damage suggests that a 100 MPH hurricane (which is not unlikely) would require a total system rebuild. There needs to be a long-term program to harden the network... vulnerable facilities migrated progressively underground, distributed power, network modularity, core asset redundancy, pad-mounted transformers, introduction of concrete poles, more stringent trim trimming and removal and a multi-step plan with incentives for the utilities for achieving goals. Modest but steady investment would make this achievement practical over a period of a few years.

Like · Comment · 18 hours ago

👍 2 people like this.

Write a comment...



Olivia Grace Carasone

I am an employee of CL&P and a union member of local 420. Our contract does not state we can't work past 16 consecutive hours but if we do work beyond 16 hours we would receive premium rates. In the past this was never an issue it was all about getting the lights on. I've read in the paper being limited to 16 hours was for our safety and we needed to get 8 hours rest. I can't remember the last time i got 8 hours of sleep! When I am tired I will let someone know!

Like · Comment · Saturday at 5:26pm

👍 Lori Peterson likes this.



Karie-anne Emmons Everlith This is exactly the same thing that I have heard from others working for CL&P and worse was that they sat in shop the day of the storm for nothing only to be sent home because they would not pay any overtime hours. Its an emergency- that is very poor planning! about an hour ago · Like

Write a comment...



Marcie Miner

I think clp and power companies should make alliances with contractors in the area. We have 3 chainsaws and 2 experienced operators who couldve helped alleviate the situation. There must be others.

Like · Comment · 2 hours ago



Kathy Hughes-Deojay

i was upset to learn 6 days without power and line pole pulled from my home that i would have to hire an electrician to fix? they did not inform me of this when i called to report pole down then when they did come it only took 4 bolts a bead of caik and \$200.00 this is a scam and a way for cl&p to save money but i don't know how because thier men was there too! and it's their lines to began with

Like · Comment · 2 hours ago



Fallon Wagner

CL&P and UI got all the attention and worked their butts off. I live in Wallingford. We have our own power company. Granted, it only services our town and Northford, but they weren't even able to give estimated times. They were "prioritizing" but their idea of priority was the neighborhoods with the most expensive houses, not those in inexpensive houses in low lying areas that were flooding without pumps, etc.

Like · Comment · 2 hours ago



Pamela Mcfeely

8 days without water. 8 days without water. 8 days without water.

Like · Comment · 21 hours ago



Lori Peterson people were warned to be prepared 2 hours ago · Like

Write a comment...



Tj Doherty

As an employee, I can tell you in previous years we worked untill lights were back on. These two utilities decided to send employees home before 16 hours worked to save\$. That is the only reason trust me. I can't tell you how many customers could have been turned on earlier. Imagine working on a line for the entire day, having another hour or two to complete the work and being told to leave and come back in the morning. It was very discouraging to have to deal with customers knowing this truth.

Like · Comment · September 22 at 7:16am

Jenn Thibodeau likes this.

John Dlugosz Thanks for sharing this TJ. I've heard this from other sources as well.
Friday at 9:57pm · Like

Tony Williams I am also a employee.This storm was nasty and the damage was severe.I also encountered many of the same situations and frustration as other lineman.All of our careers emphasis has been on restoring power and meeting our customers needs.We h...
See More
10 hours ago · Like

Jenn Thibodeau Tj Is very right..and it also came down to money and power...
2 hours ago · Like

Write a comment...



Denise Houle
I was one of the lucky ones not to lose power during this storm. But my work, family and friends were all affected during this time. I believe mainly because we are in EASTERN CT. For some reason CL&P felt it was MORE important to restore power to WESTERN CT first. Their outage maps showed it all, yellows and oranges when 100% of towns in this area were still in the black! Why didn't CL&P work to restore power in 3 sections instead of concentrating on one. During Gloria we were without power for 1 wk and guess what during this storm still the same results.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 10:23pm



Denise Houle My first assumption was they were restoring power to the richer communities first and one of my FB friends claimed that was the EXACT case because her neighbor worked for CL&P. Nevermind all the farmers in this area that needed to feed their herds, or the poorer ppl that ran out of gas looking for station that had power.
September 19 at 10:35pm · Like



Daniel Holland The storm caused more flooding but less wind in the western parts of the state. It was not that they restored Western CT's power first but that it never went off. Before you assume impropriety on the part of CL&P, you should look at the storm impact for patterns.
Friday at 11:54am · Like



Denise Houle Yes Daniel maybe so, but that doesn't answer why CL&P couldn't restore power in 3 sections and not concentrate on one to get their numbers sounding better, I may be assuming some things but the facts were clear!
Friday at 10:45pm · Like

Write a comment...



Albert J. Smith
It is wrong that CL&P and UI keep bragging that they got a large percentage of their customers back online. Their plan is to repair the trouble spots that put the largest population back in-service.

Like · Comment · September 20 at 7:13pm



Denise Houle I agree that is exactly what they did!
Friday at 10:46pm · Like

Write a comment...



Steve Gencarelle
To compare Irene with Katrina , to even mention Katrina shows a lack of scientific understanding and comprehension of TS Irene. Very concerned with the scientific advice CLP is getting.

Like · Comment · September 21 at 7:49pm



Gerry Guay
When I moved to the outskirts of Manchester 8 years ago I bought a generator because I figured if we lost power in the winter (ice storms) we could lose power and my oil furnace wouldn't run. I guess that goes for hurricanes also. We lost power Sunday at 8am. At 8:30 I turned on the generator. At 3:30 we lost cable, internet and phones. I guess the battery backups ran down too. I also lost my cell phone service. The loss of total communications is what worried me in case of an emergency. Monday at 10am power was restored and Cox Comm worked and so did the cell phones.

Like · Comment · September 21 at 12:16pm



Carol Montalto

Trees growing and dead along power lines branches growing and hanging over and wrapped around power lines. No tree trimming maintenance not even before storm this caused power outages. Lack of communication with homeowners in small towns shd not have been. Carol

Like · Comment · September 20 at 8:59am



Margaret Cafarelli Gletherow

is there anything being addressed to the cable companies and the fact that we were without phone, internet and cable TV for a full week. Even the phone, which is not dependent on electricity, did not come on until the electricity was restored. I received my Comcast bill, and it was a bill for the full 4 weeks of service. Since we only had 3 weeks of service, I asked if we would receive credit. Flat out "no - it's not our fault" - I believe it's between Comcast and CL&P. CL&P should reimburse Comcast for their customer's lack of service - the customer should not have to pay for service they did not receive, whatever the circumstances.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 11:04pm



Maria Marcotte

First and hopefully, last time this will happen in NE CT. Shame on CL&P..Restoring to Woodstock Fair, Western CT, etc. while people in this part of the state had no power for one week!! Maintain tree cutting and perhaps mass power outages would NOT have been a problem. Think of all the poor people on fixed incomes...

Like · Comment · September 19 at 10:40pm



Toni Proulx

I think problem is there were towns in Eastern CT were basically left for dead for 5 days. if you saw what i had to drive around for 7 days you may think differently. They were lucky they didn't have a death caused by a tree finally letting go and crushing someone. Someone down the street from me had a telephone pole sitting in their driveway with transformer. No one from CL&P came to look at it for 6 days when they noticed the lines were still live. That pole should have been one of the 1st things on the list to at least been moved. Also the lack of town and road knowledge was ridiculous. I had to explain to them for 4 days my road is 2 towns and that bush hill rd Lebanon and Windham were one in the same.

Like · Comment · September 20 at 3:56pm



Toni Proulx May I also add that CL&P let a transmitter die in Lebanon because after 5 days of running on it's generator the generator began to die. This transmitter is life star guild to Windham Hospital on top of that it was the cell phone tower which...

See More

September 20 at 3:57pm · Like

Write a comment...



After Irene CT

United Illuminating's PowerPoint presentation submitted as part of their testimony before the legislative committee.

<http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/PDF/110919-AfterIrene-UI.pdf>
www.senatedems.ct.gov

Like · Comment · Share · September 19 at 4:23pm

View 1 share

Write a comment...



Connecticut Senate Democrats

Senator Williams opens testimony at today's Public Hearing on Connecticut's readiness and response to Tropical Storm Irene. Visit the After Irene CT page to share your questions or comments. All posts, including those made after today, will be shared with the 4 legislative committees as an official part of the public testimony at the second hearing on September 26th.



Public Hearing: Connecticut's Readiness to Tropical Storm Irene
www.youtube.com

Senator Williams opens testimony at today's Public Hearing on Connecticut's readiness and response to Tropical Storm Irene.

View Post · September 19 at 2:18pm



After Irene CT

CL&P PowerPoint presentation submitted as part of their testimony before the legislative committee.

<http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/PDF/110919-AfterIrene-CLP.pdf>
www.senatedems.ct.gov

Like · Comment · Share · September 19 at 4:22pm



After Irene CT
Photos from today's hearing



Hearings on Tropical Storm Irene
By: Ct Senatedemocrats
Photos: 17

Like · Comment · Share · September 19 at 3:54pm



Jill Conrad Haley

I hope this outage shows CL&P the massive need for maintenance above and around the lines. Ct. has enough trees, how about hire some people and maintain as other smart New England states do.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 9:53am

View all 5 comments



Jill Conrad Haley They should be responsible for any tree or limb within a certain radius of the lines or poles. Maybe a job for Richard Blumenthal. This is one state that does seem to resist change.
September 20 at 6:39am · Like



Michael O'Grady No the AT&T pole versus a UI or CL&P pole is complete BS(yes it is how they work though) but in a critical situation such as that, all that stuff should be thrown out the window. If UI rolls up on a AT&T pole that is messed up then UI shoul...
See More
September 20 at 8:22pm · Like · 1 person

Write a comment...



Jaime Krajewski

It was quite frustrating to see entire towns in Central CT who have public water nearly fully restored while our town of East Hampton remained completely dark. Perhaps a focus on areas that have no public water supply should come above areas that have, at very least, that necessity?

Like · Comment · September 19 at 4:53pm

Albert J. Smith likes this.

Write a comment...



Allison Scotti Waddington

We lost power on Sun. Aug. 28 11AM & it wasn't restored until Tue Sept 6 11AM. Ten days. I live in the middle of the state where there wasn't much more than a windstorm. A loss of power for me also means no running water. We had no telephone either. My complaint is with CL&P. I was patient for 7 days. I called them daily and sent requests in through my iPhone. All they told us is that our info had been passed onto the crews. After a week we stopped to talk to crews on the road and questioned them. They told us they did not have instructions OR our specific address & to call CL&P again.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 8:17am



Allison Scotti Waddington I tweeted CL&P constantly and never got ONE response. Without a phone, I complained to a friend in Seattle who called CL&P for me. They told her that the whole town was back and had been for days. Wrong. We (and our neighbors) were stil...
See More
September 19 at 8:18am · Like

Write a comment...



Jackie Schwenger Church

I don't think the problem with the utilities -- in my case, UI -- was so much that people lost power (although this shows what happens when you cut back on tree maintenance), but the way the repairs were handled. It seemed that there were no clear instructions about what to do, where to repair, and what wires were already assessed. In short, the handling of this serious situation was extremely inefficient and disorganized.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 9:38pm



Anne Connelly

When I read about CL&P saying they can't cut trees on private property because they don't have permission it makes me very angry. I have now twice called CL&P asking them to clear the trees around my power lines only to be told it is my property and my responsibility. One might ask who hung the power lines there in the first place (not me and certainly no someone who could easily move them to another part of my property with no trees)? Thus, at my own expense, I have to cut trees resting on lines. This is nuts. And if they come down on the lines and cut power to all in my neighborhood, who is responsible. Their response to this storm was ridiculous.

Like · Comment · September 19 at 8:45pm



Laura Limauro Burns

trees need to be cut back we spend money in this state where we do not need to spend it which in turn the towns and cities dont get what they need I have wallingford electric and every year they had a company to trim the trees on the lines the other thing that went wrong was that emergency information was very poor In the town of northbrandford people do not have normal land lines so people did not get the info that was needed poltics neededs to change quick and stop being so greedy

Like · Comment · September 19 at 12:16pm



Nancy Schadtler Marino

We lost power Sunday AM at around 8:30am – we didn't get it back until Saturday after noontime. When I would call for updates, I would be told that power was going to be restored Tuesday by 9pm, then Wed. by 8pm, etc. We had no water for a week. The most frustrating thing was that we were being told that power was being restored and nothing ever happened!

Like · Comment · September 19 at 11:53am



Dan Rabinovitz

I lost power around 6 AM Sunday morning, and it was not restored until 5:30 PM Thursday. I live in Milford, but inland close to the Merritt. From my windows, we had rain and a little wind. Did trees come down? Sure. Did wires come down? Sure. Tree cleanup happened on Monday, aside from Oronoque Road, everything was passable. No UI crews in sight until Wednesday. Where were they? Public info was non-existent. I understand this was a big storm, but UI had well over a week to prepare. Why did it take DAYS for crews from other states to arrive? Why weren't they here earlier, riding out the storm in hotels, ready to take action as soon it was safe to do so?

Most importantly, I think it's incredibly obnoxious that utility companies are allowed to raise rates to recover the cost of the storm cleanup. What do I pay for every month? CT has some of the highest utility rates in the country (just do a Google search, there's lot of info) and now they could go up?

Like · Comment · September 19 at 9:38am

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Chat (140)

