



OLR BACKGROUNDER: ENERGY ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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This report provides several charts of energy acronyms and abbreviations, which we present in Tables 1 through 4. Table 1 explains agencies and entities, Table 2 explains units of energy and related concepts, Table 3 explains charges on utility bills, and Table 4 explains other acronyms and abbreviations. We have provided links to organization websites as well as relevant OLR reports. Please note that while we provide the most recent OLR report related to the topic, the reports may reference other concepts that are not up to date. This report updates OLR report [2011-R-0019](#).

Table 1: Agencies and Entities

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
BETP	Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy	This bureau within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) develops state-wide energy policy, with emphases on energy supply, energy demand, and climate change.	
CEFIA	Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority	Quasi-public agency that leverages public and private funds to provide financing for homeowners, businesses, and other institutions to install or use renewable energy or conserve energy.	CEFIA initiatives: 2013-R-0175 C-PACE programs: 2012-R-0464 Creation of CEFIA: 2011-R-0326 Solar energy and enterprise zones: 2011-R-0349

Table 1: -Continued-

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
CMEEC	Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative	A nonprofit organization that purchases power for and provides other services to the state's municipal electric utilities.	Municipal electric utilities: 2009-R-0090
CSC	Connecticut Siting Council	Regulates siting of power facilities and transmission lines, as well as telecommunication facilities.	Telecommunication tower siting: 2013-R-0378 Siting renewable energy facilities: 2010-R-0489
DEEP	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	The state agency that develops plans for energy infrastructure; regulates air emissions, wastewater discharges, and other pollution; and preserves and manages statewide recreational lands. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), an entity within DEEP, regulates and reviews rates for public service (utility) companies, including electric, gas, and water companies.	Comprehensive Energy Strategy: 2013-R-0163 Energy efficiency funding: 2013-R-0343 Summary of act creating DEEP: PA 11-80
ECMB or EEB	Energy Conservation Management Board or Energy Efficiency Board	Board that reviews electric and gas company efficiency plans and budgets.	Energy efficiency funding: 2013-R-0343

Table 1: -Continued-

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Regulates the wholesale markets and interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil, and also licenses hydropower facilities.	Wholesale electric pricing: 2011-R-0135 ISO-New England: 2010-R-0387 Electric rate setting: 2010-R-0146
ISO-New England	Independent System Operator-New England	ISO-New England administers the regional wholesale electric market. It is responsible for dispatching (turning on and off) power plants and other resources to meet electric demand in the region.	ISO-New England: 2010-R-0387 Forward reserve market: 2012-R-0006 Wholesale electric pricing: 2011-R-0135
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Federal agency that licenses and regulates the operation of nuclear power plants, among other things.	Storing nuclear waste: 2011-R-0159 Nuclear power in Connecticut: 2010-R-0222 Disposal of nuclear fuel: 2011-R-0317
NU	Northeast Utilities	Parent company of Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and Yankee Gas Services, as well as utilities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.	PURA decision on NU merger: 2012-R-0035 PURA decision on natural gas expansion: 2014-R-0013 Electric rate setting: 2010-R-0146
OCC	Office of Consumer Counsel	OCC represents ratepayer interest in PURA and federal proceedings.	Electric rate setting: 2010-R-0146

Table 1: -Continued-

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
UIL	UIL Holdings Corporation	Parent company of United Illuminating (UI), Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), and Southern Connecticut Gas.	PURA decision on natural gas expansion: 2014-R-0013 Electric rate setting: 2010-R-0146
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority	Entity within DEEP that regulates rates and services of Connecticut utilities. Formerly the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC).	PURA's comments on Comprehensive Energy Strategy: 2013-R-0180 PURA decision on outage standards: 2012-R-0488 Electric rate setting: 2010-R-0146

Table 2: Units of Energy and Related Concepts

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation
BTU	British Thermal Unit	The amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree. A kilowatt-hour of electricity equals 3,412 BTUs, a cubic foot of natural gas contains about 1,030 BTUs, and there are about 112,000 BTUs in a gallon of gasoline.
kv	Kilovolt	A unit of electric force. Most transmission lines in Connecticut operate at a capacity of 115 to 345 kv.
kwh	Kilowatt-hour	The amount of electricity used by 10 one-hundred watt light bulbs in one hour. A typical Connecticut residential consumer uses about 700 kwh per month.
mcf	1,000 cubic feet of natural gas	Unit of measurement for natural gas. A typical residential customer in Connecticut uses about 65 mcf per year.
mw	Megawatt	A unit of electric generating capacity. A commercial power plant typically has a capacity of 500 to 1,000 mws.
T&D	Transmission and distribution	Electric transmission systems move power at high voltage for long distances, primarily from generating plants to substations. Distribution systems move power at lower voltages from substations to homes and businesses.

Table 3: Charges on Utility Bills

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation
CTA	Competitive Transition Assessment	Charge that allows the electric distribution company to recover restructuring-related stranded costs (i.e., costs previously approved by DPUC (now PURA) whose continued recovery was jeopardized by the start of competition in the electric industry).
FMCC	Federally-Mandated Congestion Charges	Charges on an electric bill related to congestion on the state's transmission system, including the costs of programs designed to reduce congestion.
GSC	Generation Services Charge	The part of an electric company's or competitive supplier's bill that reflects its costs in buying power on the electric market. This is the charge for the actual electricity or kilowatt hours used.
SBC	Systems Benefit Charge	A charge on electric bills to cover the cost of implementing various public policies affecting electric companies.
CLMC	Conservation and Load Management Charge	A charge on electric bills used to support cost-effective energy conservation programs.
REIC	Renewable Energy Investment Charge	A charge on electric bills going to the state Renewable Energy Investment Fund.
CPB	Combined Public Benefits Charge	SBC, CLMC, and REIC may be grouped as the combined public benefits charge.
CAM	Conservation Adjustment Mechanism	A charge on gas bills used to fund gas efficiency programs.
PGA	Purchased Gas Adjustment	A mechanism adjusting gas rates up or down depending on changes in the cost of gas purchased by the gas company. On gas bills, the adjustment is reflected in the supply charge.
SER	System Expansion Reconciliation	A charge on gas bills related to planned infrastructure expansion of gas mains beginning in 2014.
WICA	Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment	A charge on water bills reflecting an interim rate adjustment that covers the costs of replacing existing water system infrastructure.

Table 4: Other Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
CHP	Combined Heat and Power	A type of technology, also called cogeneration, using the steam produced in electric generation for heating.	Renewable portfolio standard primer: 2013-R-0137 DEEP decision on renewable portfolio standards: 2013-R-0227
DG	Distributed Generation	Small scale power production facilities, often located on a customer's premises. An example of a "customer-side DG" facility would be a generator located in a factory. In contrast, "grid-side DG" facilities are located at substations and other electric distribution facilities.	Renewable portfolio standard primer: 2013-R-0137 Improving infrastructure resilience: 2013-R-0058
FCM	Forward Capacity Market	Auction mechanism used by ISO-New England that seeks to ensure that there are sufficient resources (generating capacity and demand-side measures) to meet New England's electric demand.	
GHG	Greenhouse Gases	Gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, contributing to global climate change.	Science of climate change: 2013-R-0388 Climate change issues: 2013-R-0307
IRP	Integrated Resources Plan	The law requires DEEP to prepare these plans to assess and meet future electricity needs, considering both demand (e.g., conservation, energy efficiency) and supply (e.g., generation/power plants, transmission lines).	Integrated resources energy plan: 2012-R-0286 Electric integrated resources plan: 2012-R-0073 Summary of act modifying IRP requirements: PA 13-298

Table 4: -Continued-

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
LDC	Local Distribution Companies	Natural gas companies (CNG, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Yankee Gas Services)	PURA decision on natural gas expansion: 2014-R-0013 2013 natural gas legislation: 2013-R-0282
LIHEAP	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	A federal program that helps low income consumers pay their energy bills. LIHEAP funds the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.	Utility rate discount: 2013-R-0304
LREC	Low Emission Renewable Energy Credit	Renewable energy credits earned through projects that emit low levels of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants.	Funding for on-site generation at schools: 2012-R-0307
PA 98-28	Public Act 98-28	Legislation adopted in 1998 that restructured the electric industry to allow consumers to choose an electric supplier other than their electric company. The act also established the Clean Energy Fund and Energy Efficiency Fund. Often called the "dereg bill".	Effect of PA 98-28 on municipal electric utilities: 98-R-0683
PV	Photovoltaic	Solar energy technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity.	Installing residential renewable energy systems: 2011-R-0390 Solar energy programs: 2011-R-0349

Table 4: -Continued-

Acronym or Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	Related OLR Reports
REC	Renewable Energy Credit	Credits earned by renewable energy generators that are bought and sold in the wholesale electric market to facilitate compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.	DEEP renewable portfolio standard report: 2013-R-0227 Anaerobic digesters and renewable energy credits: 2012-R-0047
RGGI	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative	An initiative by Connecticut and other northeastern states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants using a "cap-and-trade" mechanism.	Proposed amendments to RGGI regulations: 2013-R-0346 Climate change issues: 2013-R-0307
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard	A state requirement that electric companies and competitive suppliers get part of their power from renewable resources. There are specific requirements for three classes of resources. In 2014, the companies and suppliers must get 11% of their power from class I resources such as solar, wind, or fuel cell energy; this proportion increases in steps to 20% in 2020.	RPS primer: 2013-R-0137 Summary of act modifying state RPS: PA 13-303 DEEP RPS study: 2013-R-0205
ZREC	Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit	Renewable energy credits earned through projects that emit no pollutants.	Funding for on-site generation at schools: 2012-R-0307

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