



QUESTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY NOMINEE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA)

PURA is governed by three utility commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the governor, with the legislature's advice and consent.

PURA regulates the rates and services of investor-owned utility companies, like Eversource, United Illuminating, Yankee Gas, and CT Water. Among other things, it also licenses the state's retail electric suppliers and conducts various studies and investigations into utility-related issues.

PURA is administratively within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), but funded through a charge paid by the companies it regulates.

QUESTIONS

1. Having served as a PURA commissioner since 1997, what aspects of the job have you found most rewarding? What aspects have been the most difficult? What lessons will you take forward over the next four years?
2. A few months ago, the media reported on PURA's complaints that various conflicts of interest were created because PURA is organizationally within DEEP. Can you elaborate on the nature of the complaints? How important do you believe it is for PURA to have independence from DEEP? Are there any specific instances when you felt that DEEP tried to interfere with or influence PURA's decisions?
3. It was also reported that because PURA only has three commissioners, two commissioners cannot discuss a matter before PURA without being considered a public meeting and invoking various requirements under the Freedom of Information Act. Can you provide any specific examples of how this may have had an adverse effect on PURA's deliberations? Would a return to five commissioners improve PURA's operations, and if so, how?

4. Last year, PURA's most high-profile decision was allowing CL&P (now known as Eversource) to increase its electric distribution rates. Can you describe the process by which PURA came to its decision? To what extent does PURA consider comments from the general public and legislators when deciding a case like this?
5. One of the most controversial aspects in the CL&P rate case was the increase in the company's fixed customer service charge. Since then, there have been several proposals to limit or cap fixed charges in the future. How would such proposals affect ratepayers? Would it be particularly helpful to low or fixed income ratepayers? Would it encourage ratepayers to further emphasize their energy efficiency and conservation measures?
6. Over the past three years, many customers of electric retail suppliers have complained about drastic price spikes, particularly during the winter heating season. While much of this is due to seasonal price increases in the retail generation market, to what extent has PURA investigated claims that some suppliers may be using deceptive marketing or billing practices or otherwise being "bad actors?" Does PURA have sufficient enforcement authority and capacity to effectively police retail suppliers? To what extent have the consumer protection reforms enacted last legislative session been implemented? Have they been effective?
7. New York's Public Service Commission recently adopted a model in which utilities act as distributed system platforms, making much of their system planning information publicly available and allowing distributed energy resource providers to develop products and services and receive compensation for providing value to the grid. Could Connecticut benefit from a similar initiative? What are the potential risks and benefits of such an approach? Does the state need to reconsider the way it regulates electric companies in order to implement greater use of renewable and distributed energy resources?
8. It was recently reported that United Illuminating and Southern Connecticut Natural Gas are being acquired by Iberdola, a Spanish energy company. Do you expect PURA to play a role in approving the acquisition? If so, what factors will the authority consider before granting approval? Do you think that PURA's regulation of these companies will need to change in any significant way if they have a foreign corporate parent?
9. What progress have the natural gas companies made toward converting customers to natural gas under the natural gas expansion plan PURA approved in 2013? That plan aims to convert over 280,000 customers to natural gas over 10 years. Is that still a feasible goal?

10. Last year, PURA approved the settlement that allowed Frontier to purchase AT&T, but the switch from one company to another resulted in hundreds of customer complaints filed with PURA and the Department of Consumer Protection. Could this have been prevented? Did PURA's approval include an examination of the conversion process?
11. Under current law, the Department of Public Health, DEEP, and PURA have jurisdiction over different aspects of regulating the state's water supply. Has this made it more difficult for PURA to regulate water companies or for the state to have a comprehensive water plan and policy? Have the different agencies been able to successfully work together, particularly when they are evaluating small water systems in financial difficulty that may need to be acquired by another entity?
12. In the past, you served as the president of the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners. How do you think Connecticut's utility regulatory system compares with the other New England states? Is there anything that the other states are doing, particularly regarding rate setting, which Connecticut should adopt? Is there anything that the region's utility regulators could be doing on a collective, regional basis that would help the state's ratepayers?

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