After Irene CT

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

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Write something...

Arthur Fish
I live in Groton & was told to check the 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 reciever & modem, fixed 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 it 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 don’t understand. Then amazingly 3 1/2 days later it came back on as I walked in the bathroom at 130 in the morn to get ready for work, I dont have sensor lights so it must of left the switch on & it was like magic.

Like · Comment · 14 minutes ago

Arthur Fish likes this.

Elizabeth Platt
We’ve become a society that wants instant gratification and someone to blame for everything. The people who were restoring power are only human. Things sometimes take more time than we would like. I want to think those who worked tirelessly while enduring verbal abuse from those who feel they should have been quicker. We need communications? Perhaps? But having state government looking into if that’s 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 God’s sake people it was a storm! Stuff happens.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago

Marcia Patterson likes this.

Ron Bish
Think NUL did a Great job,based on what they had to restore. I am in the trade, am glad 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 Klingelee
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 locals who were trying to drive on salt roads while the storm was still high. Maybe if those 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 Crompton Bohuslaw
Candace Van Aukcn
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 Aukcn
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 robocalls telling me to “Leave.” Given the size of the storm, my budget, and my unwillingness to abandon my $79900 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

Casey 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 its did amazing. Things could have been a lot worse. The trees and debris were their biggest obstacle. Now to maintain 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

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 this 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

Carrie King
For paying some of the highest utility 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 did 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

Janet Kipp Hutch-Ainsworth
https://www.facebook.com/nates/janet-kipp-hutch-Ainsworth/my-Irene
tale-of-woe/1015081734925606

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 Kipp Hutch-Ainsworth

Like · Comment · Share · about an hour ago

Karole-anne Emmons Everlih
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

Karlie-ann 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

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 clp. very poor response in woodstock.

Like · Comment · about an hour ago

James F Murphy Sr

Did CL&P and u have to provide 85 copies of their testimony? And only 3 minutes to "defend" themselves? You will hear form 50 out of 800 people who were affected. You have the CUTS to say you want to hear from the Public. This hearing is to make you feel better about paying money from those companies for redaction. 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@eas.ct.gov. For posting on the Committees’ websites 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 22 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

http://www.facebook.com/AfterIreneCT
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 60 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, pole-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

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 re-cede 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 get tired I will let someone know.
Like · Comment · Saturday at 5:20pm

Lori Peterson likes this.

Karie-anne Emmons Everlyth: 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

Marcie Miner
I think CL&P and power companies should make alliances with contractors in the area. We have 3 chainsaws and 2 experienced operators who could have alleviated the situation. There must be others.
Like · Comment · 2 hours ago

Kathy Hughes-DeeJay
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 box of cable and $200.00 this is a scam and a way for CL&P to save money but I don't know how because their men were there too!
and it's their lines to begin 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 own 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 McFeeley
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.
Like · Comment · 2 hours ago

TJ Doherty
As an employee, I can tell you in previous years we worked until lights were back on. These two utilities decided to send employees home before 24 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
s) Jenn Thibodeau likes this.

John Dugosz 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 linemen. All of our careers emphasis has been on restoring power and meeting our customers needs.
We h...
See More  
30 hours ago  -  Like

Jenn Thibodeau TJ it 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 10:25pm

Denise Houle My first assumption was they were restoring power to the richer communities first and one of my Rich friends claimed that was the EXACT case because her neighbor works for CL&P. Nevertheless all the farmers in this area that needed to feed their hens, 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 Cencarlee
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 CL&P 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 10pm power was restored and Cox Comm worked and so did the cell phones.
Like  ·  Comment  ·  September 21 at 12:16pm

http://www.facebook.com/AfterIreneCT
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 did not have been. Carol

Like · Comment · September 10 at 8:59am

Margaret Cafarella Glettehow

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 a 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 10 at 11:36pm

Maria Marotte

First and hopefully, last time this will happen in NE CT. Share 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 10 at 1:04pm

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 falling 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 be 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 10 at 3:55pm

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

See More

September 20 at 3:57pm · Like

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.

After Irene CT

CL&P PowerPoint presentation submitted as part of their testimony before the Legislative Committee.
Hearings on Tropical Storm Irene
By: Ct Senate Democrats
Photos: L7

Jill Conrad Haley
I hope this outrage 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.

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.

Michael O'Grady No the AT&T pole versus a UI or CL&P pole is complete (buries it is how they work, though) but in a critical situation such as this, all that stuff should be blown out the window. If UI rolls up on a AT&T pole that is messed up then UI should...

Jaime Krajewski
It was quite frustrating to see entire towns in Central CT who have public water supply 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.

Albert J. Smith likes this.

Allison Scott 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.

Allison Scott 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 still...

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.
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 one 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 don't get what they need I have willingford 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 northbranford people do not have normal land lines so people did not get the info that was needed politics needed to change quick and stop being so greedy

Like · Comment · September 19 at 12:33pm

Nancy Schadtle Marinos
We lost power Sunday AM at around 8:30am – we didn’t get it back until Saturday after noon time. When I would call for updates, I would be told that power was going to be restored Tuesday by 9pm. Then Wed, by 8am, 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 I am not close to the Merritt. From my windows, we had rain and a little wind. Did trees come down? Sure. Tree cleanup happened on Monday, aside from Cromone 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 cover 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 9:32pm

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