

CONNECTICUT ENERGY: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

INSIGHTS FROM ATTORNEYS

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Introduction

It was an interesting and busy year for the Connecticut energy market. Changes in leadership at the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) were sudden and impactful on multiple pending proceedings, leaving some in limbo.

Passage of Public Act 25-173 established a comprehensive energy bill focused on affordability and accountability, mandating reviews of renewable tariffs, establishing funding for nuclear/wind projects, creating solar tax rules, and more to enhance grid efficiency, consumer protection, and the state's clean

energy transition, impacting costs for ratepayers and providers.

Several actions by the General Assembly and the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will have long-lasting effect on the energy market.

Harris Beach Murtha's [Energy Industry Team](#) has boots on the ground throughout Connecticut and is actively engaged on many of these issues. We offer a comprehensive review below of many of the state's important energy issues from 2025.

New PURA Commissioners

Starting at the top, Gov. Ned Lamont [nominated four people to serve as commissioners of PURA](#). The new slate of commissioners will no doubt move to leave their own mark on Connecticut's energy landscape. In addition to already sitting Vice Chairman David Arconti, the new commissioners will serve in an interim capacity until their nominations are confirmed by the Connecticut General Assembly during the 2026 legislative session. Here's more about each:

- **Chairman Thomas Wiehl** will serve as chairperson of PURA. Wiehl, who replaced Marissa Gillett after her September 2025 resignation, was previously the legal and regulatory director for the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel. He's been with that organization in various capacities since 2020. Prior to joining the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), Wiehl worked as vice president of administration and general counsel for Consumers Petroleum of Connecticut, a company that distributed gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products throughout Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.
- **Commissioner Janice Beecher**, professor emeritus (Political Science) and director emeritus (Institute of Public Utilities) at Michigan State University. She's also served as editor-in-chief of the journal *Utilities Policy* (Elsevier) since 2014. With four decades of experience in applied research, continuing education and practice in the economic regulation of public utilities, she previously held a staff position at the Illinois Commerce Commission. Her areas of interest include regulatory principles and practices; incentives and accountability for utility performance; infrastructure funding, financing, and governance; rate design and utility affordability; and the structure, economics, and regulation of the water sector.

- **Commissioner Holly Cheeseman**, a former Republican state representative from East Lyme with a background in public service and policy-making. As state representative for the 37th Assembly District of East Lyme, Montville and Salem from 2016 to 2024, she served on the Energy and Technology Committee. She has also served on the East Lyme Board of Selectmen, the East Lyme Board of Assessment Appeals, and on the board of seCTer, a nonprofit economic development organization for the southeastern Connecticut region.
- **Commissioner Everett Smith**, an investor in energy and sustainable infrastructure, who adds a business perspective to the commission. Smith replaces Michael Caron, who served on PURA since 2012. Smith has more than 45 years of experience investing across the capital structure – including debt, project finance, both structured and private equity, and venture capital – and across geographies – having worked in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Most recently, he founded and was CEO of GoldenSet Capital Partners, which has constructed and owned more than 54 distributed solar and wind projects and completed investments in residential solar, energy storage and renewable natural gas. Previously, Smith served as managing director and executive vice president in the GE Capital Structured Finance Group, the unit responsible for GE's energy and infrastructure investment activities. Prior to joining GE Capital, he was a vice president in the Energy and Minerals Group at Chemical Bank, focused on utility, corporate and project finance, as well as financings for the independent oil and gas industry.



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Need Assistance with Energy Related Issues?

No doubt 2026 will be another interesting year in the Connecticut energy market. We'll continue to track all major developments and report out our updates. Our [Energy Industry Team](#) is growing throughout the Northeast and is providing assistance on many of the region's largest and most influential energy proceedings and projects. If you have questions about energy policy, legislation and regulatory issues in Connecticut, please reach out to our team.

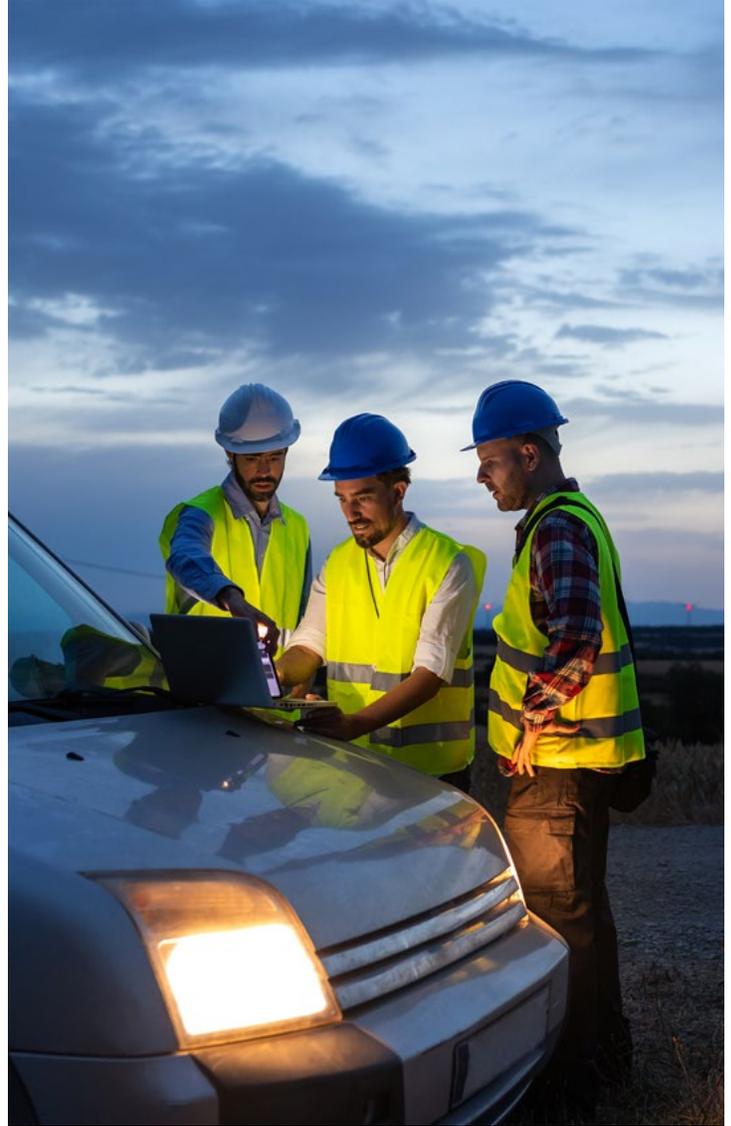
Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line

In February 2024, the [Connecticut Siting Council](#) (CSC) approved The United Illuminating Company's (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (CECPN) for the relocation and rebuild of approximately 7.3 miles of existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines as an overhead facility on new steel monopoles along, or adjacent to, the Metro-North Railroad corridor. The CSC adopted an alternative configuration (the Hannon-Morissette Alternative) that in part, modified the project from the one identified in UI's application. Municipalities and intervenors subsequently filed an appeal with the Superior Court.

In April 2025, the Superior Court sustained the appeals and remanded the matter to the Siting Council, holding the Council exceeded its statutory authority under the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act by changing the "facility" under consideration and violated principles of fundamental fairness by approving a materially different project without adequate notice or opportunity to be heard.

The CSC reconsidered the application under the court's directive and, in October, [denied UI's application](#), notwithstanding extensive findings reiterating the public need for the project and acknowledging the environmental effects of the proposed facilities were not disproportionate to the need. The decision did not identify any specific statutory criterion under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50p that UI failed to satisfy, and the accompanying findings of fact and conclusions of law largely mirrored language from the CSC's prior approval.

UI filed a [Petition for Reconsideration](#) in November, asserting the denial failed to comply with statutory requirements to state reasons and findings, conflicted with the CSC's own determinations regarding public need and reliability, and left unresolved the regulatory path forward for replacing



aging transmission infrastructure along the Metro-North corridor. That petition remains pending before the CSC.

Connecticut Siting Council Membership Change

The [Connecticut Siting Council](#) continued to experience [membership](#) changes in 2025.

Specifically, one of the ecology-designated seats, as required by the [Public Utility Environmental Standards Act](#), experienced change in membership after Dr. Scott Williams was appointed to succeed Elin Swanson Katz.

Following these appointments, the CSC is now fully constituted in accordance with statutory requirements. The recent changes ensure that the CSC can deliberate with its complete membership during upcoming energy siting proceedings.

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Developments

New Renewable Energy Procurements

Public Act 25-173 also required the [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection \(DEEP\)](#) to establish a proposed schedule to solicit new zero-carbon Class I renewable energy sources necessary to achieve a target of an additional seven percent of the aggregate total load served by Connecticut's EDCs by 2030.

In September, as part of a collaborative, multistate, competitive solicitation conducted in coordination with Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont, [DEEP issued an expedited request for proposals to procure new, advanced stage solar and wind generation resources](#) at risk of losing eligibility for certain federal tax credits under sections 45Y and 48E of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Eligible projects included: (1) zero-carbon Class I renewable energy sources, in which the facility has an AC nameplate capacity rating equal to or greater than two megawatts (MW); and (2) paired and co-located energy storage, in which the facility has an air conditioner nameplate capacity rating equal to or greater than two MW.

Bidders could offer up to 20-year contract terms for the purchase of energy, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and any other wholesale market components associated with the facility that are settled via the ISO-NE settlement process. The bidding period closed on October 10 2025.

On December 18, [DEEP announced it procured 67 MW across three projects](#): Viridis Solar – Panton, Vermont – 39 MW; Husky Solar – Plainfield, Connecticut – 12.47 MW; and Fair Haven Solar – Fair Haven, Vermont – 16 MW.

Winning bidders will negotiate contracts with the EDCs and submit them to PURA for approval in the coming weeks. By statute, PURA has between 30 to 180 days to review the contracts.

Another round of the zero-carbon energy procurement has been scheduled for 2026. We will alert you when that happens.

Eligible Biomass Facility Procurement

The General Assembly also directed DEEP to solicit proposals for energy, capacity and environmental attributes from eligible biomass facilities with existing power purchase agreements.



“Eligible biomass facilities” are those that either (1) use sustainable biomass fuel and averaged no more than .075 pounds of nitrogen oxide emissions per million BTU of heat input during the previous calendar quarter or (2) have a capacity of less than 500 kilowatts and their construction began before July 1, 2003 (i.e. facilities that qualified as Class I energy source under prior law).

An “existing biomass power purchase agreement” is one that was in effect for an eligible biomass

> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

facility on January 1, 2024, and was either (1) entered into with an electric distribution company by June 5, 2013, or (2) executed under existing laws authorizing DEEP to solicit these resources.

DEEP may conduct multiple solicitations and may direct the EDCs to enter into one or more agreements for energy, capacity and environmental attributes, or any combination of such energy and attributes, from eligible biomass facilities (additional biomass PPAs), provided any such agreement considers the costs to operate such facility, is in the best interest of ratepayers and supports the state's solid waste management plan.

These agreements may be for up to 10 years, commencing when the applicable existing biomass agreement terminates, and will be subject to PURA's approval. By statute, PURA shall issue a decision within 180 days from filing or the additional biomass PPA is deemed approved.

In September, DEEP issued a Notice of Proceeding and Opportunity for Comment on the requirements of this solicitation. Specifically, DEEP requested comments on the type of documentation that should be submitted to demonstrate eligibility to bid and that the facility meets the statutory costs and benefits requirements.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Grid Resilience Formula Funding

On November 12, 2025, DEEP issued a request for proposals for [Energy Resilience Construction Grants](#). DEEP expects to fund these energy resilience projects using federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) §40101(d) formula funding for the first three years, state funding through Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-243y DEEP Climate and Resilience Fund to meet federal cost match requirements, and SEP-BIL State Energy Program funding to leverage both funding sources.

Awards may range from \$10,000 up to \$6 million for a contract term between one to five years.

Proposals must be received no later than May 8, 2026. DEEP anticipates selected projects to be announced during the third quarter of 2026, followed by contract negotiations.

Other Relevant DEEP Proceedings

- **2025 Integrated Resources Plan:** In February, DEEP issued a Notice of Proceeding and Opportunity for Public Comment on developing the latest [Integrated Resources Plan \(IRP\) for Connecticut](#). The 2025 IRP will develop strategies the state can pursue to secure an affordable, reliable and clean electric supply over the next ten years. Since, DEEP issued one request for additional stakeholder



input on the preliminary categories of energy future modeling scenarios identified by DEEP.

- **Hydrogen Roadmap:** In July, DEEP issued a final draft of its [2024 Connecticut Hydrogen Roadmap](#). The report discusses DEEP's recommendations, specifically, the policies, programs and pilot projects DEEP identified to help scale hydrogen at the pace needed to meet Connecticut's decarbonization goals.
- **Nuclear:** In November, DEEP issued a Notice of Proceeding to explore new nuclear capacity in Connecticut. Through this stakeholder process, DEEP intends to host a series of informational workshops with national experts that will ultimately culminate with the development and implementation of a competitive advanced nuclear reactor site readiness funding program. The first informational public meeting was held on December 12, and more are expected to follow during the first quarter of 2026. A request for proposals is tentatively scheduled to be issued during the first quarter of 2026 and for the solicitation period to commence during the second quarter of 2026.

HARRIS BEACH MURTHA AT HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL ENERGY CONFERENCE



In mid-November, Harris Beach Murtha sponsored the Hartford Business Journal's 2025 Politics & Policy Forum: The Business of Energy Conference. Partner Dan Canavan moderated a session titled, "Stabilizing Energy Costs and Infrastructure Investments in Connecticut," with panelists David Arconti, Commissioner, PURA; State Senator Ryan Fazio, Ranking Member – Energy and Technology Committee; State Senator John Fonfara, Co-Chair – Energy, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee; John Matheson – CEO, ReNew Developers; and Tom Quinn, President and COO – Nuovo Pasta Productions.

The conference facilitated discussions on the costs, carbon and competitiveness within the energy industry and highlight how energy policy, infrastructure, and investment decisions will shape Connecticut's business climate and long-term economic growth.

Conferences like these are important to facilitate discussion on how Connecticut can provide cleaner and reliable energy, while stabilizing customer bills. Harris Beach Murtha was proud to be a part of the conference and looks forward to seeing you at the next important industry event.



Images courtesy of Hartford Business Journal

Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Successor Program



The Connecticut General Assembly directed [PURA](#) to conduct a study of the state's renewable energy tariff programs and to submit the results by March 1, 2026. The study is to investigate (1) whether to extend the Renewable Energy Tariff Programs beyond the procurement years authorized; (2) potential processes that can be adopted to avoid stranded projects; (3) potential successor programs; (4) the different criteria and procedures for selecting projects, including alternative bidding frameworks; (5) a framework to encourage the aggregation of distributed energy resources that can respond and provide grid and retail market services; and (6) the costs and benefits of the [Renewable Energy Tariff Programs](#) and methods to maximize benefits to nonparticipating customers, among others.

PURA has requested written comments and other feedback from Connecticut electric distribution companies (the EDCs); the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC); the PURA Office of Education, Outreach and Enforcement; the Conservation Law Foundation; the Connecticut Green Bank; the Solar

Energy Industry Association; the Connecticut Solar and Storage Association and other solar developers. It also conducted two technical meetings for the EDCs and other stakeholders to present their recommendations for residential and non-residential successor programs, tariff structure/compensation and potential mechanisms to encourage paired energy storage.

Even though the technical meetings mainly focused on solar successor programs (residential and non-residential), PURA has not indicated whether the successor programs will be limited to Class I renewable energy sources that emit no pollutants. Further, in its November 2025 Notice of Request for Written Comments, PURA asked for comments on whether the successor programs should be open to other Class I renewable energy sources or be limited to those emitting no pollutants.

PURA anticipates releasing the Proposed Legislative Report in early 2026, at which time, docket participants and/or interested stakeholders might have another opportunity to submit comments.

United Illuminating Rate Case



The abrupt change of leadership at PURA has been impactful on the State utilities' rate proceedings. In October, [PURA approved an annual revenue requirement for UI](#) for the rate year November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026. PURA approved an increase of nearly \$66 million over UI's currently authorized revenues – 63% of the increase proposed by UI in its application – for a total approved revenue requirement of nearly \$451 million for the rate year. This is a significant increase compared to PURA's proposal in the September Draft Decision for a \$28.6 million increase over UI's currently authorized revenues, or 27% of the increase proposed by UI in its application.

PURA also approved a Return on Equity (ROE) of 9.25%, including a downward adjustment of 20 basis points from an allowed ROE of 9.45% to account for what PURA described as UI's "deficient performance." This penalty was lower than the downward ROE

adjustment of 50 basis points PURA had proposed in the September Draft Decision. PURA's shift in position can likely be attributed to the changes in the panel of PURA commissioners that occurred earlier in October.

But taking the same position as it did in the September Draft Decision, PURA rejected UI's proposal to include an adjustment of nearly \$132.5 million in its rate base for future plant additions, explaining that "forecasted plant investment, by its nature, is not used and useful, and it is not currently employed in the public service." Determining that future plant additions are not properly included in rate base may create future issues for utilities planning expansion to keep pace with energy needs.

We'll watch how PURA handles UI's motion to reconsider the ROE penalties through the post-decision discovery and briefing schedule that concludes in March 2026.

Yankee Gas Rate Case

In November, PURA [approved an annual revenue requirement of Yankee Gas](#) for the rate year November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026. The takeaways from PURA's determinations in this rate case are similar those in the UI case.

PURA approved an increase of more than \$82 million over Yankee's currently authorized revenues (43% of the increase proposed by Yankee in its application) for a total approved revenue requirement of more than \$802 million. Again, this was an increase compared to PURA's proposal in its September Draft Decision, where it proposed an increase of only \$41 million over Yankee's previously authorized revenues, or only 22% of the increase proposed by Yankee in its application.

PURA also approved an ROE of 9.32%, including

a downward adjustment of 16 basis points from an allowed ROE of 9.48%. Like in the UI case, the inclusion of an ROE penalty flowed from determinations made in PURA's Draft Decision. Again, this is likely attributed to the changes in the panel of PURA commissioners.

For similar reasons as stated in the UI case, PURA also rejected Yankee's proposal to include an adjustment in rate base for future plant additions, once again calling into question utilities' ability to undertake expansions to keep pace with the energy needs. We'll watch how PURA handles Yankee's motion to reconsider through the post-decision discovery and briefing schedule that concludes in March 2026.

Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation/Southern Natural Gas Company Rate Case Remand

After PURA rejected applications for increased rates from Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) and Southern Natural Gas Company (SNG) – actually reducing CNG/SNG's allowed rates – CNG and SNG appealed, alleging both substantive errors in PURA's determination and procedural errors in how PURA conducted the administrative proceeding. The companies specifically targeted the conduct of then-Chairperson Marissa Gillett.

Although PURA's lawyers initially denied all claims of procedural impropriety by Gillett and PURA, PURA eventually acknowledged the violations following Gillett's departure from the authority and filed a motion for a *voluntary* remand.

In a November 19, 2025, [decision](#), the court found [Gillett and PURA violated Connecticut law](#) in such a way that it undermined the fundamental fairness of the proceedings and deprived CNG and SCG of a fair hearing, remanding the cases back to PURA.

On remand, the [Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel](#) (OCC) has demanded the companies file an entire new rate-case application instead of relying on the extensive record already before PURA.

We'll keep an eye on whether PURA will allow a truncated schedule relying on the existing record or whether it requires the gas companies to prepare, file and fully litigate a new rate case, forcing them



to continue operating under current rates, which the court has already found to have been the result of an unfair process that violated Connecticut law. Also, it begs the question, because PURA reduced the companies' rates in the November 2024 final decision, are the companies entitled to recoup amounts they could have charged customers but for the unfair and illegal conduct in the initial administrative hearing?

Regional Water Authority/Aquarion Change of Control

Noteworthy as a rare example of the sale of an investor-owned utility to a not-for-profit authority model, PURA initially rejected the proposed sale of the Aquarion Water Company from Eversource to an affiliate authority of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority that provides water service to 432,000 customers in 15 municipalities.

The transaction was designed to remove the return on investment that investor-owned utilities are entitled to recover from ratepayers pursuant to General Statutes Sec. 16-19, providing material and long-term savings to customers. Since PURA's decision appears to ignore the statutory mandates set forth in [Public Act 24-1](#), the decision was swiftly overturned by Connecticut Superior Court, and remanded back to PURA for further review.

This is one to watch – and we will continue to monitor how this unique matter continues to unfold.



Saugatuck Reservoir, Fairfield County, Connecticut

Frontier Change of Control Settlement

In June 2025, PURA approved Verizon Communications Inc.'s acquisition of Frontier Communications Parent, Inc., adopting in full a comprehensive settlement negotiated with the OCC and finding that Verizon satisfied the statutory requirements for financial, managerial and technological suitability under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-47, and also that the transaction was in the public interest.

The settlement [reflects an assertive use of Connecticut's change-of-control authority to extract consumer protections](#), including the elimination of Frontier's Road Work Recovery surcharge, expanded eligibility for low-income broadband discounts through Verizon Forward, and enhanced protections for elderly, disabled and medically vulnerable customers facing service disconnection or forced migration from copper to fiber.

PURA imposed extensive, multi-year reporting and operational oversight and obligations on Verizon, including annual fiber-deployment reports; enhanced quality-of-service reporting covering both regulated and unregulated voice technologies; mandatory outage notifications to PURA and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and a required post-closing audit of Frontier's copper and



fiber plant to ensure safe and reliable service.

The decision also addressed utility-pole administration and public safety concerns, requiring Verizon to submit a formal action plan clarifying its role as custodian of communications space on Connecticut utility poles, to coordinate with UI and Eversource, and to repay outstanding storm-recovery and vegetation-management charges, thereby preventing cost shifts to electric ratepayers.

More broadly, the Frontier settlement underscores PURA's and OCC's willingness to condition merger approval on enforceable, non-rate regulatory commitments, signaling the continued future potential of change-of-control proceedings to be a vehicle for advancing consumer protection objectives.

Harris Beach Murtha Expands Energy Team with Three Key Hires

Harris Beach Murtha's Energy Industry Team recently added three new team members that will add subject-matter depth to an already robust team and increase bench strength in key geographic areas.

Partner Daniel R. Canavan and associate Molly E. Behan joined the firm's New Haven office, growing the team's New England footprint, while associate Joshua Schneider joins the Albany office to bolster the New York presence.

Harris Beach Murtha's Energy Industry Team, led by attorney John T. McManus, advises on all aspects of energy law with a wide variety of clients across the Northeast, including electric generation facility owners; electric and gas transmission owners; battery energy storage owners; utilities; large commercial and industrial customers, such as data centers, manufacturing facilities and multi-family residential buildings; energy service companies/energy brokers and consultants; and governmental entities.

Canavan, a seasoned energy attorney with executive-level experience at major energy companies and involvement in many of the Northeast's most impactful energy proceedings over the past 15 years, is the most senior of the three attorneys. With more than 25 years of utility and energy-related experience, he joins the firm after serving as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for a leading energy company in the United States, during which he led the state regulatory organization for Connecticut and Massachusetts-based operating companies.

He has also held senior legal positions at a large Northeast energy conglomerate, where he engaged on almost every major regulatory proceeding in Connecticut over the past 15 years, including rate cases, storm investigations and change-of-control proceedings.



Dan Canavan

Dan has first-hand knowledge of the legal and business issues affecting his clients, and his extensive relationships with key stakeholders will prove to be a valuable resource to the firm's clients across New York state, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

His legal experience spans a broad spectrum of issues, including regulatory and compliance, corporate governance, internal and governmental investigations, commercial transactions, media and corporate communications, local and statewide government relations, real estate and land use, employment, policy formation and litigation management. He's developed and implemented a broad range of regulatory strategies, including ratemaking, revenue requirements, rate design, tariff implementation and public policy initiatives.

Canavan has implemented regulatory strategy on a variety of renewable energy-related issues, negotiated material commercial engagements and developed and implemented successful regulatory compliance programs. He's negotiated significant purchase power agreements (PPAs) and interconnection agreements, including those for zero-emission facilities such as offshore wind, nuclear generation and solar combined with

energy storage facilities, as well as operations and maintenance (O&M) agreements.

He also leads development of renewable energy credit (REC) and shared clean energy programs, cybersecurity critical infrastructure reporting and risk and litigation management protocols.

Dan is a frequent speaker on energy related topics at local, national and international events. He holds National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Rate School certification from Michigan State University, Institute of Public Utilities and is certified by The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in leadership and management. He recently was named Secretary of the Connecticut Power & Energy Society's Board of Directors.

Molly E. Behan supports clients in the energy and public utility sectors in a variety of legal and regulatory matters. Her work includes assisting energy industry clients in administrative proceedings before state agencies and advising utility clients on complex statutory and regulatory questions related to compliance and commercial transactions.

Prior to joining the firm, Molly worked as attorney-advisor in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of the General Counsel, where she focused primarily on oil and natural gas markets issues. Through this experience, she gained insight into many aspects of the energy industry and developed a familiarity with the procedural nuances of federal energy regulation.

In New York, Joshua Schneider supports clients in a broad range of regulatory matters before the New York State Public Service Commission. His work includes assisting developers of transmission and renewable energy projects in securing key regulatory approvals and navigating complex administrative proceedings, as well as advising utility service providers (such as gas and water utilities, energy services companies and submeterers) on regulatory compliance, asset transfers and cost allocation matters.

He gained valuable experience through internships at the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Administrative Law Judges and the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

Learn more about our growing
Energy Industry Team:

harrisbeachmurtha.com/industry-teams/energy/



Molly E. Behan



Joshua Schneider

Passage of Public Act 25-173, An Act Concerning Energy Affordability, Access and Accountability

PA 25-173, signed into law on July 1, imposed a \$20 million annual cap on PURA-approved electric vehicle charging program expenditures, beginning January 1, 2026. It also limited eligibility for residential charging incentives to customers living in concentrated poverty census tracts or households with incomes at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level, reflecting a legislative shift toward tighter cost controls and targeted program design.

The law requires PURA to implement specified cost-containment measures when setting low-income discount rates, including usage caps, revenue-impact triggers and periodic recertification of eligibility. It also directs PURA to report on the effectiveness of these measures, and the low-income rate program more broadly, in future filings to the Energy and Technology Committee.

The law directs the OCC to study public benefits charge line items, including their statutory authorization, purposes, costs and benefits, and to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by October 1, 2026.

The law also requires electric distribution companies to initiate the process of implementing time-of-use rates, mandating they apply to PURA by October 1, 2027, establishing a framework for phased implementation.

Electric distribution companies and transmission owners, when proposing certain transmission projects, must develop and submit project alternatives that utilize grid-enhancing technologies



or non-transmission alternatives, and directs the Connecticut Siting Council to give preference to such alternatives under specified cost-effectiveness and reliability criteria, subject to waiver provisions.

The law also creates a new exception to Connecticut's nuclear moratorium for advanced nuclear reactor facilities and establishes a \$5 million state-funded site-readiness program administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, reflecting renewed legislative openness to nuclear development as a zero-carbon resource.

Finally, the law modifies the definition of Class I renewable energy sources and reduces Class I Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements for compliance years 2026 through 2030, while also establishing a uniform municipal solar capacity tax of \$10,000 per megawatt for solar photovoltaic systems larger than one megawatt, with specified exemptions.

Upcoming Legislative Session

Harris Beach Murtha does not expect an active energy slate during the 2026 legislative session, which runs from February 4 to May 6. The confirmation hearings of Gov. Lamont's newly appointed commissioners will be an early highlight.

We will keep an eye on how legislators respond to PURA's resolution of the various post-decision issues or resulting appeals in the various rate cases outlined above, which would occur during the legislative session.

Because the public benefits charge continues to

be a hot button issue, we will watch for legislators' reactions when UI and Eversource file their reconciling Rate Adjustment Mechanism (RAM) filings in mid-February, which will highlight any increases or decreases to this very controversial line-item on constituent's electric bills.

Our Energy Industry Team will actively monitor energy and utility related issues and track energy-related bills throughout the session and report out any relevant developments.

HARRIS BEACH MURTHA is more than a law firm. We are a strategic partner dedicated to providing legal services that align with your business goals and spur success. We are a one-stop shop for problem solving – a mid-size firm with full-service capabilities that help your business navigate legal challenges and manage day-to-day operations. Skillful legal representation often makes the difference in business growth and prosperity. The Northeast Corridor is a major driver of our nation's economy, and, with boots on the ground and deep experience, we understand the complex regulatory, governmental, political and cultural environments. We are equipped to help clients, especially new and emerging businesses, successfully navigate those landscapes. That is a true differentiator for our clients. But, make no mistake, we are not limited by geography, time zones or language. We have a Northeast presence with global reach, and boldly embrace the unique challenges of regional, national and international law.

FAST FACTS

- **275+ attorneys**
- **Offices across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York**
- **Attorneys practicing in more than 30 major areas of law**
- **More than 20 industries served**
- **Rated by Best Law Firms with several nationally ranked practice areas**
- **90+ attorneys named to Super Lawyers**
- **100+ attorneys recognized by Best Lawyers**
- **Ranked nationally among top law firms by The National Law Journal and Law360**
- **Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a best law firm to work for**

Collaborating for Innovative, Customized Solutions

Our goal is to answer your most difficult questions and complex legal and business challenges with innovative, customized solutions. We are more than attorneys. We are counselors in the truest sense of the word, working to understand your needs and collaborating for efficient answers that produce the desired results. We are client-focused and committed to thinking big, pursuing excellence and exceeding expectations.

Our clients include Fortune 100 corporations, privately-held companies, emerging businesses, public sector utilities, tax-exempt organizations and individuals. We zealously represent industries such as automotive, cannabis, construction and surety, education, energy, financial markets, food and beverage, health care, long-term care, manufacturing, medical and life sciences, gaming and hospitality, real estate development, retail, utilities and state and local governments and authorities.

Our mid-size team is filled with nationally recognized attorneys; thought leaders practicing in every major area of law. We believe in hands-on client service, mutual respect and cost-effective advocacy. We take pride in being nimble and quick to pivot. Our simple approach is consistently delivered and why our clients return year after year, decade after decade.

Our People and Values

Our growth mindset is an integral part of our business strategy. Our strongest investments are in our people and the tools and technology they need to deliver high-quality services that meet client goals, save time and help drive positive bottom-line results. We are equipped and prepared to see your vision through.

Our strong culture and well-deserved reputation for excellence were developed over many years. Our core set of values and beliefs – integrity, respect, accountability, ingenuity, teamwork, inclusion and diversity – shape the behavior of our organization and its people. It defines who we are and where we are going. We are passionate about lifting up – our people, our clients, our community.