

INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE

1020 BOULEVARD

WEST HARTFORD, CT. 06117

QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1-DECEMBER 31, 2024

As expected, this quarter's activities focused on annual budget issues. While the non-fuel portion of the CMEEC budget represents a small portion of the overall budget, it is the area where CMEEC can control costs. Hence, the focus by CMEEC staff and board as well as the Advocate.

This year, there were significant amounts proposed for capital expenditures--renovations, additional construction, and purchase of equipment. These expenditures appear reasonable and necessary. The Advocate focused on ensuring that all the costs associated with the projects, including costs of money, were recognized. The overall budget showed modest increases where necessary and overall was reasonable. It is noted that the largest capital expenditure is for a bucket truck to service the microgen units. The need for this truck became evident following the safety audit ordered by the Audit Committee at the suggestion of the Advocate.

Some time was spent on the criminal cases and the related insurance litigation. The Advocate is pleased to report that the criminal cases are resolved (assuming there is no violation of several probation orders) and that the three defendants found guilty are currently serving prison terms. The insurance litigation concerning reimbursement to CMEEC for certain legal expenses continues.

As is required by statute, the Advocate held the annual consumer meeting where he reported on his activities over the last year and entertained consumer comments and questions. This year's meeting was uneventful. During the quarter there were several consumer inquiries. These inquiries concerned battery storage, water rates, obligation of a municipal utility to provide service to a vacant premise, and extension of public power to additional municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Independent Consumer Advocate

By

David Silverstone

January 14, 2025