

INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE

1044 BOULEVARD

WEST HARTFORD, CT. 06117

QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1-DECEMBER 31, 2025

As is typical of fourth quarterly activity, the ICA devoted considerable time to the annual budget deliberations for the 2026 CMEEC budget. There were relatively minor staff adjustments and the expected increase in health and other insurance. The only exceptional expense is that related to ISO New England. CMEEC is billed for its proportionate share of the ISO budget, This amount is approximately \$3 million. This means that the overall ISO budget is on the order of \$90 million. Further inquiry led the ICA to ISO budget documents which detailed its spending for 2025 and projected for 2026.

The ICA recognizes that some of this expense is generated by requests from state governments for additional information and projections. While beyond the scope of the ICA, additional review of the ISO budget is warranted.

During the fourth quarter, the annual Consumer meeting was held. Two customers who attended that meeting raised questions regarding the solar net metering rate offered by Groton and Bozrah. Further inquiry by the ICA indicated that the net metering rate properly accounted for the benefit of the solar powered electricity while still properly billing the customers for the cost of transmission and distribution attributable to those customers. Importantly this cost of service approach will provide a sound basis for other customers who might self-generate a portion of their energy needs. It did become clear however during conversation with the utility that some of the language used on the customer bill did not comport to the utility's ordinances and might not accurately describe the nature of the charge. This should be corrected when the bill and ordinances are revised.

During the quarter the ICA received training on the SharePoint system which is used by CMEEC to communicate with Board members in a secure environment.

The quarter also saw the completion of the By Law revision project and adoption by the Member Delegation.

Finally, there were the usual number of Committee and Board meetings which were attended by the ICA.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE

BY DAVID SILVERSTONE