



NEPPA's Newsline – March 2021

## **Connecticut's Participation in the APPA Legislative Rally**

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CMEEC, Norwich Public Utilities, and Wallingford Electric Division participated in the virtual APPA Legislative Rally with staff from Connecticut's Congressional Delegation on Monday and Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were able to meet with staff from Senators Blumenthal and Larson's offices, and from Representatives Murphy, Himes and Courtney's offices.

Conversation was lively and interesting as there was a lot to talk about- the recent Texas market melt-down and its lessons for New England, President Biden's energy agenda and the COVID-19 impacts on utilities and ratepayers. There was consensus that support of the current COVID relief bill, plus the additional aid provided through HR 551, is crucial. Several members of the Congressional Delegation informed us that they had signed a letter requesting additional LIHEAP funding to address the additional energy assistance needed to cope with the impacts of COVID-19. Multiple congressional staff members said they would be interested in any thoughts on grid reliability in light of the Texas situation. Rick Hendershot from Wallingford Electric Division spoke about the good work that is done through NEPPA in terms of the mutual aid our members provide each other when it comes to storm restoration. We also took the opportunity to talk about the current initiatives being undertaken by ISO-NE with respect to the Future Grid and Pathways Analysis and how this addresses issues we have been discussing with them for many years. Specifically, that the current ISO-NE market rules and structure do not sufficiently take into consideration state-specific energy policy goals. We all spoke to the need for any future decarbonization mandates to be established with the ultimate consumers in mind and that the cost impact on consumers must be expressly considered along with the impacts of decarbonization initiatives in other sectors of the economy. Thank you APPA and NEPPA for providing us with the vehicle to connect with our delegation on these important matters.