



An AVANGRID Company

## Dear UI Customer,

**Work planners will soon visit your street** on UI's behalf to determine whether tree work is required to protect the electric system and prevent power outages. This is part of a larger effort to reduce the number and duration of service outages that may occur as a result of severe weather, as the state directed us to do after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and Super Storm Sandy in 2012.

We ask for your cooperation and input as we pursue a balanced approach to maintaining a safe, reliable and resilient electric system, while considering neighborhood and community concerns.

If the work planners recommend pruning or removal of trees on your property, or in abutting public spaces or rights-of-way, they will attempt to contact you directly. They may also leave materials at your door. They will provide you with an assessment, made in consultation with UI's arborist, that includes details about the recommended work, as well as the timing and instructions for how to respond.

This is the first step in a collaborative process involving UI and its contractors, private property owners, and your municipal tree warden or the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT). As a property owner, if you are contacted about proposed tree work, you have three options.

- 1 You may **Consent** to the proposed work.
- 2 You may **Object** to the proposed work. This begins a review process that may ultimately be decided by the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). Your objection must be filed within 10 business days with UI and your municipal tree warden or the DOT commissioner, as appropriate.
- 3 You may **Request a Modification** of the work. This also must be filed within 10 business days with UI and the municipal tree warden or DOT commissioner, and begins a review process as described above.

**Privately Owned Trees:** UI and its contractors will not prune or remove privately owned trees or vegetation without the property owner's written consent, except when the trees are in direct contact with conductors or when there are signs of burning.

**Trees in Public Space or Right-of-Way:** UI will seek the consent of the local tree warden (or DOT commissioner) and notify all abutting private owners, who may consent, object or request a modification as described above.

**FACT: Fallen trees and limbs caused 90% of downed power lines after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.**

If you exercise your right to object to proposed tree work, or request a modification, it may increase the risk that you or your neighbors will lose power if a storm or similar event brings trees into contact with electrical equipment. However, you will not be billed for any resulting damage to UI's system.

If you have questions about the proposed work, you should contact the UI work planners directly; a phone number will be provided with the materials you receive. You may also send a query by e-mail to [trees@uinet.com](mailto:trees@uinet.com).

More information about this program is available by visiting UI's website, [uinet.com/trees](http://uinet.com/trees).

Thank you for working with us.

The United Illuminating Company | 866.829.4461 | [uinet.com](http://uinet.com)