



OCC Engaged in Connecticut Cyber Security Discussion

The 2013 Comprehensive Energy Strategy for Connecticut (CES), which was issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on February 19, 2013, identified developing a cyber security strategy for Connecticut consistent with the emerging threat to the electric grid and other elements of the state's critical infrastructure as a priority. The CES noted that improving Connecticut's cyber security is part of a larger, national effort to detect, deter, and manage all forms of cyber disruption across the United States in private and public use of internet communication. In February 2013, President Barack Obama issued an executive order calling for every state and power system to prepare itself against a cyber attack.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), working in conjunction with other relevant state agencies, is conducting a review of Connecticut's electricity, natural gas, and major water companies to assess the adequacy of their capabilities to deter interruption of service. To this end, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) looks forward to working with PURA and the companies to strengthen cyber defense in Connecticut. As the advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may affect Connecticut consumers with respect to public service companies, OCC is committed to ensuring that ratepayers are both protected from public utility cyber threats and that their rate contributions to cyber security are warranted.

A representative from OCC was also in attendance at a Public Utility Law Section Meeting of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) on November 12, 2013 at which PURA Chairman Art House led an informative and enjoyable discussion on Infrastructure Security. Chairman House has spearheaded the initiative to review and strengthen public utility cyber security in Connecticut. Chairman House's experience in cyber security includes serving as head of the



Communications Group at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, a combat support agency of the U.S. Department of Defense and the nation's primary source of geospatial intelligence. In addition, Chairman House served as Director of Communications for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), managing communications and Congressional relations for the DNI and coordinating both functions for the U.S. Intelligence Community.