



OCC Participates in PURA Docket No. 13-03-11 Regarding Steel Pointe in Bridgeport

On March 25, 2013, The Steel Point Infrastructure Improvement District (“District”), the City of Bridgeport’s Redevelopment Agency (“the BRA”), and The United Illuminating Company (“UI”) filed a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling (“Petition”) with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”). The Petition requests that PURA “determine the proper allocation of costs for the relocation of utilities related to the development of the Steel Pointe project in Bridgeport, Connecticut.” The City of Bridgeport and the BRA authorized the redevelopment of real property and improvements that comprise the Steel Pointe peninsula in Bridgeport. As part of that authorization process, the BRA issued orders to several utilities, including UI.

PURA accordingly initiated Docket No. 13-03-11 to consider the Petition. OCC is a party to the proceeding and submitted a brief on the threshold legal issues on June 26, 2013, as requested by PURA. In its brief, OCC laid out its position that PURA has exclusive jurisdiction over the threshold legal issue regarding the manner and method in which a public utility shall readjust, relocate, or remove its facilities, and to what degree costs are above the required standard installation. Moreover, OCC specifically advocated that any costs above standard installation, such as moving overhead facilities underground, should be borne by the BRA. OCC maintains that it would not be reasonable for Connecticut ratepayers to bear the costs of moving overhead facilities underground at Steel Pointe unless the BRA proves that the project would benefit all Connecticut electric ratepayers in terms of electric reliability; ratepayers should not pay for projects to improve aesthetics from which the vast majority of them will not benefit. Through its participation in PURA Docket No. 13-03-11, OCC will continue to advocate for the interests of Connecticut electric ratepayers.