



Consumer Counsel Katz Speaks at December 2013 CPES Meeting



On December 11, 2013, the Connecticut Power & Energy Society (CPES) held their December meeting where the members had a chance to “Meet the Regulators.” The following regulators were part of a panel: Arthur House, Chairman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA); Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel; and Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council.

Chairman House arrived about two years ago when the former Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) was reorganized into PURA. Chairman House discussed challenges since the reorganization, including staff reductions from about 120 to 65 employees, but also how PURA has stabilized from those disruptions and is working on improving efficiencies through various



“LEAN” processes. He also discussed his expertise in cyber security and PURA’s current efforts in that area. Consumer Counsel Katz spoke about a very active year for the OCC, as they were involved in three major rate cases, a natural gas expansion docket, numerous small dockets, various policy initiatives, federal and regional issues, and a busy legislative session. She spoke of the OCC’s mission as advocates for the public, and the staff’s commitment to ensuring that the consumer’s voice has a forum in which to be heard. Acting Executive Director Bachman spoke about how the Siting Council also had a busy year. A significant issue for the Council has been developing regulations for siting wind turbines and getting the regulations approved by the legislature.