



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Consumer Counsel Mary J. Healey

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OCC SEEKS REVIEW OF THE MERGER BETWEEN  
NORTHEAST UTILITIES AND NSTAR THROUGH THE COURTS**

(June 30, 2011-New Britain) Today, the Office of Consumer Counsel (“OCC”) is filing with the Connecticut Superior Court an appeal of the Department of Public Utility Control’s (“DPUC”) June 1, 2011 ruling denying review of the merger between Northeast Utilities and NStar.

Northeast Utilities, the parent company of Connecticut Light & Power Company and Yankee Gas Services Company, is merging with NStar, a Massachusetts-based company that oversees Massachusetts-based utilities NStar Gas and NStar Electric. In a December 2010 filing, OCC sought to have the DPUC review the merger under relevant Connecticut laws that give the Department broad authority over mergers involving utilities. Massachusetts is conducting an extensive review of this merger, including over a dozen days of hearings, to determine whether the merger is beneficial for the citizens of Massachusetts. OCC maintains that a similarly extensive review should be conducted by DPUC on behalf of Connecticut citizens.

However, in its June 1, 2011 ruling, the DPUC disagreed with OCC’s legal analysis and denied that it has the authority to review this multi-billion dollar transaction involving two of Connecticut largest utilities. OCC is seeking Superior Court review to resolve this legal dispute.

OCC maintains that review of this merger is necessary to ensure that if the merger is consummated, Connecticut citizens would continue to receive safe, reliable service, effective customer service, and an appropriate share of the economic benefits arising from the merger.

Consumer Counsel Mary Healey stated that “with this appeal, we are asking the Court to affirm that the DPUC has broad authority and responsibility to regulate utility mergers under Connecticut law. This merger transaction between NU and NStar is of such an enormous magnitude that it should not escape rigorous review by the DPUC. Just as Massachusetts is taking extensive efforts to ensure that this merger, if completed, would benefit Massachusetts, we need to make sure that the merger is in the interest of CL&P and Yankee Gas customers here in Connecticut.”