



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSUMER COUNSEL URGES CUSTOMERS OF UNITED ILLUMINATING TO ATTEND BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC HEARING TONIGHT ON THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED 38% RATE INCREASE

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (Sept. 8, 2016) – Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, concerned about an application by United Illuminating (“UI”) for a \$100 million increase in distribution rates in the next three years, urged customers of the utility to attend a Public Comment hearing tonight in Bridgeport on UI proposal to voice their opinions on the proposed increase. UI’s rate case application is pending before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”), and a PURA Commissioner will preside over tonight’s public comment hearing. Among other things, UI is seeking to add infrastructure that it claims is needed for electric reliability, but the need for and timing of these upgrades and other aspects of the proposed increase will be weighed by PURA against other factors, including affordability.

“UI’s requested \$100 million rate increase amounts to a 38% increase, or almost \$30 per month for the average customer. A 38% increase, even spread over three years, is an enormous jump. Most consumers certainly don’t expect to see a 38% increase in their household income in the next three years,” Consumer Counsel Katz said. “I hope UI’s customers will consider attending tonight’s public hearing to express their concern with this proposal. While my office represents the consumer voice in this proceeding, it helps to have individual citizens talk about the impact of this potential increase on their own budgets, families and lives.”

If UI’s rate phase-in plan were approved as proposed, a typical residential customer who is using 700kWh per month would see their total bill rise by approximately \$9.34 per month, effective January 1, 2017. Monthly bills would also increase by approximately \$9.50 per month on January 1, 2018 and by an additional \$11.00 monthly on January 1, 2019, for an approximate total of \$29.84 in increases over three years.

The location of tonight’s Public Comment hearing is **City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace in Bridgeport at 6:30 pm**. PURA will hold a second Public Comment hearing on September 12, 2016, at Kennedy Mitchell Hall of Records, 200 Orange Street, Hearing Room G2, in New Haven at 6:30 pm. At these hearings, the sole activity is public comment.

Consumer Counsel Katz encourages UI’s customers who are concerned about this requested rate increase to attend the Public Comment hearings or to submit written comments to PURA at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051, or via e-mail to dpuc.executivesecretary@po.state.ct.us. Please include a reference to Docket No. 16-06-04 in

any correspondence to PURA. To obtain a schedule with the dates, times and locations of all the hearings related to this docket, members of the public may ask the Office of Consumer Counsel (“OCC”) at occ.info@ct.gov, contact the Consumer Services section of PURA at 1-800-382-4586, or access PURA’s website at www.ct.gov/pura and search the Active Docket Database under Docket No. 16-06-04.

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut’s advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.