



OCC Staff Attorney speaks on panel about electric suppliers at national conference

Victoria Hackett, Staff Attorney at the Office of Consumer Counsel, spoke on a panel entitled “*Have I got a Deal For You! Recent Developments and Reforms For Retail Energy Markets*” at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) in November, 2014. Victoria discussed how the market abuses that were occurring in Connecticut led to a groundswell of support for legislative changes to protect consumers. Connecticut has led the effort among the states to protect consumers from unscrupulous sales practices, with the most recent legislative approach focusing, among other things, on empowering customers by: (a) informing them, in advance, the rate they will be paying for the next month; (b) enabling them to switch back to standard service quickly so that they are not held captive in high variable rates; and (c) eliminating termination fees for customers on variable rates.

OCC reminds Connecticut residents who are interested in using an electric supplier to utilize the website <http://www.energizect.com/> to compare rates. On January 1, 2015, Connecticut Light & Power’s standard service rate will increase from 9.99 cents a kilowatt hour to 12.63 cents. United Illuminating’s standard service rate will increase from 8.66 cents per kilowatt hour to 13.35 cents per kilowatt hour.