

OCC, THE STORMS AND DOCKET NO. 11-09-09

Whether directly or indirectly, just about everyone in our State felt the impact of power and communications outages from Tropical Storm Irene and the October Nor'easter. In the storms' wake, a docket was opened at the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to investigate utility companies' responses to the storm-related outages. The OCC is representing consumers' interests in this proceeding, which is Docket No. 11-09-09. Other participants in the case include: utility companies; municipalities; the Attorney General, and utility unions.

In addition, many individual consumers have filed their comments in the docket. Having consumers' comments on the record provides all docket participants the opportunity to hear firsthand experiences, along with suggestions and comments. If you would like to comment on the record, you have a choice of three ways to do that: (1) you may call the PURA consumer line at 1-800-382-4586 and speak to a consumer representative who will facilitate getting your input on the record; (2) you may send an e-mail to PURA at: dpuc.executivesecretary@po.state.ct.us, or (3) you may write a letter to Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Executive Secretary, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051. Whichever method you choose, be sure to note that you are filing comments in Docket No. 11-09-09.

A partial list of the major issues being considered in the case includes: the status of key utility infrastructure, such as utility poles and wires, both before the storms hit and during the storms; the role of trees and utility tree trimming practices in the damage sustained; the utilities' level of emergency preparedness, including emergency plan

coordination among the municipalities, the State and the utilities; the utilities' ability to obtain restoration assistance from out-of-state utility workers and contractors; the utilities' ability to manage the assistance crews, and looking to the future for cost-effective ways to minimize storm impacts.

OCC has researched storm-related issues and hired a consultant. Numerous OCC interrogatories have been issued to the companies covering a wide range of topics. The Consumer Counsel has met with representatives of municipalities from across the State to hear their Storm experiences. Other docket participants have also issued interrogatories. You can read all the filings and follow the progress of Docket No. 11-09-09 on the PURA website. To access Docket No. 11-09-09, go to www.ct.gov/pura and in the second line of choices across the top, point to DOCKET INFO, then select, Search For A Docket By Number. Enter: 11-09-09. Then, you may browse through all the filings in the docket and click on the particular ones that you would like to read.

At some point, there will be a public hearing in this case and members of the public are welcome to attend. At the hearing, OCC and other participants have the opportunity to cross-examine utility representatives. Once PURA decides on a date, the docket schedule on PURA's website will be updated with the hearing date.