



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

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**CONSUMER COUNSEL URGES SETTLEMENT APPROVAL  
IN NU-NSTAR MERGER CASE**

(March 23, 2012 -New Britain, CT) - Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, in a statement during today's hearing before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), asked that the Authority approve a proposed settlement agreement in the merger between Northeast Utilities (NU) and Boston-based NSTAR.

The Consumer Counsel emphasized that throughout the long hours of negotiations, she maintained that she would only sign something that was going to be very good for Connecticut residents and businesses. With this agreement, she feels that meaningful, significant benefits are being brought forth.

Katz said, "Through the settlement, we obtained \$25 million in real dollars for the ratepayers and for important energy programs. We froze rates. We preserved jobs. We obtained investment in infrastructure. We maintained open space. We addressed storm response. And we kept NU in the state as a meaningful, important company. There won't be empty buildings, but significant and essential functions and jobs. Because we know that this merger review is crucial not because the services that NU provides are essential to Connecticut ratepayers, but also because NU itself is important to this state." She commended NU for conducting good-faith negotiations, and for their diligence seeing this through.

Katz added, "We have been given a unique opportunity to work together as a state. The Attorney General, the Consumer Counsel, and the companies, with guidance from Governor Malloy and the assistance of Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection Dan Esty and his staff, crafted a landmark settlement that assures the public interest is served by this merger."

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*The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ).*