



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PURA HEARINGS ON NATURAL GAS EXPANSION PLAN  
TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

(September 6, 2013 – New Britain) - Starting on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) will hold hearings in Docket No. 13-06-02, *PURA Investigation of Connecticut's Local Distribution Companies' Proposed Expansion Plans to Comply with Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy*. The Joint Natural Gas Infrastructure Expansion Plan (“Plan”) was filed with PURA by Yankee Gas Services Company (“Yankee”), Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (“CNG”), and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (“SCG”) (collectively “the Companies”) on June 14, 2013 and modified by the Companies on July 26, 2013 per the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s direction. The Plan is part of the 2013 Comprehensive Energy Strategy for Connecticut, which was then implemented in Public Act No. 13-298.

In Docket No. 13-06-02, the Companies are requesting that PURA approve their Plan to add approximately 280,000 new natural gas customers in Connecticut over the next 10 years. Thus, through their Plan, the Companies aim to provide natural gas service to many Connecticut residences and businesses that are currently unable to obtain service. The Plan will lead to rate increases of up to 3% per year on the delivery piece of existing ratepayers’ bills, plus existing ratepayers will be subject to an indeterminate system expansion rate annual true-up. In addition, on the gas supply side, existing ratepayers will be paying for more capacity while seeing their non-firm margin return percentage halved. The Office of Consumer Counsel (“OCC”) is carefully reviewing the details of the proposal, and will advocate for a sensible, cost-effective implementation of the Plan that minimizes ratepayer impacts.

PURA will hold hearings, which begin with Public Comment, on the following dates at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut: September 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.; September 11, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.; September 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.; September 16, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.; September 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.; and September 18, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Through its active participation in PURA Docket No. 13-06-02, OCC will continue to advocate for the interests of Connecticut natural gas ratepayers. Click on the following names to view OCC's Pre-filed Testimony sponsored by its consultants [Rebecca Bachelder](#) and [C. John Meeske](#).

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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).*