



OCC ATTENDS THE NORTHEAST GAS FORUM

On May 1, 2014, two OCC staff members attended the Northeast Gas Forum in Hartford. The Forum is an annual event where representatives from gas utilities, gas supply and pipeline companies, and the utility regulatory fields meet to exchange key information on the current state and the future of gas in the Northeast. Attendees heard important updates on gas supply and pipeline capacity availability for the Northeast, and concerns were shared about issues including rising demand from gas-fueled electric generation and rising costs.

Presenters included representatives from Yankee Gas Services; New York's Consolidated Edison; National Grid in Massachusetts; representatives from a number of interstate pipeline companies that serve the Northeast; and Maine's Public Utilities Commission chairman. Topics included the exceptional 2013/2014 winter weather, with its high demand throughout the period, and exceedingly high gas prices in January. In addition, the roles of underground storage, and liquefied natural gas in a gas supply portfolio were explored. Information gained from attending the forum will be especially useful to OCC as regulatory issues arise related to Connecticut's natural gas companies and their application of the state's gas expansion program.