



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

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**OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL APPLAUDS DPUC'S
RULING IN UNITED ILLUMINATING RATE CASE**

(July 7, 2008-New Britain) - The State of Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) applauds today's ruling made by the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) in Docket No. 05-06-04RE05 – *Application of The United Illuminating Company to Increase Its Rates and Charges – Revenue Requirement Components*.

In its ruling, the DPUC rejected a potential settlement that would have increased distribution rates by allowing United Illuminating to collect additional funds in order to make up for their lost sales, and increases in uncollectible expenses and capital expenditures since their rate plan was approved in 2006.

In 2006, the DPUC issued a decision that established a four year rate plan for United Illuminating. The utility filed a motion in May of 2008 to reopen the 2006 decision in order to allow them to increase rates.

In keeping the best interest of Connecticut's utility ratepayers in mind, the OCC believes that this ruling is a responsible step to the stabilization of ratepayer costs. Consumer Counsel Mary Healey said, "This decision shows ratepayers that the DPUC is holding the line on this issue and continuing the protection against single issue ratemaking."

"Rejecting this potential settlement denies UI's attempt to increase its distribution rates in a manner that was without the full transparency and regulatory scrutiny of the public hearing process of a full rate case," Healey added.

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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.