

*For more information contact:
Alisha Frazee – 518.779.7113
afrazee@stratcomllc.com*

How Consumers Can Benefit from Energy Deregulation

Albany, NY, August 7, 2012 – In an article dated today, the Shelton Patch’s Alisa Gaudiosi reported on how consumers can benefit from energy deregulation:

“This summer’s continuous cycle of heat waves will no doubt hit consumers hard with soaring energy costs. However, you can beat the heat without breaking the bank. Too few people in CT realize they have energy options outside of the traditional large companies such as United Illuminating (UI) and Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P). In fact, CT’s electricity market has been deregulated since 1999. This was done by the state legislature to bring down electric costs to consumers in the state. The law, as passed, allows for companies to enter the marketplace, once licensed, and compete with the utilities on the generation charge.”

The article goes on to say that “many consumers don’t know the first thing about how to read their electricity bill. First, it’s important to know your bill is divided into two component charges. One set of charges is the generation charge. This is the cost of the actual electricity supply. The other set of charges are the transmission and distribution charges. This is the cost of delivering the electricity from the generation facility where the electricity is produced to your home. Deregulation only affects the generation charge, or the actual cost of the electricity.

Similar to switching your phone or cable service, changing electric companies is just as easy. After you enroll, your new supplier notifies the utility on your behalf and the switch will become effective on your next meter read date. Once you receive your next bill, you will see the name of your supplier and the rate they are charging you.

Additionally, the utility remains responsible for all repairs if needed to maintain your service.

Since deregulation has not been in place all that long, consumers do often have concerns such as: Does my electricity go out if something happens to my supplier? The answer is, no. If for any reason your supplier fails to provide electricity for you, your utility will automatically do so. Your power will never go off because your supplier didn’t provide power for you.”

The article notes another common question, especially after the historic October storm of 2011, is that if the power goes out, do I go to the bottom of the list to have it restored because I am with a different supplier? Again, the answer is no. The utility will treat you no differently because you are with a licensed supplier. The order in which they restore power has nothing to do with whom you are buying power from.

Finally, many consumers believe that saving money in exchange for quality service seems too good to be true,” which simply is not the case. Deregulation is the law, and you are entitled to choose who supplies your electricity.

###