



## ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSEN

### ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSEN CALLS FOR 'STRICT SCRUTINY' OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

*For Immediate Release*

Friday, Jan. 7, 2011

HARTFORD – State utility regulators should take a close look at a proposed rate increase filed by Yankee Gas Services Co. to ensure that consumers are not being asked to pay more than is justified, Attorney General George Jepsen said Friday.

Yankee Gas has requested a rate increase of \$45.8 million, about 10 percent of total revenue, in the case filed with the state Department of Public Utility Control Friday. The Office of Attorney General has intervened in the case and will participate fully in the proceedings.

“We are giving this application strict scrutiny to make sure that any impact on consumers is justified,” Jepsen said.

“In these very difficult economic times, a 10 percent increase seems excessive. It is essential the costs of utility services are maintained as affordable as possible,” Jepsen said.

The Attorney General represents Connecticut residents and the state, which is a large purchaser of gas utility services.

In its filing, the company said it needs the money to maintain and operate its distribution system in a manner that provides reliable gas service to customers, to provide an appropriate level of customer service and to provide a fair return to Yankee investors.

It has proposed a two-year rate plan that would increase rates \$32.8 million beginning July 1 and \$13 million more on July 1, 2012, for a cumulative increase of \$45.8 million.

Yankee is Connecticut’s largest gas distribution company with 205,000 customers. It serves 71 cities and towns.

The docket number is 10-12-02.

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