

# The Agency

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## Public Utilities Commission

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### Agency Operations

The Public Utilities Commission comprises two distinct regulatory bodies: a three-member commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

The Public Utilities Commission serves as a quasi-judicial tribunal with jurisdiction, powers, and duties to implement and enforce the standards of conduct under §39-1-27.6 and to hold hearings and investigations involving the rates, tariffs, tolls, and charges, and the sufficiency and reasonableness of facilities and accommodations of railroad, ferry boats, gas, electric distribution, water, pipeline public utilities, telephone, telegraph, and the location of railroad depots and stations, and the control of grade crossings, the revocation, suspension or alteration of certificates issued pursuant to §39-19-4, appeals under §39-1-30, petitions under §39-1-31, and proceedings under §39-1-32. Through participation in the Energy Facility Siting Board, the commission's Chair also exercises jurisdiction over the siting of major energy facilities, pursuant to Chapters 42-98.

The division exercises the jurisdiction, supervision, powers and duties not specifically assigned to the commission, including the execution of all laws relating to public utilities and carriers and all regulations and orders of the commission governing the conduct and charges of public utilities. The division has exclusive jurisdiction over the rates, tariffs, tolls and charges, testing of metering devices and the sufficiency, and reasonableness of facilities and accommodations of common carriers of property and passengers over the State's public roadways, pursuant to chapters 39-12, 39-13, 39-14 and 47-16-1. Additionally, the division supervises and regulates Community Antenna Television Systems (CATV) in Rhode Island; certifies all public utilities; and has independent regulatory authority over the transactions between public utilities and affiliates; and all public utility equity and debt issuances.

### Agency Objectives

To provide fair regulation of public utilities, CATV, common carriers, and major energy facilities; ensure just and reasonable rates; ensure sufficient utility infrastructure to promote economic development; and cooperate with other states and federal government agencies to coordinate efforts to meet the other previously-stated objectives.

### Statutory History

The regulation of public utilities in Rhode Island dates back to the Rhode Island Railroad Commission, which was established in 1839. This commission was later abolished by an act of the legislature that created the more comprehensive Public Utility Commission in 1912. From 1981 to 1996, the duties of Administrator of the division and Chairperson of the commission were combined in a single position. The Utility Restructuring Act of 1996 later divided these duties into two separate positions: Chairman of the Commission and Administrator, Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

# The Budget

## Public Utilities Commission

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>				
Personnel	3,648,628	3,867,885	4,999,192	5,284,804
Other State Operations	696,176	715,216	819,509	833,445
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,901	2,022	2,091	2,091
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,346,705</b>	<b>\$4,585,123</b>	<b>\$5,820,792</b>	<b>\$6,120,340</b>
Capital Improvements	203,310	22,926	300,000	300,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,550,015</b>	<b>\$4,608,049</b>	<b>\$6,120,792</b>	<b>\$6,420,340</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>				
General Revenue	658,167	639,923	678,534	710,111
Federal Funds	64,117	58,728	72,490	75,437
Restricted Receipts	3,827,731	3,909,398	5,369,768	5,634,792
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,550,015</b>	<b>\$4,608,049</b>	<b>\$6,120,792</b>	<b>\$6,420,340</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>Agency Measures</b>				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.6%	11.6%	12.8%	12.8%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	39.5%	37.2%	38.3%	38.3%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%
<b>Program Measures</b>				
Percentage of Consumer Services Offered that Meet Completion Schedules	91.0%	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%
Percentage of Formal Written Reports of Motor Carrier Applications Completed within 60 Business Days of Filing	94.0%	65.0%	92.0%	92.0%