

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2014

Volume I – General Government, Quasi-Public
Agencies and Component Units

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

Agency

Public Utilities Commission

Agency Mission

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; implement legislative mandates that facilitate renewable electric generation, improve water availability, deliver rapid communications and assure that Rhode Island is on the cutting edge of reliability and environmental quality regulation; and cooperate with other state and federal government agencies to coordinate efforts to meet the above objectives.

Agency Description

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) comprises two distinct regulatory bodies: a three member Commission (Commission) and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division). 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 investigations and hearings involving the rates, tariffs, tolls, and charges, and the sufficiency and reasonableness of facilities and accommodations of railroad, ferry boats, gas, electric distribution, water, telephone, telegraph, and pipeline public utilities, 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 Chapter 42-98.

The Division, which is headed by an Administrator, who is not a Commissioner, 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, 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, and 39-14. 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.

Statutory History

The PUC and its predecessor agency, the Rhode Island Railroad Commission, have been regulating utilities in this state since 1839. The Railroad Commission was later abolished by an act of the legislature, leading to the creation of the more comprehensive Public Utility Commission in 1912. From 1981 to 1996, the duties of the 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.

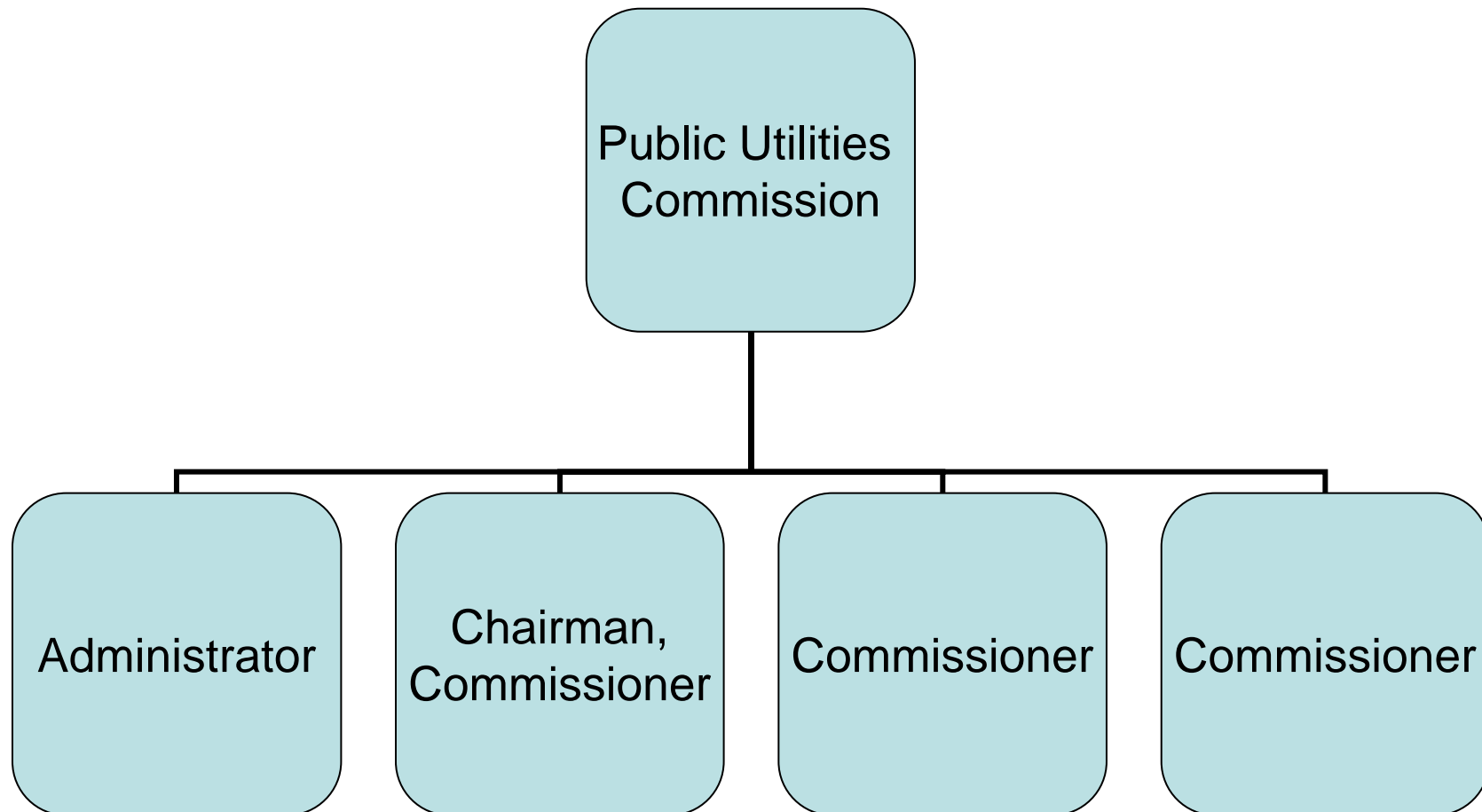
The Budget

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	2011 Audited	2012 Audited	2013 Enacted	2013 Revised	2014 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	6,088,904	6,335,868	8,246,708	8,489,940	8,569,383
Total Expenditures	\$6,088,904	\$6,335,868	\$8,246,708	\$8,489,940	\$8,569,383
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	5,443,519	5,753,381	7,271,981	7,245,141	7,584,937
Operating Supplies and Expenses	586,285	563,476	915,390	1,156,462	951,109
Assistance and Grants	224	-	337	337	337
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	6,030,028	6,316,857	8,187,708	8,401,940	8,536,383
Capital Purchases and Equipment	58,876	19,011	59,000	88,000	33,000
Total Expenditures	\$6,088,904	\$6,335,868	\$8,246,708	\$8,489,940	\$8,569,383
Expenditures By Funds					
Federal Funds	266,641	307,914	321,795	348,421	166,818
Restricted Receipts	5,822,263	6,027,954	7,924,913	8,141,519	8,402,565
Total Expenditures	\$6,088,904	\$6,335,868	\$8,246,708	\$8,489,940	\$8,569,383

The Agency

Public Utilities Commission



Personnel

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	Grade	FY 2013		FY 2014	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
ASST DIR FOR LEGAL SERVS (DOT)	00241A	1.0	118,385	1.0	118,385
CHIEF OF LEGAL SERVICES	00239A	1.0	108,755	1.0	108,755
CHIEF PUBLIC UTILITIES ACCOUNTANT	00040A	2.0	201,140	2.0	202,725
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS	00041A	1.0	99,421	1.0	101,773
ASSOCIATE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMIN FOR OPER &	00036A	1.0	96,325	1.0	96,325
CHIEF FINANCIAL ANALYST	00038A	1.0	95,321	1.0	95,321
ASSISTANT TO CHIEF PUBLIC UTILITIES	00034A	1.0	94,173	1.0	94,173
ASSOCIATE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	00136A	1.0	86,252	1.0	86,252
PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION &	00038A	1.0	85,034	1.0	85,034
DEPUTY CHIEF OF LEGAL SERVICES	00037A	1.0	81,463	1.0	85,796
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST V	00033A	4.0	318,021	4.0	320,359
SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL	00034A	2.0	154,511	2.7	233,564
ASSOC ADMSTR CBLE TV & LEG ...	00036A	1.0	76,224	1.0	82,773
INVESTIGATIVE AUDITOR	00033A	2	142,174	2.0	143,314
PUBLIC UTILITIES ENGINEERING SPECIALIST II	00028A	4.0	265,796	4.7	328,676
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST IV	00227A	1.0	66,026	1.0	66,026
PRINCIPAL AUDITOR	00028A	1.0	64,558	1.0	64,558
CHIEF FIELD INVESTIGATOR (MOTOR VEHICLES)	00024A	1.0	54,941	1.0	54,941
CHIEF CONSUMER AGENT (DPUC)	00024A	1.0	54,115	1.0	55,901
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST II	00222A	1.0	50,855	1.0	50,855
INFORMATION SERVICES TECHNICIAN II	00020A	1.0	50,312	1.0	50,312
MOTOR CARRIER COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR	00020A	2.0	90,528	2.0	90,528
INFORMATION SERVICES TECHNICIAN I	00016A	2.0	85,917	2.0	85,917
CONSUMER AGENT (DPUC)	00018A	1	163,971	5.0	202,812
CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST I	00015A	1.0	35,121	1.0	35,759
Subtotal		39.0	\$2,739,339	41.4	\$2,940,834
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES &	00847A	1.0	149,844	1.0	149,844
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	00842A	1.0	125,071	1.0	125,071
MEMBER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	00839A	2.0	216,185	2.0	216,185
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	00829A	1.0	79,060	1.0	79,060
STAFF ATTORNEY II	00830A	1.0	73,832	0.3	75,305
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR	00G27A	1.0	61,766	0.3	62,961
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	05322A	2.0	112,243	2.0	113,534
Subtotal		9.0	\$818,001	7.6	\$821,960

Personnel

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	Grade	FY 2013		FY 2014	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Overtime		-	51,000	-	50,800
Turnover		-	(77,451)	-	(161,556)
Subtotal		-	(\$26,451)	-	(\$110,756)
Total Salaries		48.0	\$3,530,889	49.0	\$3,652,038
Benefits					
Payroll Accrual			19,738		20,825
FICA			266,774		276,509
Retiree Health			241,728		278,036
Health Benefits			566,431		639,138
Retirement			771,845		866,105
Subtotal			\$1,866,516		\$2,080,613
Total Salaries and Benefits		48.0	\$5,397,405	49.0	\$5,732,651
Cost Per FTE Position (excluding Statewide Benefit Assessment)			\$112,446		\$116,993
Statewide Benefit Assessment			\$130,493		\$135,043
Payroll Costs		48.0	\$5,527,898	49.0	\$5,867,694
Purchased Services					
Information Technology			100,000		100,000
Clerical and Temporary Services			95,000		95,000
Management & Consultant Services			965,847		965,847
Legal Services			507,000		507,000
Other Contracts			7,713		7,713
Buildings and Ground Maintenance			38,683		38,683
Training and Educational Services			2,000		2,000
Design and Engineering Services			1,000		1,000
Subtotal			\$1,717,243		\$1,717,243
Total Personnel		48.0	\$7,245,141	49.0	\$7,584,937
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
Federal Funds		2.9	\$307,253	1.3	\$151,107
Restricted Receipts		45.1	\$6,937,888	47.7	\$7,433,830
Total All Funds		48.0	\$7,245,141	49.0	\$7,584,937

1 Reflects addition of 1.0 FTE in FY 2014 to assist in customer service issues associated with utility shut-offs.

2 Reflects addition of 1.0 Fte in FY 2013 to address backlogs in the Audits and Accounting sections.

Performance Measures

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

Timeliness of Informal Consumer Payment Plan Process

One goal of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC) is to meet completion schedules for at least 90% of consumer services offered by the agency. The figures below represent the percentage of informal consumer payment agreement PUC processes within 60 days of a billing inquiry. [Performance data and targets are provided by State fiscal year. The 2013 Actual figure represents performance data from the first four months of FY 2013 (7/1/12 through 10/31/12).]

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Target	N/A	N/A	90%	90%
Actual	N/A	N/A	96%	--

Timeliness of Public Motor Vehicle Application and Report

Applications to operate as a motor carrier are docketed, brought to public hearing, and applicants are issued a formal written application determination. The figures below represent the percentage of public motor vehicle applications and reports processed and completed by DPUC within 60 business days of application. [Performance data and targets are provided by State fiscal year. The 2013 Actual figure represents performance data from the first four months of FY 2013 (7/1/12 through 10/31/12).]

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Target	N/A	N/A	95%	95%
Actual	N/A	N/A	100%	--

Timeliness of Cable Service and Telecom Inquiry Resolution

DPUC receives cable and telecom customer inquiries involving billing disputes, tariff issues, rate increases, interconnect issues, product installation, repairs, and service quality. The figures below represent the percentage of inquiries resolved within 60 business days. [Performance data and targets are provided by State fiscal year. The 2013 Actual figure represents performance data from the first four months of FY 2013 (7/1/12 through 10/31/12).]

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Target	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
Actual	N/A	N/A	100%	--

Timeliness of Consumer Billing and Service Complaint Investigations

The figures below represent the percentage of consumer billing (non-payment related) and service complaint investigations completed by DPUC within 60 business days of receiving the complaint. [Performance data and targets are provided by State fiscal year. The 2013 Actual figure represents performance data from the first four months of FY 2013 (7/1/12 through 10/31/12).]

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Target	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
Actual	N/A	N/A	96%	--