

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2015

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

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

Dedication

*This year's budget documents are dedicated to the
Memory of William V. Golas, Jr.
Sr. Budget Analyst 1987 - 2013*

The image on the cover of this year's budget document is a Winter Scene of the State House from Artist John Pitocco of Providence and is reproduced by permission of the artist in collaboration with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

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.

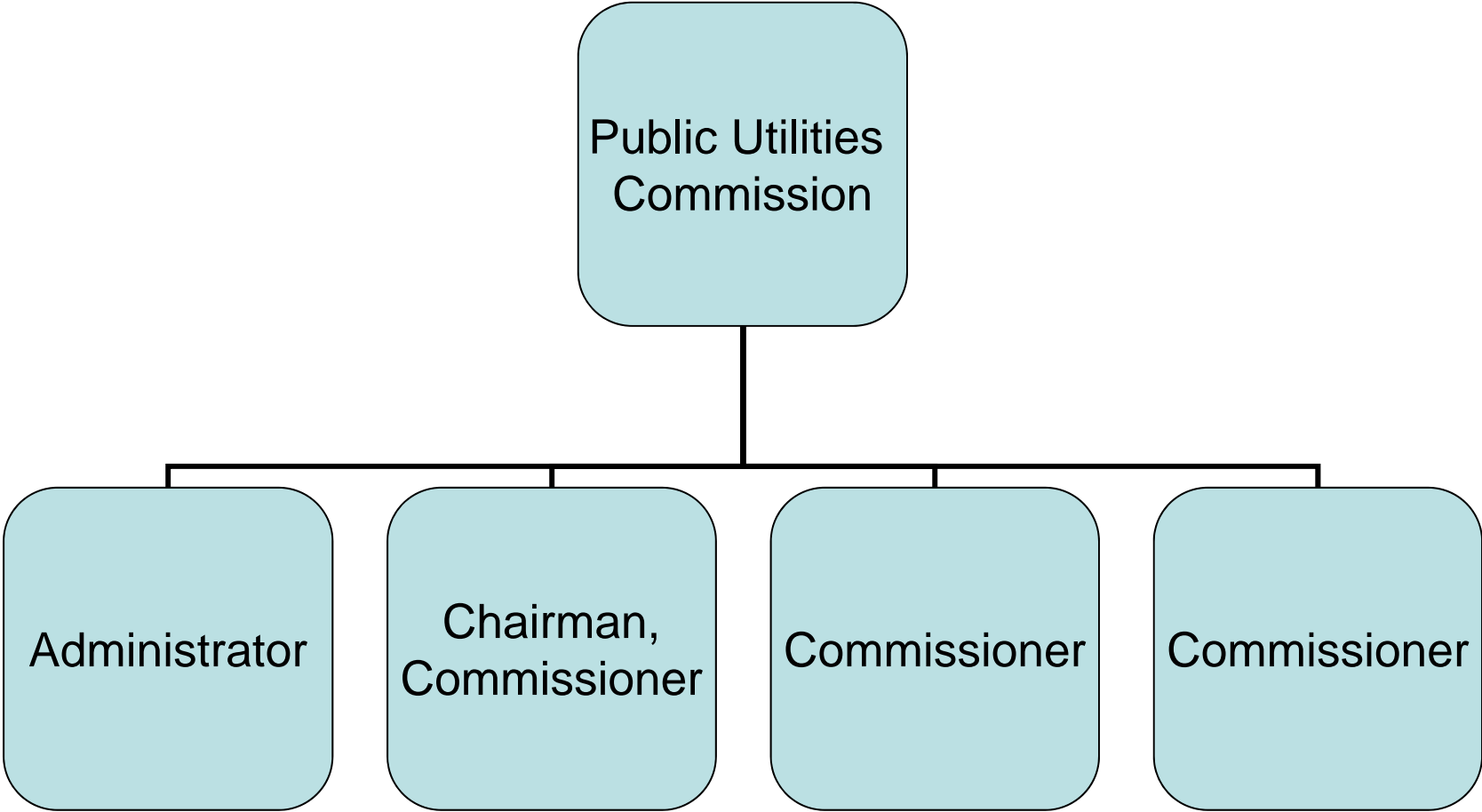
The Budget

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	2012 Audited	2013 Audited	2014 Enacted	2014 Revised	2015 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	6,335,868	7,130,573	8,420,293	8,518,927	8,619,471
Total Expenditures	\$6,335,868	\$7,130,573	\$8,420,293	\$8,518,927	\$8,619,471
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	5,753,381	6,306,300	7,435,847	7,513,255	7,619,203
Operating Supplies and Expenses	563,476	760,332	951,109	943,335	937,931
Assistance and Grants	-	-	337	337	337
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	6,316,857	7,066,632	8,387,293	8,456,927	8,557,471
Capital Purchases and Equipment	19,011	63,941	33,000	62,000	62,000
Total Expenditures	\$6,335,868	\$7,130,573	\$8,420,293	\$8,518,927	\$8,619,471
Expenditures By Funds					
Federal Funds	307,914	281,102	166,818	205,056	87,733
Restricted Receipts	6,027,954	6,849,471	8,253,475	8,313,871	8,531,738
Total Expenditures	\$6,335,868	\$7,130,573	\$8,420,293	\$8,518,927	\$8,619,471

The Agency

Public Utilities Commission



Personnel

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	Grade	FY 2014		FY 2015	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL SERVICES (DOT)	00141A	1.0	118,385	1.0	118,385
CHIEF PUBLIC UTILITIES ACCOUNTANT	00140A	1.0	112,660	1.0	112,660
CHIEF OF LEGAL SERVICES	00139A	1.0	108,755	1.0	108,755
ASSOCIATE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMIN FOR OPER & CHIEF FINANCIAL ANALYST	00136A	1.0	96,325	1.0	96,325
ASSISTANT TO CHIEF PUBLIC UTILITIES	00138A	1.0	95,321	1.0	95,321
PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION & ASSOCIATE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	00034A	1.0	94,173	1.0	94,173
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST V	00138A	1.0	89,511	1.0	89,511
ASSOCIATE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	00136A	1.0	86,252	1.0	86,252
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST V	00033A	4.0	331,194	4.0	331,194
INVESTIGATIVE AUDITOR	00133A	2.0	164,211	2.0	164,177
ASSOCIATE ADM CABLE TV & LEGIS LIAIS FOR SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL	00136A	1.0	79,343	1.0	83,340
DEPUTY CHIEF OF LEGAL SERVICES	00134A	2.0	158,356	2.0	158,356
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST V	00137A	1.0	78,912	1.0	78,912
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST V	0AB33A	1.0	74,748	1.0	77,698
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST IV	00027A	1.0	66,026	1.0	66,026
PRINCIPAL AUDITOR	0AB28A	1.0	64,558	1.0	64,558
PUBLIC UTILITIES ENGINEERING SPECIALIST II	00028A	4.0	252,540	4.0	254,470
CHIEF CONSUMER AGENT (DPUC)	0AB24A	1.0	55,901	1.0	58,289
CHIEF FIELD INVESTIGATOR (MOTOR VEHICLES)	00024A	1.0	54,941	1.0	54,941
PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST II	00022A	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)	0AB18A	5.0	203,615	5.0	206,297
CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST I	0AB15A	1.0	35,759	1.0	36,400
PROGRAMMING SERVICES OFFICER	00031A	-	-	1.0	59,104
Subtotal		39.0	\$2,699,098	40.0	\$2,772,756
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	00847A	1.0	149,844	1.0	149,844
MEMBER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	00842A	1.0	108,393	1.0	110,640
PRINCIPAL POLICY ASSOCIATE	00839A	2.0	260,091	2.0	211,327
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	00837A	1.0	97,312	1.0	97,312
STAFF ATTORNEY II	00129A	1.0	79,060	1.0	79,060
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR	00830A	1.0	78,694	1.0	79,135
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	00827A	1.0	58,421	1.0	56,820
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	00822A	2.0	101,132	2.0	102,061
Subtotal		10.0	\$932,947	10.0	\$886,199

Personnel

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

	Grade	FY 2014		FY 2015	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Overtime		-	50,800	-	50,800
Turnover		-	(48,599)	-	(42,568)
Subtotal		-	\$2,201	-	\$8,232
Total Salaries		49.0	\$3,634,246	50.0	\$3,667,187
Benefits					
Payroll Accrual			20,714		20,950
FICA			275,585		278,414
Retiree Health			256,348		247,110
Health Benefits			589,283		649,014
Retirement			861,820		879,871
Subtotal			\$2,003,750		\$2,075,359
Total Salaries and Benefits		49.0	\$5,637,996	50.0	\$5,742,546
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temporary and Seasonal)			\$115,061		\$114,851
Statewide Benefit Assessment			\$152,296		\$153,694
Payroll Costs		49.0	\$5,790,292	50.0	\$5,896,240
Purchased Services					
Information Technology			100,000		100,000
Clerical and Temporary Services			92,784		92,784
Management & Consultant Services			965,847		965,847
Legal Services			507,000		507,000
Other Contracts			18,649		18,649
Buildings and Ground Maintenance			35,683		35,683
Training and Educational Services			2,000		2,000
Design and Engineering Services			1,000		1,000
Subtotal			\$1,722,963		\$1,722,963
Total Personnel		49.0	\$7,513,255	50.0	\$7,619,203
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
Federal Funds		1.7	\$189,834	0.7	\$79,758
Restricted Receipts		47.3	\$7,323,421	49.3	\$7,539,445
Total All Funds		49.0	\$7,513,255	50.0	\$7,619,203

1 hold over of commissioner per RIGL 38-1-6

Performance Measures

Public Utilities Commission Central Management

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.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Target	--	--	100%	100%	100%
Actual	--	--	98.9%	100%	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year and is current as of 9/30/2013.

Timeliness of Informal Consumer Payment Plan Process

One goal of 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 agreements processed within 60 days of a billing inquiry.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Target	--	--	90%	90%	90%
Actual	--	--	95.9%	99.2%	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year and is current as of 9/30/2013.

Timeliness of Consumer Billing Complaint Investigations

The figures below represent the percentage of billing (non-payment related) complaint investigations completed by DPUC within 60 business days.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Target	--	--	90%	90%	90%
Actual	--	--	97.3%	100%	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year and is current as of 9/30/2013.

Timeliness of Motor Carrier Applications and Reports

Applications to operate as a motor carrier (e.g., taxi, limousine, moving company, water taxi, etc.) are received and docketed and a public hearing is scheduled and advertised. After the public hearing is conducted, a formal written report granting or denying the application to operate is issued. The figures below represent the percentage of motor carrier applications with formal written reports completed within 60 business days of filing.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Target	--	--	95%	95%	95%
Actual	--	--	87.5%	100%	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year and is current as of 9/30/2013.