

Public Utilities Commission

**FY 2013 Revised
FY 2014 Recommended
FY 2014 – FY 2018 Capital
Staff Presentation
March 13, 2013**

Structure

Single agency with two distinct regulatory bodies:

- The Public Utilities Commission (Commission)
- The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division)

Commission

- Three Commissioners
 - Appointed by the Governor to 6 year terms
- Quasi-judicial tribunal with jurisdiction, powers, and duties to implement and enforce utility standards of conduct
- Holds investigations and hearings involving rates, tariffs, tolls, and utilities' charges

Division

- Enforces Commission rules and regulations
- Exercises jurisdiction, supervision, powers, and duties not specifically assigned to the Commission
- Jurisdiction over common carriers (taxi and car services) and cable television

Division

- Mandatory party in all utility dockets
- Defender of RI rate payers before federal regulatory agencies
 - Federal Communications Commission
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Assessment Against Utilities

Rhode Island General Law §39-1-23

- Administrator of the Division determines Agency's expenses for coming fiscal year
- 100% of expenses are assessed amongst the state's regulated utilities
 - Utilities with gross state revenues of under \$0.1 million are exempt

Summary by Source

	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2013 Revised	FY 2014 Governor	FY 2014 Change to Enacted
Federal Funds	\$ 321,795	\$ 348,421	\$ 166,818	\$ (154,977)
Restricted Receipts	7,924,913	8,141,519	8,402,565	477,652
Total	\$8,246,708	\$ 8,489,940	\$ 8,569,383	\$ 322,675

Summary by Category

	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2013 Revised	FY 2014 Governor	FY 2014 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 5,554,738	\$ 5,527,898	\$ 5,867,694	\$ 322,675
Contracted Services	1,717,243	1,717,243	1,717,243	-
Operations	915,390	1,156,462	951,109	35,719
Grants	337	337	337	-
Capital	59,000	88,000	33,000	(26,000)
Total	\$ 8,246,708	\$ 8,489,940	\$ 8,569,383	\$ 322,675

Personnel

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	47.0	-
FY 2013 Revised Request	48.0	-
FY 2013 Governor Revised	48.0	1.0
FY 2014 Request	49.0	2.0
FY 2014 Governor	49.0	2.0
FY 2012 Average Filled	44.7	(2.3)
Filled as of March 9th	47.0	-

FY 2014 Governor's Recommendation

Governor recommends \$5.9 million for 49.0 full-time equivalent positions for FY 2014

- 2.0 positions more than enacted
 - 11.0 positions for the Commission
 - 38.0 positions for the Division
- 1.0 position included in FY 2013 revised recommendation
- Includes transfer of 2.0 stimulus positions to permanent positions funded from restricted receipts

Personnel – New Positions

FY 2013 Revised:

- Investigative Auditor position
 - Address limitations in regulatory obligation, specific to common carriers

FY 2014:

- Consumer Agent position
 - Address current and projected backlog in Consumer Section

Personnel – former ARRA positions

- Stimulus funds for State Electricity Regulators Assistance expire October 31, 2013
- Transfer 2.0 positions from federal funds to restricted receipts
 - Senior Legal Counsel
 - Engineering Specialist II
- Received extensive training on green technologies
- Train existing staff on new electricity tech

Repairs and Purchases

FY 2013 Revised Recommendation:

- Includes \$0.2 million from restricted receipts for replacement of HVAC system
- Includes \$55,000 for two new vehicles
 - Will replace current vehicles
 - Commission Chair
 - Commission investigators

Public Utilities Reserve Account

Governor recommends \$1.1 million from restricted receipts for FY 2013 and FY 2014

- No change from FY 2013 enacted budget
- Consistent with Commission request
- Expenses incurred for investigations and hearings for rate cases and other filings
 - FY 2012: \$380,824
 - FY 2011: \$422,683
 - FY 2010: \$691,457

Other Operations

Governor recommends \$1.5 million for both fiscal years

- Consistent with enacted budget
- Includes office expenses and staff training
- Includes \$0.3 million for contracted financial services
 - Consulting services for renewable energy standard issues
 - \$0.1 million spent in FY 2011 and FY 2012

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