

Public Utilities Commission

FY 2014 Revised
FY 2015 Recommended
FY 2015 – FY 2019 Capital

Staff Presentation
March 5, 2014

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Structure

Single agency with two distinct regulatory bodies:

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

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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

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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

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Division

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

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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

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Summary by Source

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2014 Revised	FY 2015 Governor	FY 2015 Change to Enacted
Federal Funds	\$ 166,818	\$ 205,026	\$ 87,733	\$ (79,085)
Restricted Receipts	8,253,475	8,313,871	8,531,738	278,263
Total	\$8,420,293	\$8,518,927	\$8,619,471	\$ 199,178

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Summary by Category

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2014 Revised	FY 2015 Governor	FY 2015 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 5,718,604	\$ 5,790,292	\$ 5,896,240	\$ 177,636
Contracted Services	1,717,243	1,722,963	1,722,963	5,720
Operations	951,109	943,335	937,931	(13,178)
Grants	337	337	337	-
Capital	33,000	62,000	62,000	29,000
Total	\$ 8,420,293	\$ 8,518,927	\$ 8,619,471	\$ 199,178

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Personnel

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	49.0	-
FY 2014 Governor Revised	49.0	-
FY 2015 Request	50.0	1.0
FY 2015 Governor	50.0	1.0
FY 2013 Average Filled	45.5	(3.5)
Filled as of February 22nd	46.0	(3.0)

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Personnel

Governor recommends \$5.9 million for 50.0 full-time equivalent positions for FY 2015

- 11.0 positions for the Commission
- 39.0 positions for the Division
 - 1.0 new position as requested
 - Programming Services Officer
 - Auditing/Accounting – supervision of consumer billing and customer issues

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Personnel

- FY 2014 revised includes transfer of 2.0 stimulus positions to restricted receipt funding
 - Special Projects Coordinator
 - Staff Attorney
 - Requested and recommended for FY 2014
 - Assembly did not concur
- Funding expired December 2013.
 - Special Projects Coordinator position vacant

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Repairs and Purchases

Governor recommends \$0.3 million for both FY 2014 and FY 2015

- Includes purchase of replacement vehicles in FY 2014 and FY 2015
 - Purchase of SUV in FY 2013 increased size of fleet from 4 to 5 vehicles
- Includes asset protection projects at headquarters building

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Public Utilities Reserve Account

Governor recommends enacted level of \$1.1 million

- Investigation and hearing expenses for rate cases and other filings

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2013	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 574,186
2012	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 380,824
2011	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 422,683

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Expert Testimony

Governor recommends enacted level of \$0.4 million

- Consultant services associated with renewable energy standard

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2013	\$ 432,847	\$133,381
2012	\$ 432,847	\$60,991
2011	\$ 432,847	\$72,931

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Other Operations

Governor recommends \$0.9 million for both FY 2014 and FY 2015

- Includes general office expenses, building maintenance, fleet, and staff training
- \$7,458 less than enacted for FY 2015
 - Decrease in federal funds reflects expiration of stimulus grant

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Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly enacted legislation requiring OMB to prepare, review and inventory all reports filed with Assembly
 - Report presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Required to submit 2 reports
 - Rate case summary (biannual)
 - State renewable energy standard (annual)
 - Currently submitting both

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