

# Public Utilities Commission

**FY 2017 Revised**

**FY 2018 Recommended**

**FY 2018 – FY 2022 Capital**

Staff Presentation

March 30, 2017

---

# 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

- One Administrator
  - Appointed by the Governor to 6 year term
- 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

	<b>FY 2017 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2017 Revised</b>	<b>FY 2018 Governor</b>	<b>FY 2018 Chg to Enacted</b>
Federal Funds	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.0
Restricted Receipts	8.8	9.0	9.6	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8.9</b>	<b>\$9.2</b>	<b>\$9.7</b>	<b>\$0.8</b>

*In millions*

# Summary by Category

<i>(In millions)</i>	<b>FY 2017 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2017 Revised</b>	<b>FY 2018 Governor</b>	<b>FY 2018 Chg to Enacted</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$6.3	\$6.3	\$6.9	\$0.6
Contracted Services	1.7	1.9	1.7	(0.0)
Operations	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.2
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)
Capital	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8.9</b>	<b>\$9.2</b>	<b>\$9.7</b>	<b>\$0.8</b>



# Personnel

<b>Full-Time Positions</b>	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>Change to Enacted</b>
Enacted Authorized	51.0	-
FY 2017 Governor Revised	54.0	3.0
FY 2018 Request	57.0	6.0
FY 2018 Governor	57.0	6.0
FY 2016 Average Filled	46.1	(4.9)
Filled as of March 18	50.0	(1.0)

# Personnel

FY 2018 Recommendation includes:

- \$0.6 million more than enacted
- 6.0 new full-time equivalent positions
  - 2.0 Administrative Assistants
  - 1.0 Chief of Program Development
  - 1.0 Deputy Chief of Legal Services
  - 1.0 Fiscal Management Officer
  - 1.0 Regulatory Research Specialist

# Personnel

- 2.0 Administrative Assistants: \$171,786
  - 1.0 for Division & 1.0 for Commission
  - Request based on anticipated increase in activity
  - FY 2017 revised recommendation includes new positions and \$91,426 for partial year funding
    - Positions not included in original FY 2017 request

# Personnel

- 1.0 Chief of Program Development:  
\$119,192
  - Work on net metering
  - Coordinate current & new programs with other state agencies
  - Track national and state legislation
  - Research and work on dockets for Energy Facilities Siting Board
  - FY 2017 recommendation includes funding for 1/4 of the year

# Personnel

- 1.0 Deputy Chief of Legal Services:  
\$129,669
  - Request based on increase in consumer, administrative and court proceedings
  - 2016 Assembly added \$0.1 million & 1.0 new senior legal counsel based on increase in utility termination proceedings

# Personnel

- 1.0 Fiscal Management Officer:  
\$89,183
  - For the Commission
    - Currently relies on Division to provide fiscal and financial management functions
  - Assist Division's Chief Financial Analyst in preparing annual budget and reporting requirements

# Personnel

- 1.0 Regulatory Research Specialist:  
\$87,204
  - Conduct research on laws, rules and regulations governing public utilities
  - Draft new legislation and track bills in General Assembly
  - Assist in drafting commission orders

# Personnel

- \$6.5 million for remaining 51.0 positions
  - \$21,801 more than enacted
  - Reflects FY 2016 staffing
    - Represents 1.2 vacant positions
  - Current service adjustments



# Energy Facility Siting Board

- Governor recommends enacted amount of \$125,000
  - Regulates issuance of licenses to construct major energy facilities
  - All expenditures are billed back to applicants
  - Funding primarily used for expert witnesses, stenographers, print and advertising notices and advisory opinions

# Public Utilities Reserve Account

- Governor recommends \$1.1 million
  - Investigation and hearing expenses for rate cases and other filings

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2016	\$1,131,104	\$536,564
2015	1,131,104	351,734
2014	1,131,104	419,891
2013	1,131,104	574,186
2012	1,131,104	380,824

# Expert Testimony

- Governor recommends \$0.3 million
  - Consultant services associated with renewable energy standard

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2016	\$272,062	\$124,617
2015	368,737	107,274
2014	432,847	128,402
2013	432,847	133,381
2012	432,847	60,991

# Rent (Article 1, Section 18)

- Increases rent rate charged to PUC beginning in FY 2018
  - From \$173,040 to \$333,420
  - PUC primarily funded from restricted receipts from billing the regulated utilities
- Headquartered in state-owned building in Warwick
- Since 2004, Commission annually transfers to general fund for rent
- Hearing on February 28

# Other Operations

- Governor recommends \$1.1 million for FY 2018
  - Includes general office expenses, building maintenance, and staff training and travel
  - \$12,689 more than enacted
- FY 2017 revised recommendation includes \$30,000 to purchase new electric Chevy Volt

# 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 3 reports - timely
  - Rate case summary (biannual)
  - State renewable energy standard (annual)
  - Voltage detection and repair program (annual)

# Public Utilities Commission

**FY 2017 Revised**

**FY 2018 Recommended**

**FY 2018 – FY 2022 Capital**

Staff Presentation

March 30, 2017

---