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
Mandatory party in all utility dockets

Defender of RI rate payers before federal regulatory agencies
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2013 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2013 Revised</th>
<th>FY 2014 Governor</th>
<th>FY 2014 Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
<td>$321,795</td>
<td>$348,421</td>
<td>$166,818</td>
<td>$(154,977)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Receipts</td>
<td>7,924,913</td>
<td>8,141,519</td>
<td>8,402,565</td>
<td>477,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8,246,708</td>
<td>$8,489,940</td>
<td>$8,569,383</td>
<td>$322,675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2013 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2013 Revised</th>
<th>FY 2014 Governor</th>
<th>FY 2014 Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$5,554,738</td>
<td>$5,527,898</td>
<td>$5,867,694</td>
<td>$322,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>1,717,243</td>
<td>1,717,243</td>
<td>1,717,243</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>915,390</td>
<td>1,156,462</td>
<td>951,109</td>
<td>35,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>(26,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,246,708</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,489,940</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,569,383</strong></td>
<td><strong>$322,675</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Personnel

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