

Legal Department

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

WHO DO WE REGULATE?

Investor-owned companies providing:

- ✗ telephone
- ✗ motor transportation
- ✗ electric light
- ✗ gas and natural gas
- ✗ water
- ✗ heating and cooling
- ✗ railroads
- ✗ sewage disposal

EXCEPTION: cooperatively owned telephone companies

OUR STAFF

21 attorneys

3 administrative staff

Section Chiefs:

- ✕ Electric
- ✕ Gas and Power Siting
- ✕ Telephone/Water & Sewage
- ✕ Transportation

SECTION CHIEFS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✖ Monitoring the progress of cases so as to keep the docket moving
- ✖ Presiding over the more complex cases
- ✖ Assisting in the development of Commission policy and law
- ✖ Training new attorneys
- ✖ Responding to inquiries from the public

CASES

No hearing is required in most cases.

However, those that require a hearing are the responsibility of the legal department.

2012	1, 059 (as of April)
2011	6, 042 cases filed
2010	3,136 cases filed
2009	2,339 cases filed
2008	1,345 cases filed

TYPES OF CASES WHICH REQUIRE A HEARING:

Complaints:

- ✖ Service quality or billing cases filed by consumers
- ✖ Disagreements between public utilities

Applications to increase rates (AIR)

Investigation of a utility (COI)

Review of gas cost recovery cases (GCR)

Railroad grade crossing protection (FED)

Trucking safety violations (CVF)

COMPLAINTS

When a complaint is filed, a respondent is required to file an answer, either admitting or denying the allegations in the complaint.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

- ✖ Scheduled soon after the filing of the complaint
- ✖ Provides an opportunity for the parties to meet and potentially resolve issues without the need for a formal hearing
- ✖ If a settlement is reached, the terms are memorialized in writing and the case is dismissed

WHAT IF THE CASE DOES NOT SETTLE?

- ✗ A hearing is scheduled
- ✗ Commissioners normally do not hear cases, although they may attend

WHAT IS THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER'S ROLE?

Take the role of a judge

Responsible for:

1. Resolving procedural issues raised at the hearing
2. Scheduling
3. Reviewing the record and briefs and drafting a proposed opinion and order
4. Placing the case on the Commission's meeting agenda for consideration

COMMISSION MEETINGS

- ✖ Scheduled every Wednesday afternoon
- ✖ Open to the public and can be viewed on the Internet
- ✖ Each case is called and a vote is taken
- ✖ If a party disagrees with the Commission's decision, they have 30 days to seek rehearing
- ✖ If they still disagree, an appeal can be made to the Ohio Supreme Court

ETHICS

- ✘ Ethical behavior is of utmost importance to the Commission among its employees
- ✘ The legal director advises the Commission employees so that they are in compliance with Ohio ethics laws

WHAT IS UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR?

Commissioners and commission employees
CANNOT:

- ✖ Be employed by a utility
- ✖ Seek employment with a utility
- ✖ Hold stocks or bonds of a utility
- ✖ Accept gifts or meals from utility employees
- ✖ Disclose Commission decisions in advance

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Commissioners and senior level management must file financial disclosure statements each year with the Ohio Ethics Commission disclosing:

- ✗ Sources of income
- ✗ Gifts over \$75
- ✗ Involvement in private businesses

CONTACTS

LEGAL DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Stevens

SECTION CHIEFS:

- ✖ Jeff Jones, Telecommunications & Water/Sewer
- ✖ Greg Price, Electric
- ✖ Christine Pirik, Gas and Power Siting
- ✖ Scott Farkas, Transportation