



**The Public Utilities Regulatory Utility  
Commission of Ghana**

**and**

**The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Partnership Program**

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**Ohio's Working Relationship with the  
Government and Stakeholders**

Rogers Presentation Part 2



# **Ohio's Working Relationship with the Government and Stakeholders**

## **The PUCO and the Ohio General Assembly**

- Our relationship with the Ohio General Assembly dates back to 1867
- The PUCO is a creature of statute based on legislation that was passed in 1906
- The PUCO often testifies before the General Assembly Committees regarding our budget, general overview of agency, and utility issues



# The Ohio General Assembly

- Made up of state representatives and state senators that are elected by the citizens of the state
- State representatives and senators are generally called legislators
- Charged with developing bills that propose changes in the state law
- Bills are formally considered by the House of Representatives, and the Senate and the governor before becoming law



# The Ohio General Assembly

- Legislators debate the proposals for new bills that are introduced
- After debate is closed each member casts a vote for or against the bill
- Once the bill passes both the House and Senate it goes before the governor to sign into law or be vetoed



OHIO  
PUBLIC

# The Ohio General Assembly

- Legislators act as a liaison between groups and individuals in their district and appropriate state agencies
- The Ohio legislature is subject to term limits; senators have two consecutive 4-year terms, and representatives have four consecutive 2-year terms



PUCO

# The PUCO and Ohio's Governor

- Commissioners are appointed by the governor of Ohio
- The chairman of the PUCO serves on the governor's cabinet along with directors of various state agencies
- The chairman communicates with the governor and his/her staff weekly to inform them of all PUCO initiatives



# The PUCO and the Federal Government

- The PUCO is active in dockets and proceedings at the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- The PUCO is actively pursuing the efforts of Congress to pursue a national energy policy for the U.S.



# The PUCO and Local Government

- The PUCO works closely with local government officials on utility issues
- When asked, the PUCO will help mediate disputes between local officials and Ohio's investor-owned utility companies
- The PUCO attends local hearings and meetings to discuss utility issues





PUCO

# The PUCO and Stakeholders

- The PUCO considers the viewpoints of all interested stakeholders including utility industries, business, and consumers
- In considering those viewpoints the PUCO seeks to issue a decision that ensures good public policy



# PUCO and Constituents

- Includes all consumers that are customers of Ohio's investor-owned utility companies
- The PUCO provides consumer assistance, information, and outreach and education across the state



# Summary

- The PUCO works cooperatively with numerous groups, including legislators, stakeholders, and consumers
- The goal is to assure Ohioans adequate, safe, and reliable public utility services at a fair price and to facilitate competitive utility choices for Ohio's consumers