

# “Research and Emerging Issues” Section within the Colorado PUC

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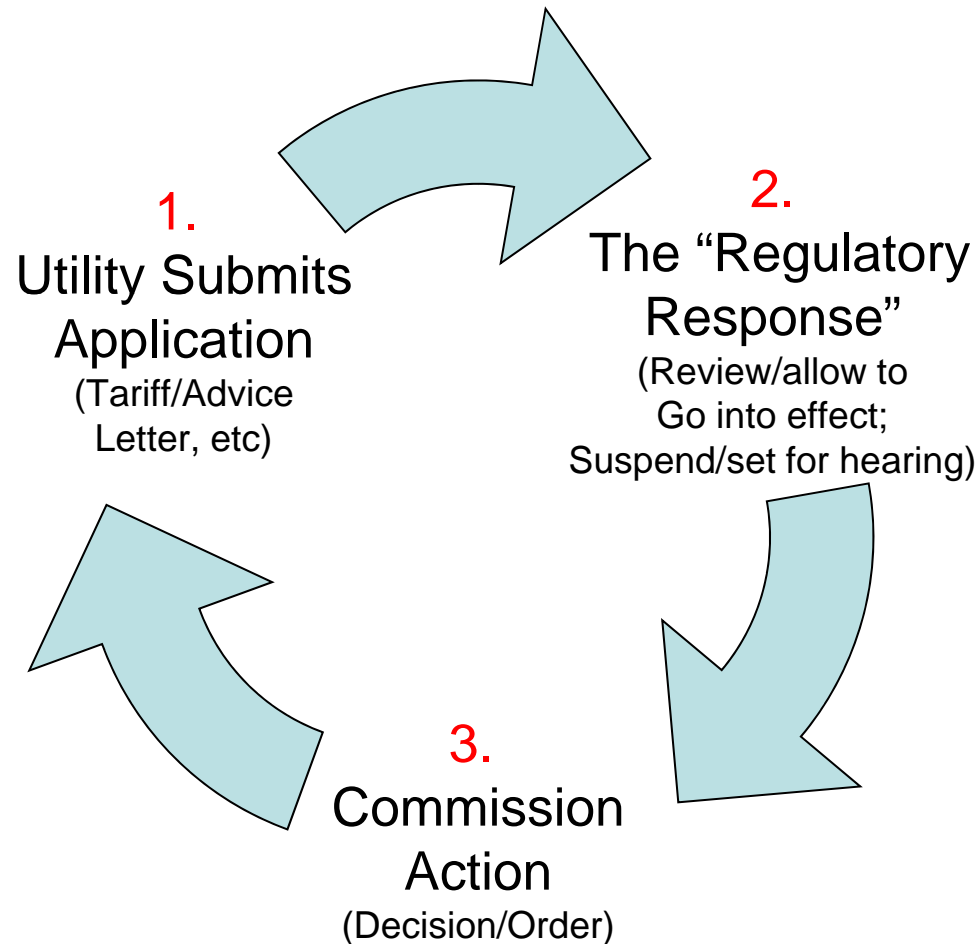
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# “Traditional” Regulatory Process (Colorado PUC)



# Proactive and Reactive

- Traditional Regulation: primarily reactive
- CO PUC: adding a proactive component to regulation –
  - (Research into Emerging Issues)
  - Preparing for anticipated dockets (applications)
  - Becoming more knowledgeable/informed (in forums where commissioners/staff can interact with other parties openly)
  - Improving the ability to signal policy directions to key stakeholders (utilities and other parties)

# Tools Available for Research

- Investigatory Dockets
  - Pose questions to public; seek input & dialogue with stakeholders
  - May yield conclusions (pronouncements)
- Miscellaneous Dockets
  - Generally a repository (library) of pertinent information on a topic
- Research Papers

# Tools Available to PUC for Policy Development

- Commissioners publically discussing policy objectives; developing consensus
- Policy Statements/Papers
- Rulemaking Dockets

# Function of Research & Emerging Issues Section

- Staffing of Investigatory, Miscellaneous and Rulemaking Dockets
  - Process and/or subject matter expertise
  - Leadership; drawing from expertise in other sections
- Research/Information/Data Gathering
  - Research/policy papers
  - Respond to miscellaneous queries
  - Special projects