

Utilities Department

Four Divisions

- Accounting & Electricity
- Rates & Tariffs, Energy & Water
- Capital Recovery & Financial Analysis
- Telecommunications

Overall Duties

- Process utility company rate requests
- Perform technical investigations
- Implement regulatory policies that relate to gas, water, electric and telephone companies

Accounting & Electricity Division

- Handle rate/rider cases when a utility company files an application for an increase in rates.

Example: After the company files an application for an increase in rates, the Staff of this division performs an investigation, by looking at the company's books & records, interviewing personnel, and verifying what is plant – wires, gas lines, etc.

Staff issues an independent staff report, making a recommendation to the Commission. Negotiation, hearing, Commission issues Opinion & Order

Rates & Tariffs, Energy & Water

- This division ensures that the utility companies have the proper rates on file at the Commission.

Example: After the Commission approves rates, the company must then file tariffs that collect the correct rate from the correct group of customers, usually broken down into different rates as residential, commercial or industrial.

Telecommunications

- Process all telecommunications cases.
- Handle arbitrations. These are time-consuming cases in which a competitive telecommunications company wants to buy or resell parts of an incumbent telephone company's facilities.
- Telecommunications Act of 1996 opened local phone market to competition. New Ohio law less restrictive regulations for local telecommunications companies.

Capital Recovery & Financial Analysis

- Ohio law requires that when a public utility borrows money, it must obtain approval from the Commission.
- Performs other types of financial analysis such as monitoring utility companies' financial performances. Securitization – new law.
- Staff subscribes to financial publication, keeps an eye on Wall Street, keep updated on the analysts' opinions of the regulated companies.