

# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

## Supplemental Information

### Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee

Monday, January 29, 2018

Thad LeVar, Chair  
David R. Clark, Commissioner  
Jordan A. White, Commissioner

Public Service Commission of Utah  
Website and Annual Report: [PSC.UTAH.GOV](http://PSC.UTAH.GOV)

#### What We Do

- Public Utility Regulation: Our objective is to provide balanced regulation, promoting:
  - Just and reasonable rates;
  - Safe and reliable utility service; and
  - Financially healthy utilities that can attract capital.
- Utah Universal Service Fund (UUSF): The PSC distributes fees paid on Utah telephone lines to enable qualifying carriers of last resort to obtain specific, predictable, and sufficient funds to deploy and manage networks capable of providing access lines, connections, and broadband service.
- Relay Utah: Funded through the UUSF, this program provides telecommunications access and equipment to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-challenged.
- The PSC has a small staff of 16 full time employees in the main office, and 1 full time employee plus 3 part time employees for the Relay Utah program.

#### Budget Issues

- The PSC is not requesting additional funding, or any fee changes, for the 2018 General Session.
- PSC operations are funded through the Public Utilities Regulation Fee (U.C.A. § 54-5-1.5).
- The PSC does not receive any General Fund revenue.
- Historically, the Legislature has provided non-lapsing intent language for the PSC budget and for the UUSF. This recognizes the cyclical nature of the PSC workload and the fact that the source of PSC and UUSF funding is a relatively small number of companies whose customers fund those sources. If UUSF funds were to lapse then UUSF distributions would cease until a fund balance built up.

#### Recent Policy Issues

- During calendar year 2017, the PSC conducted 325 dockets.
- In 2017, the PSC finalized a process to streamline its administrative rules related to hearing practice and procedures, eliminating over half of the language in the previous rule.
- Throughout 2017 the PSC engaged in an extensive and transparent rulemaking process to implement S.B. 130 Universal Service Fund Amendments (2017).
- In September 2017 the PSC approved a stipulation on net metering of electricity for customers who install solar panels. Current net metering customers were grandfathered through 2035, and the stipulation provides for an ongoing process to evaluate the rate structure for new customers.
- In September 2017 the PSC approved PacifiCorp's issuance of a Request for Proposals to acquire up to 1,100 MW of wind generation resources, and the PSC has current ongoing dockets to evaluate whether to approve the costs associated with the winning bidders.
- The PSC adjudicated multiple dockets related to pricing and the obligations of utilities to purchase renewable energy from qualifying facilities under specific state and federal statutes (PURPA).
- In November 2017, pursuant to recent legislation, the PSC provided two reports to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee: one relating to the UUSF and the other related to Rocky Mountain Power's Energy Balancing Account.