Public Service Commission of Utah

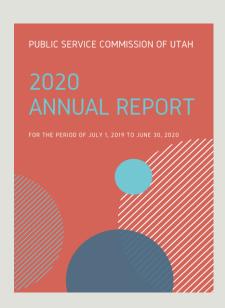
Thad LeVar, PSC Chair
Gary Widerburg, PSC Secretary and Budget Director
Presentation to the Business, Economic Development, and Labor
Appropriations Subcommittee
January 20, 2021

PSC Structure

- Small, independent agency with three commissioners appointed to staggering 6 year terms.
- ➤ 13 additional legal and technical employees, plus 3 employees in the Relay Utah program.
- During FY 2020, the PSC conducted 352 dockets.
- The PSC has jurisdiction to supervise and regulate Utah's public utilities including electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and private water companies.

PSC Annual Report

The PSC publishes an annual report outlining all of the dockets and activities of the Commission over the previous fiscal year.



psc.utah.gov/annual-report/

PSC Objectives

Public Utility Regulation: Our mission is to provide fair and transparent regulation, ensuring and balancing the following objectives:

- > Just and reasonable rates;
- > Safe and reliable utility service; and
- Financially healthy utilities.

Utah Universal Service Fund (UUSF)

- The PSC distributes funds from surcharges paid on Utah telephone accounts 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.
- The UUSF funds two additional programs:
 - Relay Utah: This program provides telecommunications access and equipment to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-challenged.
 - Lifeline: A low income assistance program where qualifying recipients receive either a discount off of their monthly bill or, in the case of some wireless providers, a complete basic service.

Public Service Commission – Budget Issues for the 2021 General Session

- ➤ PSC operations are funded through the Public Utilities Regulatory Fee (Utah Code Ann. § 54-5-1.5).
- ➤ PSC operations and budget do not have any impact on the General Fund.
- The PSC is not requesting additional funding, building blocks, or fee changes during the 2021 General Session.

Public Service Commission – Recent Issues

- The PSC continues to implement 2019 H.B. 411, Community Renewable Energy Act (allowing municipalities to implement clean energy objectives for their residents), completing rulemaking during 2020. The next step will be a future joint filing by Rocky Mountain Power and participating municipalities.
- The PSC completed general rate cases for both Dominion Energy Utah (DEU) and Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) during 2020. DEU's revenue requirement was increased by \$2.7 million in February 2020, and RMP's revenue requirement was increased by \$31 million effective January 1, 2021, to be offset during 2021 and 2022 by excess deferred income tax revenue.
- The PSC issued a final order in a three year docket (that followed a stipulation from a broad group of stakeholders) to establish export credit compensation for customer generation.



Public Service Commission of Utah

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