

Public Utilities Commission

FY 2015 Revised
FY 2016 Recommended
FY 2016 – FY 2020 Capital

Staff Presentation
April 14, 2015

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Structure

Single agency with two distinct regulatory bodies:

- The Public Utilities Commission (Commission)
- The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division)

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Commission

- Three Commissioners
 - Appointed by the Governor to 6 year terms
- Quasi-judicial tribunal with jurisdiction, powers, and duties to implement and enforce utility standards of conduct
- Holds investigations and hearings involving rates, tariffs, tolls, and utilities' charges

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Commission

	First Appointed	Number of Appointments	Current Term Expires
Margaret Curran, Chairperson	March 2013	1	March 1, 2019
Paul Roberti, Member	March 2009	1	March 1, 2015
Herbert DeSimone, Member	March 2013	1	March 1, 2017

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Division

- Enforces Commission rules and regulations
- Exercises jurisdiction, supervision, powers, and duties not specifically assigned to the Commission
- Jurisdiction over common carriers (taxi and car services) and cable television

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Division

- Mandatory party in all utility dockets
- Defender of RI rate payers before federal regulatory agencies
 - Federal Communications Commission
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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Assessment Against Utilities

Rhode Island General Law §39-1-23

- Administrator of the Division determines Agency's expenses for coming fiscal year
- 100% of expenses are assessed amongst the state's regulated utilities
 - Utilities with gross state revenues of under \$0.1 million are exempt

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Summary by Source

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Governor	FY 2016 Change to Enacted
Federal Funds	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.0
Restricted Receipts	8.4	8.3	8.6	0.2
Total	\$8.5	\$8.4	\$8.7	\$0.2

In millions

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Summary by Category

<i>(In millions)</i>	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Governor	FY 2016 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$5.7	\$5.8	\$6.0	\$0.3
Contracted Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	(0.0)
Operations	0.9	0.9	0.9	(0.0)
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Capital	0.1	0.0	0.1	(0.0)
Total	\$8.5	\$8.4	\$8.7	\$0.2

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Personnel

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	50.0	-
FY 2015 Governor Revised	50.0	-
FY 2016 Request	50.0	-
FY 2016 Governor	50.0	-
FY 2014 Average Filled	45.5	(4.5)
Filled as of April 4th	45.0	(5.0)

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Personnel

Governor recommends \$6.0 million for 50.0 full-time equivalent positions for FY 2016

- Authorized level
- 11.0 positions for the Commission
 - 10.0 positions filled as of April 4, 2015
- 39.0 positions for the Division
 - 35.0 positions filled as of April 4, 2015

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Personnel

- Recommendation includes transfer of 2.0 Commission positions from federal funds to restricted receipts
 - Staff Attorney
 - Special Projects Coordinator
- Funding expired December 2013
 - August 2014 - Special Projects Coordinator changed to Deputy Chief of Legal Services

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Repairs and Purchases

Governor recommends \$30,000 for FY 2015 and \$59,000 for FY 2016

- Includes asset protection projects at headquarters building
 - Window repairs & replacements
- Includes purchase of replacement vehicle in FY 2016

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Public Utilities Reserve Account

Governor recommends enacted level of \$1.1 million

- Investigation and hearing expenses for rate cases and other filings

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2014	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 419,891
2013	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 574,186
2012	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 380,824
2011	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 422,683

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Expert Testimony

Governor recommends enacted level of \$0.4 million

- Consultant services associated with renewable energy standard

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2014	\$ 432,847	\$ 128,402
2013	\$ 432,847	\$ 133,381
2012	\$ 432,847	\$ 60,991
2011	\$ 432,847	\$ 72,931

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Other Operations

Governor recommends requested \$1.1 million for FY 2015 and FY 2016

- Includes general office expenses, building maintenance, fleet, and staff training
- \$13,771 more than FY 2015 enacted
 - Increase in grounds keeping and janitorial services consistent with FY 2014 expenditures

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Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly enacted legislation requiring OMB to prepare, review and inventory all reports filed with Assembly
 - Report presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Required to submit 2 reports
 - Rate case summary (biannual)
 - State renewable energy standard (annual)
 - Currently submitting both

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