

Public Service Commission Overview and Responsibilities

Briefing for the House Economic
Matters Committee

January 10, 2019

Background and Mission

- Established in 1910 by the General Assembly
- Is an independent state agency
- Regulates companies to ensure that public services are safe, economical, and reliable

The Commissioners



Anthony J. O'Donnell



Jason M. Stanek
Chairman



Michael T. Richard



Odogwu Obi Linton



Mindy L. Herman

Commission Structure

- Five appointed commissioners
- Administrative (Exec. Secy, General Counsel, Docket Room, IT, Communications, Fiscal, etc.)
- Public Utility Law Judges
- Technical Staff with divisions covering various disciplines
- Consumer Affairs Division

Scope of Jurisdiction

- Electric and gas utilities
- Competitive electric and gas suppliers
- Telecommunications (local landline phones)
- Passenger Transportation
 - Taxicabs (in some jurisdictions)
 - For-hire vehicles: limousines, sedans, and buses
 - TNCs (Uber, Lyft)
- Bay pilots
- Certain water and sewer companies
- Hazardous liquid pipelines

FY 2019 Budget Appropriation

- Special funds = \$19,554,295
- Federal funds = \$594,611
- Total = **\$20,148,906**
- Funding supports **138** permanent state employees and **15** contract employees.

PSC Authorities



- Outlined in the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*
- Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 20, covers PSC rules and regulations
- Intrastate jurisdiction (retail rates and service quality)
- Interstate issues: Engagement with federal agencies on issues involving wholesale electricity markets (e.g., PJM), demand response and transmission rates

Types of Proceedings

- Hearings
 - Legislative-style and evidentiary
 - Public comment
- Administrative Meetings
- Rulemakings
- Technical Conferences
- Most proceedings are streamed on our YouTube channel



Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

- PSC has the authority to issue a CPCN, to allow construction of a new generating station or high-voltage transmission lines.
- Local zoning issues with solar and wind development
- Commission has pre-emptive authority but must give 'due consideration' to local zoning and planning ordinances

Current Policy Initiatives

- Grid Modernization (PC 44)
 - Rate Design
 - Electric Vehicles
 - Competitive Markets & Customer Choice
 - Interconnection Process
 - Energy Storage
- Community Solar

Policy Initiatives, con't.

- Offshore Wind
- EmPOWER Maryland
- Maryland RPS Program
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Supplier Diversity (PC 16)



www.psc.state.md.us

