



OVERVIEW OF THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Presentation to the House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division

February 14, 2019
Dan Lipschultz, Vice-Chair
Dan Wolf, Executive Secretary

GENERAL AGENCY DESCRIPTION

- Five Member quasi-judicial decision-making board:
 - Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Minnesota Senate
 - Staggered six year terms
 - Full-time positions
- Qualifications:
 - Can't have more than three from one political party
 - At least one from outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area
 - Consider those learned in law, engineering, finance, utility/property valuation and generally representative of public
- Not a Cabinet-level agency
 - Independent from Administration

Staff & Budget

- 55 Staff
- Budget
 - \$7.442 Million per Year from the General Fund
 - Almost 100% recovered and returned to General Fund through assessment process

mn.gov/puc

3

Jurisdiction/Scope of Work

- **Investor-Owned Electric & Gas Utilities:**
 - **Rates** – Just & reasonable. Can't be unjustly discriminatory
 - **Services** – Sufficiently reliable
 - **Infrastructure** (Electric Utilities)
 - **Selection – Size, type, timing of resources** (IRPs) - Least cost; renewable preference; environmental & socioeconomic impacts considered.
 - **Construction & Location** Large Gen or Trans – (CN & route/site permits)
- **Non-Utility Large Energy Infrastructure (CNs & Site/Route Permits):**
 - Petroleum pipelines
 - Large wind & solar (But no CN if not for MN retail or if use for RES)
- **Landline Telecom Companies (Complaint-based/no rate reg)**

mn.gov/puc

4

Purpose of PUC Utility Regulation

- **REASON FOR UTILITY REGULATION:**
 - **Essential Service** - Utility Service (electric, gas, water) considered an essential service.
 - Essential for daily life and commerce/“Affected with the public interest” [CITE]
- **COMMISSION’S OBLIGATION**
 - **Implement statutes** as written and intended by legislature
 - General directive - ensure just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory rates & service
 - Numerous specific directives

2/14/2019

Optional Tagline Goes Here | mn.gov/puc

5

Decision-Making Process

- **Quasi-Judicial** – Case-by case; every decision based solely on the record developed in the case; no ex parte communications, i.e., commissioners can’t have off-the-record discussions with parties about material issues in any pending disputed case
- **Subject to Open Meeting Law** – All Commission meetings/decisions in publicly noticed open meetings
- **Decisions Communicated In Written Orders**

mn.gov/puc

6



Thank You!

Vice-Chair Dan Lipschultz

Questions? Contact Dan Wolf
dan.wolf@state.mn.us
651-201-2217

mn.gov/puc