

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Public Utilities Commission and Site Evaluation Committee Overview

The Public Utilities Commission is tasked with overseeing safe, adequate, and reliable service at just and reasonable rates for our state's electric, gas, and water utilities. The Commission's role is as the arbiter of customer and regulated utility interests. The Commission regulates over \$2b in annual revenue and over \$8b in assets, with a small staff of 12, 15 including Commissioners, where the electric and gas commodities can vary greatly, in good times providing affordable energy for NH's citizens and businesses, and in times of high prices an area of considerable cost and stress on the residents and businesses in the state, which the Commission works to ameliorate through its oversight work.

The Site Evaluation Committee has responsibility for the siting of energy facilities. The Committee was reformed by the legislature last year, from 9 to 5 members, moving enforcement to the DOE, and combining the SEC and PUC so that resources are fungible. The SEC has a single employee.

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) FY26/27 Budget Highlights – House Finance Committee Budget Hearing

Budget Comparison Highlights:

	FY24 Act	FY25 Adj Auth	FY26 Gov Rec	FY27 Gov Rec
Current Permanent Positions	\$1,345,565	\$1,652,716	\$1,705,955	\$1,744,457
Other Personnel Costs	\$39,262	\$136,626	\$126,000	\$127,000
Benefits	\$589,060	\$795,059	\$778,240	\$818,240
Operating Expenses	\$213,405	\$394,703	\$254,433	\$239,731
Grants and Grant Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contracted Expenditures	\$0	\$1,000	\$100	\$100
Other Expenses	\$44,823	\$45,144	\$44,385	\$44,853
Transfers	\$369,545	\$725,323	\$711,642	\$770,448
Total Appropriation	\$2,601,660	\$3,750,571	\$3,620,755	\$3,744,829

Funding Comparison:

	FY24 Act	FY25 Adj Auth	FY26 Gov Rec	FY27 Gov Rec
Other - Utility Assessment	\$2,601,660	\$3,431,254	\$3,402,251	\$3,524,273
Other - Site Evaluation Committee	\$0	\$319,317	\$218,504	\$220,556
Total Funding	\$2,601,660	\$3,750,571	\$3,620,755	\$3,744,829

Position Overview (includes 1 unclassified position in the SEC):

	FY24 Act	FY25 Adj Auth	FY26 Gov Rec	FY27 Gov Rec
Permanent Classified	7	7	7	7
Unclassified Positions	10	10	10	10
Total Positions	17	17	17	17

Current Full Time Permanent Vacancies: 1 vacancy, 16 filled positions ~ 6% Vacancy Rate

Requested Change to budget:

Reduction:

18920000

018-500106 Overtime **-\$5,000**

Increase:

18920000

019-500105 Holiday Pay **+\$5,000**

This change will give the PUC the flexibility of allowing key personnel to perform prehearing work, if necessary, when a holiday falls the day before a hearing.