

# Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

## Role and Overview

The Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) assures that all residential, business, and industrial consumers have access to adequate, safe, and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. The PUCO regulates a wide variety of public utilities including electricity, natural gas, pipelines, heating and cooling, telephone services, waterworks, wastewater, railroads, household goods carriers, towing companies, water transportation, hazardous materials carriers, and commercial transportation carriers. A chairman and four commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor for five-year terms, govern the PUCO. The chairman serves as the agency's director and chairs the Power Siting Board, which reviews all applications for building electric generating and transmission facilities in Ohio. During fiscal years 2014 and 2015, the PUCO is anticipated to have 363 positions.

More information regarding the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is available at [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov).

## Agency Priorities

- Mandate the availability of adequate, safe, and reliable utility service to all business, industrial, and residential consumers.
- Ensure financial integrity and service reliability in the Ohio utility industry.
- Promote utility infrastructure investment through appropriate regulatory policies and structures.
- Regulate utilities' rates and terms of service for monopoly and non-competitive services.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with rules and statutory protections against deceptive, unfair, unsafe, and anticompetitive utility practices.
- Safeguard the security of Ohio's regulated motor carrier and rail operations, through aggressive inspection, training, monitoring, and education programs and enhance safety at all public highway-railroad grade crossings in Ohio through education and the installation of lights and gates and other safety devices.
- Resolve through mediation, arbitration, and adjudication disputes between utilities and residential, commercial, and industrial customers, as well as between competing utilities.
- Foster competition by establishing and enforcing a fair competitive framework for all utilities.

## Funding Recommendation for 2014 and 2015

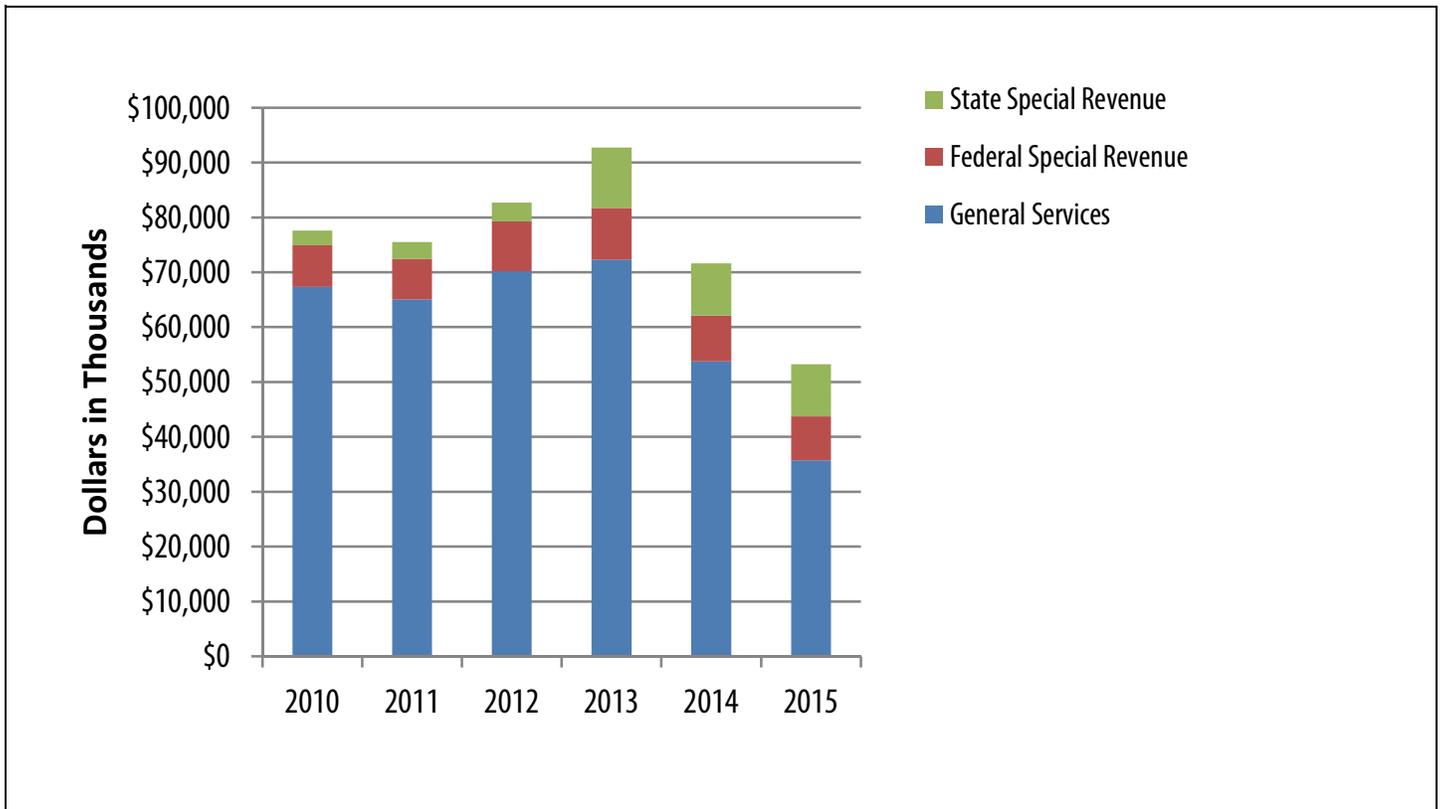
- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$71.6 million (or a 22.7% decrease from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$53.3 million (or a 25.7% decrease from fiscal year 2014).

## The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Improve state emergency preparedness plans and ensure quick recovery and restoration from any supply disruptions.
- Certify renewable energy resource generating facilities, enforce alternative energy benchmarks, and promote energy efficiencies and economic development initiatives.
- Assist several hundred thousand consumers with utility disputes between utilities and residential, business, and industrial customers, as well as, between competing utilities.
- Enforce regulations from multiple federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Federal Rail Commission.
- Ensure safety on Ohio's roadways through the implementation of the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks and the operation of the hazardous materials program.
- Support the registration and certification of more than 8,000 intrastate carriers; 2,500 hazardous materials carriers; 6,100 rail grade crossings; and more than 1,000 power, utility, and telecommunication companies each year.
- Conduct and fund investigations and audits through the financial analysis and audits division.
- Establish rates and terms for monopoly and non-competitive utility services.

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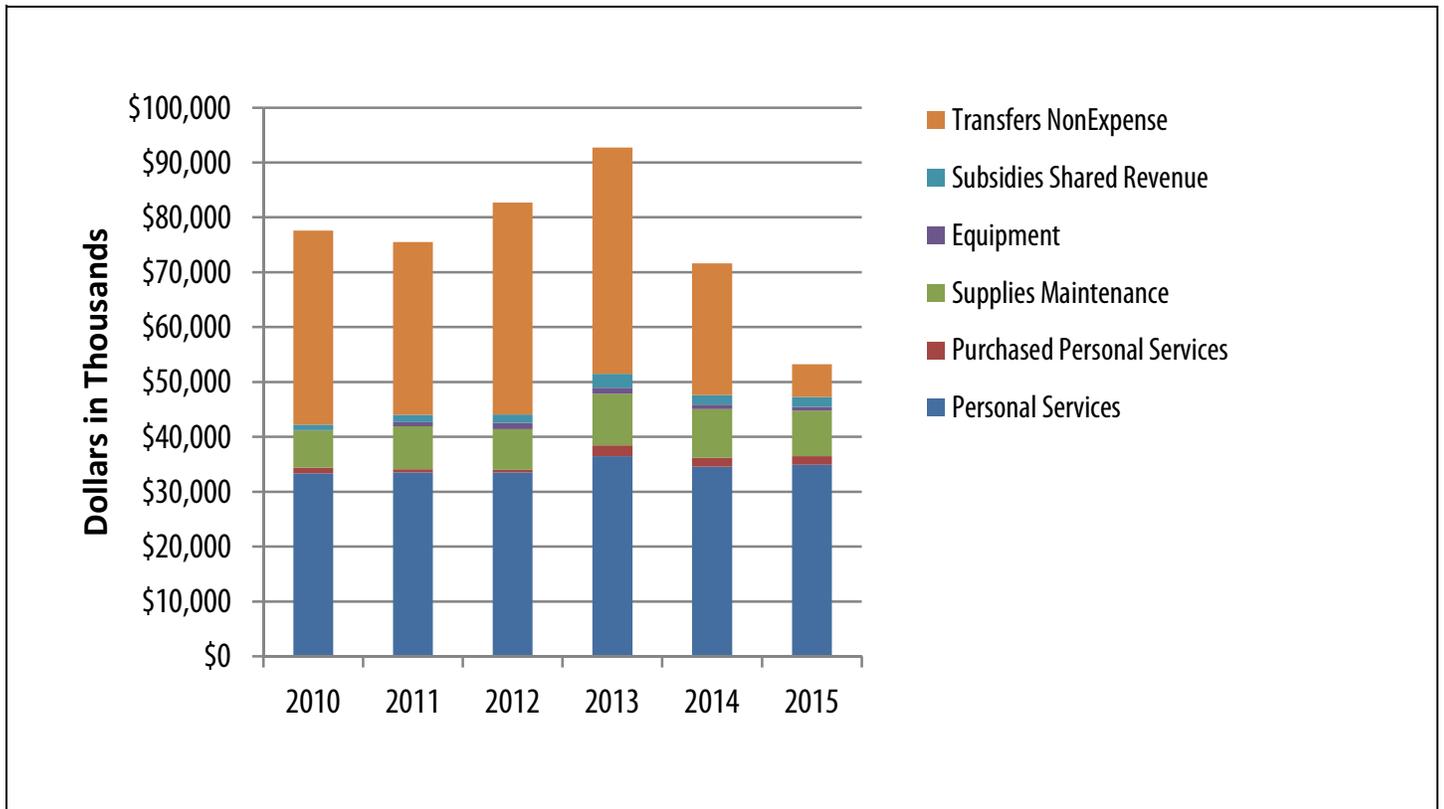
Budget Fund Group Information



- The State Special Revenue budget fund group declines in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 as responsibility for the Wireless 911 program shifts on January 1, 2014 from the PUCO to the departments of Taxation and Public Safety.

(in Thousands) Budget Fund Group	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
General Services	67,302	65,094	70,156	72,322	3.1%	53,740	-25.7%	35,705	-33.6%
Federal Special Revenue	7,651	7,333	9,105	9,408	3.3%	8,358	-11.2%	8,050	-3.7%
State Special Revenue	2,619	3,098	3,434	10,983	219.8%	9,549	-13.1%	9,500	-0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,572</b>	<b>75,524</b>	<b>82,695</b>	<b>92,714</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>71,646</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>	<b>53,255</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>

Expense Account Category Information



- The Transfers and Non-Expenses category declines in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 as responsibility for the Wireless 911 program shifts on January 1, 2014 from the PUCO to the departments of Taxation and Public Safety.

(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012			FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change
Personal Services	33,332	33,517	33,511	36,486	8.9%	34,574	-5.2%	34,902	0.9%
Purchased Personal Services	1,061	599	500	1,937	287.1%	1,594	-17.7%	1,576	-1.1%
Supplies & Maintenance	6,782	7,839	7,415	9,423	27.1%	8,869	-5.9%	8,311	-6.3%
Equipment	75	723	1,129	1,117	-1.0%	809	-27.6%	689	-14.9%
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	953	1,319	1,491	2,506	68.1%	1,790	-28.6%	1,777	-0.8%
Transfers & Non-Expense	35,369	31,527	38,650	41,244	6.7%	24,011	-41.8%	6,001	-75.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,572</b>	<b>75,524</b>	<b>82,695</b>	<b>92,714</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>71,646</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>	<b>53,255</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>

**Program Series 1: Utility Regulation (158A0)**

This program series includes three major programs; the first of which is the Safety and Service Quality Oversight Program (158B1), which monitors and enforces compliance with state and federal safety and service quality regulations in a wide variety of public utilities including: electricity, natural gas, pipelines, heating and cooling, telephone services, waterworks, wastewater, railroads, household goods carriers, tow trucks, water transportation, hazardous materials carriers, and commercial transportation carriers. Second is the Registration and Certification Program (158B2), which registers and certifies public utilities operating in Ohio. Through the establishment of a fair and reasonable regulatory framework, the PUCO protects the public interest and facilitates competitive choices, while assuring adequate utility infrastructure. The third program is the Tariff and Economic Oversight Program (158B3), which sets rates and terms for monopoly and non-competitive utility services. Utility activities and markets are closely monitored to ensure financial integrity within the industry, safeguards for the consumers, enforcement of regulations, and the enhancement of the state's economy. This program series declines in FY 2014-15 as responsibility for the Wireless 911 program shifts on January 1, 2014 to the departments of Taxation and Public Safety.

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Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
5BP0	870623	Wireless 911 Administration	35,436,000	18,035,000	-49.1%	0	-100.0%
5F60	870622	Utility and Railroad Regulation	31,786,431	30,619,708	-3.7%	30,619,708	0.0%
5F60	870624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	100,000	85,000	-15.0%	85,000	0.0%
5Q50	870626	Telecommunications Relay Service	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.0%	5,000,000	0.0%
3330	870601	Gas Pipeline Safety	597,959	597,959	0.0%	597,959	0.0%
3330	870628	Underground Utility Protection	18,996	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
3500	870608	Motor Carrier Safety	7,351,660	7,351,660	0.0%	7,351,660	0.0%
3V30	870604	Commercial Vehicle Information Systems/Network	824,000	100,000	-87.9%	100,000	0.0%
4A30	870614	Grade Crossing Protection Devices - State	1,347,357	1,347,357	0.0%	1,347,357	0.0%
4L80	870617	Pipeline Safety - State	331,992	331,992	0.0%	331,992	0.0%
5610	870606	Power Siting Board	581,618	581,618	0.0%	581,618	0.0%
5LTO	870640	Intrastate Regulation	180,000	180,000	0.0%	180,000	0.0%
5LTO	870641	Unified Carrier Registration	420,000	420,000	0.0%	420,000	0.0%
5LTO	870642	Hazardous Materials Registration	823,741	743,346	-9.8%	753,346	1.3%
5LTO	870643	Non-Hazardous Materials Civil Forfeiture	277,496	277,496	0.0%	277,496	0.0%
5LTO	870644	Hazardous Materials Civil Forfeiture	1,603,819	898,800	-44.0%	898,800	0.0%
5LTO	870645	Motor Carrier Enforcement	5,416,874	4,768,453	-12.0%	4,709,592	-1.2%
<b>Total for Utility Regulation</b>			<b>92,097,943</b>	<b>71,338,389</b>	<b>-22.5%</b>	<b>53,254,528</b>	<b>-25.3%</b>

**Program Series 2: Federal Stimulus - PUC (158F0)**

This program series includes two programs. The Energy Assurance Planning Program (158G1) is funded by a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to improve state emergency preparedness plans and ensure quick recovery and restoration from any energy supply disruption. The Electricity Regulators Assistance Program (158F1), also funded by ARRA, enables the PUCO to ensure that the demands of an increased workload resulting from ARRA electricity-related applications and filing are met. This program increases the likelihood of achieving ARRA electricity-related goals, modernizes the nation's electric grid, and enhances energy independence.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
3EAO	870630	Energy Assurance Planning	384,000	192,001	-50.0%	0	-100.0%
3ED0	870631	State Regulators Assistance	231,824	115,912	-50.0%	0	-100.0%
<b>Total for Federal Stimulus - PUC</b>			<b>615,824</b>	<b>307,913</b>	<b>-50.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>

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Appropriation Line Item Analysis for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015

Line Item Notes

870623, Wireless 911 Administration: This line item declines in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 as responsibility for the Wireless 911 program shifts on January 1, 2014 from the PUCO to the departments of Taxation and Public Safety.

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Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
5BP0	870623	Wireless 911 Administration	30,309,732	26,955,962	32,175,376	35,436,000	18,035,000	-49.1%	0	-100.0%
5F60	870622	Utility and Railroad Regulation	29,354,827	29,416,477	29,649,322	31,786,431	30,619,708	-3.7%	30,619,708	0.0%
5F60	870624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	85,000	85,000	46,500	100,000	85,000	-15.0%	85,000	0.0%
5F60	870625	Motor Transportation Regulation	4,251,042	4,309,373	4,418,372	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5Q50	870626	Telecommunications Relay Service	3,301,225	4,326,893	3,866,923	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.0%	5,000,000	0.0%
<b>Total General Services</b>			<b>67,301,826</b>	<b>65,093,705</b>	<b>70,156,493</b>	<b>72,322,431</b>	<b>53,739,708</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>35,704,708</b>	<b>-33.6%</b>
3330	870601	Gas Pipeline Safety	481,447	542,467	628,132	597,959	597,959	0.0%	597,959	0.0%
3330	870628	Underground Utility Protection	98,168	83,724	11,839	18,996	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
3500	870608	Motor Carrier Safety	6,745,925	6,282,356	7,681,767	7,351,660	7,351,660	0.0%	7,351,660	0.0%
3CU0	870627	Electric Market Modeling	249,100	91,182	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
3EAO	870630	Energy Assurance Planning	49,250	168,715	154,427	384,000	192,001	-50.0%	0	-100.0%
3ED0	870631	State Regulators Assistance	0	121,986	127,248	231,824	115,912	-50.0%	0	-100.0%
3V30	870604	Commercial Vehicle Information Systems/ Network	26,883	42,596	501,171	824,000	100,000	-87.9%	100,000	0.0%
<b>Total Federal Special Revenue</b>			<b>7,650,773</b>	<b>7,333,026</b>	<b>9,104,584</b>	<b>9,408,439</b>	<b>8,357,532</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>	<b>8,049,619</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
4A30	870614	Grade Crossing Protection Devices - State	514,486	1,022,522	1,097,827	1,347,357	1,347,357	0.0%	1,347,357	0.0%
4L80	870617	Pipeline Safety - State	173,551	113,373	180,458	331,992	331,992	0.0%	331,992	0.0%
4S60	870618	Hazardous Materials Registration	249,419	247,231	339,030	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
4S60	870621	Hazardous Materials Base Regulation	273,595	266,920	278,070	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
4U80	870620	Civil Forfeitures	229,801	244,368	267,760	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5610	870606	Power Siting Board	309,111	465,266	362,590	581,618	581,618	0.0%	581,618	0.0%
5HDO	870629	Radioactive Waste Transportation	0	4,564	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5KE0	870632	Community Voicemail Service	0	0	38,044	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5LTO	870640	Intrastate Regulation	0	0	0	180,000	180,000	0.0%	180,000	0.0%
5LTO	870641	Unified Carrier Registration	0	0	0	420,000	420,000	0.0%	420,000	0.0%
5LTO	870642	Hazardous Materials Registration	0	0	0	823,741	743,346	-9.8%	753,346	1.3%
5LTO	870643	Non-Hazardous Materials Civil Forfeiture	0	0	0	277,496	277,496	0.0%	277,496	0.0%
5LTO	870644	Hazardous Materials Civil Forfeiture	0	0	0	1,603,819	898,800	-44.0%	898,800	0.0%
5LTO	870645	Motor Carrier Enforcement	0	0	0	5,416,874	4,768,453	-12.0%	4,709,592	-1.2%
6380	870611	Biofuels/Municipal Waste Technology	6,043	0	554	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6610	870612	Hazardous Materials Transportation	863,242	733,273	869,902	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total State Special Revenue</b>			<b>2,619,248</b>	<b>3,097,517</b>	<b>3,434,235</b>	<b>10,982,897</b>	<b>9,549,062</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>	<b>9,500,201</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>Grand Total Public Utilities Commission of Ohio</b>			<b>77,571,847</b>	<b>75,524,248</b>	<b>82,695,312</b>	<b>92,713,767</b>	<b>71,646,302</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>	<b>53,254,528</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>