

State of Ohio
Public Utilities Commission

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. The PUCO employs about 400 staff members and has an annual budget of approximately \$54 million. Additional information about the Public Utilities Commission is available at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>.

Executive Priorities for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

- Mandate the availability of adequate, safe, and reliable utility service to all business, industrial, and residential consumers.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with rules and statutory protections against deceptive, unfair, unsafe, and anti-competitive utility practices.
- Resolve through mediation, arbitration, and adjudication disputes between utilities and residential, commercial, and industrial customers, as well as between competing utilities.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands)					%	RECOMMENDED			
BUDGET FUND GROUP	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004	ESTIMATE FY 2005	CHANGE FY 04-05	FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Services Fund Group	31,381	33,035	32,772	36,155	10.3	36,151	.0	36,151	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	5,403	7,194	6,110	7,926	29.7	7,926	.0	7,926	.0
State Special Revenue Fund Group	4,720	3,714	3,499	5,077	45.1	4,041	(20.4)	4,041	.0
Agency Fund Group	5,332	5,137	4,769	6,500	36.3	5,600	(13.8)	5,600	.0
TOTAL	46,836	49,080	47,150	55,658	18.0	53,718	(3.5)	53,718	.0

(In thousands)					%	RECOMMENDED			
OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004	ESTIMATE FY 2005	CHANGE FY 04-05	FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	28,744	30,585	30,685	33,967	10.7	34,154	.5	34,446	.9
Purchased Services	454	221	306	1,393	355.8	1,155	(17.1)	1,085	(6.1)
Maintenance	4,351	4,384	4,413	4,622	4.7	4,966	7.4	4,789	(3.6)
Equipment	724	796	722	630	(12.7)	510	(19.1)	505	(.9)
Subsidy	2,644	1,936	1,317	2,581	96.0	1,941	(24.8)	1,941	.0
Transfer & Other	9,921	11,157	9,708	12,465	28.4	10,992	(11.8)	10,951	(.4)
TOTAL	46,836	49,080	47,150	55,658	18.0	53,718	(3.5)	53,718	.0

Public Utilities Commission

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Utility Regulation

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is the only state agency that regulates the operations of public utility companies. The PUCO implements appropriate regulatory safeguards that ensure Ohio's residential and business consumers have access to adequate, safe, secure, and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. The PUCO regulates the electric, natural gas, telephone, water, rail, and transportation industries through a comprehensive regulatory program that encompasses infrastructure development, registration and certification, economic and financial integrity monitoring, service reliability, and safety enforcement.

Program 01.01: Safety and Service Quality Oversight and Enforcement

This program 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, railroad, household goods carriers, tow trucks, water transportation, hazardous materials carriers, and commercial transportation carriers.

What the Budget Buys:

- Continues the implementation of the regulations of multiple federal agencies, including (but not limited to) US Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Federal Rail Commission;
- Provides for the implementation of the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN);
- Funds the operation of the hazardous materials civil forfeiture program;
- Maintains a consumer call center, which handles investigations and audits of power, utility, and telecommunications companies, as well as customer mediation; and
- Supports 205 personnel.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GSF	5F6	870-622	Utility & Railroad Regulation	13,635,339	13,665,540
GSF	5F6	870-624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	74,465	74,630
GSF	5F6	870-625	Motor Transportation Regulation	3,038,733	3,044,740
FED	333	870-601	Gas Pipeline Safety	542,561	542,561
FED	350	870-608	Motor Carrier Safety	7,027,712	7,027,712
SSR	4A3	870-614	Grade Crossing Protection Device-State	1,349,757	1,349,757
SSR	4L8	870-617	Pipeline Safety-State	168,859	168,859
SSR	4U8	870-620	Civil Forfeitures	284,986	284,986
SSR	560	870-607	Special Assessment	50,000	50,000
SSR	561	870-606	Power Siting Board	118,024	118,024
SSR	661	870-612	Hazardous Materials Transportation	900,000	900,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				27,190,436	27,226,809

Program 01.02: Registration and Certification

This program registers and certifies public utilities operating in the State of Ohio including electric, natural gas, heating and cooling, telephone, waterworks, wastewater, railroad, household goods, towing, water transportation, hazardous materials, and commercial transportation carriers. Through the establishment of a fair and reasonable regulatory framework, the PUCO, while assuring adequate utility infrastructure, protects the public interest and facilitates competitive choices where feasible.

Public Utilities Commission

What the Budget Buys:

- Supports the registration and certification of over 65,000 motor carriers; 8,000 intrastate carriers; 2,500 hazardous materials carriers; 7,000 rail cars; 3,000 hazardous materials rail cars; 7,500 rail grade crossings; and over 1,000 power, utility, and telecommunication companies each calendar year; and
- Supports 56 personnel.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GSF	5F6	870-622	Utility & Railroad Regulation	3,276,587	3,281,340
GSF	5F6	870-624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	17,894	17,920
GSF	5F6	870-625	Motor Transportation Regulation	2,087,491	2,082,596
FED	3V3	870-604	Commercial Vehicle Information System/Net Federal	300,000	300,000
FED	333	870-601	Gas Pipeline Safety	55,396	55,396
SSR	4L8	870-617	Pipeline Safety-State	18,762	18,762
SSR	4S6	870-618	Hazardous Material Registration	464,325	464,325
SSR	4S6	870-621	Hazardous Materials Base State Regulation	373,346	373,346
SSR	561	870-606	Power Siting Board	185,465	185,465
AGY	4G4	870-616	Base State Registration Program	5,600,000	5,600,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				12,379,266	12,379,150

Program 01.03: Tariff and Economic Oversight

This program provides for the review and approval of the utilities' rules and regulations to ensure that they comply with state and federal regulations. Rates and terms for monopoly and non-competitive utility services are set by the PUCO. Utility activities and markets are closely monitored to ensure financial integrity within the utility industry, safeguards for the consumers, enforcement of regulations, and the enhancement of the state's economy.

What the Budget Buys:

- Allows PUC to monitor the implementation of 9-1-1 systems within counties, as well as the wireless 9-1-1 service;
- Funds investigations and audits conducted through the Financial Analysis and Audits division; and
- Supports 146 personnel.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GSF	5F6	870-622	Utility & Railroad Regulation	13,710,296	13,675,343
GSF	5F6	870-624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	74,874	74,683
GSF	5F6	870-625	Motor Transportation Regulation	235,015	233,902
SSR	559	870-605	Public Utilities Territorial Admin	4,000	4,000
SSR	560	870-607	Special Assessment	50,000	50,000
SSR	561	870-606	Power Siting Board	33,721	33,721
SSR	638	870-611	Biomass Energy Program	40,000	40,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				14,147,906	14,111,649

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Public Utilities Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
5F6	870-622	Utility & Railroad Regulation	27,211,647	28,679,504	28,401,666	30,622,222	30,622,222	.0	30,622,223	.0
5F6	870-624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	167,233	167,233	147,165	167,233	167,233	.0	167,233	.0
5F6	870-625	Motor Transportation Regulation	3,972,160	4,179,324	4,202,850	5,361,239	5,361,239	.0	5,361,238	.0
558	870-602	Salvage & Exchange	30,000	9,251	20,319	4,000	0	(100.0)	0	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			31,381,040	33,035,312	32,772,000	36,154,694	36,150,694	.0	36,150,694	.0
3V3	870-604	Commercial Veh Info Sys/Net Federal	0	0	0	300,000	300,000	.0	300,000	.0
333	870-601	Gas Pipeline Safety	365,285	403,461	488,533	597,957	597,957	.0	597,957	.0
350	870-608	Motor Carrier Safety	5,037,707	6,790,583	5,621,777	7,027,713	7,027,712	.0	7,027,712	.0
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			5,402,992	7,194,044	6,110,310	7,925,670	7,925,669	.0	7,925,669	.0
4A3	870-614	Grade Crossng Protectn Device-State	2,325,859	1,496,231	887,101	1,993,857	1,349,757	(32.3)	1,349,757	.0
4L8	870-617	Pipeline Safety-State	157,279	171,439	178,367	187,621	187,621	.0	187,621	.0
4S6	870-618	Hazardous Material Registration	347,865	402,399	401,973	614,325	464,325	(24.4)	464,325	.0
4S6	870-621	Hazardous Materials Base State Reg	308,085	312,540	255,795	373,346	373,346	.0	373,346	.0
4U8	870-620	Civil Forfeitures	123,085	138,896	297,390	434,986	284,986	(34.5)	284,986	.0
559	870-605	Public Utilities Territorial Admin	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	.0	4,000	.0
560	870-607	Special Assessment	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	.0	100,000	.0
561	870-606	Power Siting Board	656,695	373,867	642,571	429,210	337,210	(21.4)	337,210	.0
638	870-611	Biomass Energy Program	24,978	24,515	30,971	40,000	40,000	.0	40,000	.0
661	870-612	Hazardous Materials Transportation	776,325	794,252	804,909	900,000	900,000	.0	900,000	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			4,720,171	3,714,139	3,499,077	5,077,345	4,041,245	(20.4)	4,041,245	.0
4G4	870-616	Base State Registration Program	5,332,183	5,136,757	4,768,968	6,500,000	5,600,000	(13.8)	5,600,000	.0
TOTAL Agency Fund Group			5,332,183	5,136,757	4,768,968	6,500,000	5,600,000	(13.8)	5,600,000	.0
TOTAL Public Utilities Commission			46,836,386	49,080,252	47,150,355	55,657,709	53,717,608	(3.5)	53,717,608	.0