PUCO Overview
June 2019
PUCO Commissioners

Appointed by the governor, serving staggered five-year terms

Chairman
Sam Randazzo
Term Ends April 2024

Commissioner
M. Beth Trombold
Term Ends April 2023

Commissioner
Daniel R. Conway
Term Ends April 2022

Commissioner
Dennis P. Deters
Term Ends April 2021

Commissioner
Larry K. Friedeman
Term Ends April 2020
Our Mission

To assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe, and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices.
Role of the PUCO

• Responsible for regulating public utility service and rates in Ohio, and ensuring that all consumers have access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices

• Resolve formal complaints between utilities and residential or business customers

• Ensure service quality and safety for utility services

• Facilitate an environment that provides competitive choices

• Protect the rights of all consumers
PUCO Jurisdiction

• Investor-Owned Utilities
  o Natural Gas
  o Electric
  o Landline Telephone
  o Water and Wastewater

• Commercial Motor Carriers, Moving Companies and Transportation Network Companies

• Railroad Crossing Safety

Utilities and companies regulated by the PUCO have a $24 billion impact on Ohio’s economy.
Areas the PUCO Does Not Regulate

- Cellular Telephone Service and Towers
- Internet Service
- Cable Service
- Propane and Fuel Oil
- Municipal Utilities
- Cooperative Utilities
PUCO Operations

- Annual Budget: FY 2018 - $51.7M; FY 2019 - $59M
- Self-supporting agency that does not receive appropriations from the General Revenue Fund
- Funded by utility assessments, motor carrier registration fees and federal grants
- Employs about 300 people, including accountants, attorneys, auditors, economists, engineers, and safety inspectors
PUCO Departments

- **Service Monitoring & Enforcement:** Call Center, Gas Pipeline Safety, Competitive Certification & Monitoring, Low Income Assistance Education
- **Rates & Analysis:** Corporate Oversight, Grid Modernization, Renewables & Energy Efficiency, OPSB, Telecom
- **Federal Energy Advocate:** FERC & PJM Advocacy, Forecasting
- **Transportation:** Railroad Grade Crossings, Commercial Motor Vehicles
- **Legal:** Commission Entries & Orders, Ethics, Public Records, Staff Attorneys
- **Business Resources:** IT, Human Resources, Fiscal
- **Public Affairs:** Media Relations, Public Outreach, Chairman Presentations
- **Commission Offices:** Commissioners & Aides
Example Cases

- Formal Complaints on Service or Safety
- Rate Proceedings
- Rider Reconciliation
- Certification Requests for Competitive Retail Electric Suppliers, Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers, and Eligible Ohio Renewable Energy Resource
- Rulemakings
- Reasonable Rate Arrangements
- Motor Carrier Violations
- Grade Crossing Closures & Enhancements
PUCO Call Center

• In 2018, the Call Center received 70,843 contacts resulting in over 10,000 investigations.
• PUCO representatives can informally mediate disputes.
Wholesale Electricity Market

- PJM Interconnection is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity across 13 states, including Ohio.
- PJM is regulated by FERC, which has jurisdiction over the wholesale electricity market.
- PJM’s Role:
  - Continuously monitor the grid to balance the supply and demand of electricity
  - Administer competitive wholesale markets
  - Conduct long-range planning to identify any improvements needed to ensure reliability in its territory
Electricity in Ohio

**Competitive**

**GENERATION**
- Producing Electricity
  - Customers receive generation from a CRES provider or their local utility who has purchased power on their behalf

**Noncompetitive**

**TRANSMISSION**
- Moving Electrons
  - Utilities pass through the cost of transmission service to customers
  - Charged by PJM
  - Rate approved by FERC

**DISTRIBUTION**
- Distributing Locally
  - Utilities provide distribution service for all of its customers
  - Receive the cost of providing this service, plus an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return
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Transportation Jurisdiction

- Railroad Grade Crossings
  - Upgraded Warning Devices
  - Crossing Closures
- Commercial Motor Vehicles
  - Registration
  - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Violations
  - Inspections & Audits
Ohio Power Siting Board
OPSB Operations

- **Sole Jurisdiction:** Local and public participation is welcome in the process, but the sole decision rests with the OPSB, creating a one-stop siting process.

- **Timely Action:** Approximately 6 to 12 months for applications, with some projects eligible for an accelerated application process.

- The OPSB meets typically meets the third Thursday of the month.
OPSB Jurisdiction

Siting of major utility facilities:

• A generating plant of 50 megawatts (MW) or more
• Wind facilities greater than 5 MW
• An electric transmission line of 125 kilovolts or greater
• *Intrastate* gas or natural gas transmission line capable of transporting gas at or greater than 125 pounds per square inch of pressure (does not include production, gathering or liquids lines)