

Public Service Commission

MISSION

The mission of the Public Service Commission is to promote adequate, safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of services to Maryland consumers by public service companies subject to the Commission's statutory mandates. We accomplish this by ensuring just and reasonable rates; supervising, monitoring, and regulating all public service companies; educating the public about utility issues; and promoting competition where appropriate. We conduct proceedings in an open, fair, and nondiscriminatory manner, taking into account the interests of consumers, utilities, businesses, and other affected parties. In our decisions, we weigh the importance of public safety, economy of the State, natural resource availability, and environmental quality. We are committed to building an organization marked by its sense of teamwork, accountability, innovation, and diversity. We recruit, train, and retain quality personnel by providing good working conditions, effective leadership, and opportunities for personal and professional development.

VISION

We will be recognized as a national leader in regulatory excellence and innovation. We will demonstrate our commitment to the public, the companies we regulate, and our colleagues by building an environment of mutual respect, professionalism, and diversity.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. Ensure that gas and electric utility companies operate utility systems safely.

Obj. 1.1 Annually maintain a zero rate of reportable accidents from regulated utilities that are attributable to violations of Commission regulations.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of accidents reported	9	11	10	14	10	9	9
Number of accidents attributed to violations of Commission regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Goal 2. Ensure that public service companies deliver reliable services and that utility systems are adequate to meet customer demand.

Obj. 2.1 Annually have no reportable service interruptions due to insufficient jurisdictional plant maintenance or improper plant operations.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of reportable service interruptions	2	4	3	1	2	1	1
Number of reportable service interruptions due to insufficient plant maintenance or improper plant operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Goal 3. Conduct open and fair proceedings and render timely decisions in accordance with statutory mandates and applicable law

Obj. 3.1 Annually, 100 percent of Commission orders will be upheld on judicial review.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of cases	324	272	240	273	447	475	500
Percent of orders upheld on judicial review	71%	90%	94%	90%	100%	100%	100%

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Goal 4. Ensure that all Maryland consumers have adequate consumer protection.

Obj. 4.1 Annually resolve 80 percent of consumer disputes within 60 days.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of disputes	11,280	13,327	11,683	8,369	6,777	7,500	7,500
Percent of consumer disputes resolved within 60 days	76%	87%	88%	90%	90%	90%	90%

Goal 5. Ensure that rates for public utility services are just and reasonable.

Obj. 5.1 Assure adequate and fair rates to utilities and customers by having 100 percent of Commission rate orders upheld on judicial review.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of rate cases	5	4	3	9	5	6	6
Percent of cases upheld on judicial review	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Goal 6. Ensure that telecommunications companies provide reliable services.

Obj. 6.1 Annually, the major carriers will meet their service objectives for resolving trouble spots, providing timeliness of repair, meeting appointments for installation, answering inquiries to business offices, and maintaining the operability of pay telephones 95 percent of the time.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Percent of time that major carriers report meeting service objectives (resolving trouble spots, timeliness of repair, etc.)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Goal 7. Ensure that taxicabs and passenger-for-hire carriers engage in safe practices.

Obj. 7.1 Annually maintain a zero fatality rate from accidents attributable to vehicle safety violations by taxicabs and passenger-for-hire vehicles.

Performance Measures	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of taxicabs regulated	1,405	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,423	1,423
Number of passenger-for-hire vehicles regulated with a passenger capacity of less than 16	3,058	3,389	3,473	19,602	39,799	75,000	75,000
Number of passenger-for-hire vehicles regulated with a passenger capacity of 16 or more	2,096	2,033	2,182	2,227	2,252	2,200	2,200
¹ Safety inspections of taxicabs by Commission inspectors	1,832	1,777	1,751	1,031	1,274	460	460
¹ Number of safety inspections of passenger-for-hire vehicles by Commission inspectors	6,211	5,803	6,818	5,243	3,405	4,400	4,400
Ratio of total number of safety inspections to total number of reported vehicles in service at the end of the fiscal year	1.97:1	1.94:1	1.99:1	1.19:1	1.02:1	1.03:1	1.03:1
Reported fatalities from accidents attributable to vehicle safety violations by taxicabs and passenger-for hire vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES

¹ The decrease in the number of safety inspections is a direct result of regulatory changes reducing the requirement of bi-annual vehicle safety inspections to annually.