

PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYST COORDINATOR

KIND OF WORK

High-level professional and cross-functional analysis work in utility regulation and advocacy within the Energy Regulation and Planning Unit of the Department of Commerce. Provides leadwork direction to staff assigned Public Utilities cases.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under administrative direction, the Public Utilities Analyst Coordinator enables the unit to incorporate new developments within the electric and natural gas industries into the analyses conducted by the unit by identifying those new developments, evaluating their impacts, and communicating the impacts. This position ensures that all relevant issue areas within each industry that are, or may be, impacted by new developments are identified. Considers the increasing inter-relatedness of the electric and natural gas industries and ensures that the unit is aware of how a new development may impact both industries. This position ensures that the impacts and consequences of industry developments are understood by other Public Utility Analysts and management.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Public Utilities Analyst Coordinator will perform the same functions as the technical expert in the PURA4 or PUFA4 classifications. What distinguishes the PUAC classification from the PURA4 or PUFA4 classification is that, under administrative direction, it coordinates cases, management audits, and studies of the largest size and highest complexity. Serves as a lead for cross-functional issues and serves as a technical advisor in highly complex matters that are related across functions.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Provide cross-functional technical guidance, direction and expertise to management and staff in specialty areas, including resource planning and acquisition; cost recovery methods/policies; energy and capacity forecasting; and regional/federal relations and activities.

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Provide technical direction to staff as lead analyst for large, complex contested and non-contested dockets and cases.

Serve as case coordinator of complex rate cases or other contested case proceedings, coordinating issues in the case with other matters within the unit.

Analyze and provide expert testimony in highly complex rate cases and other contested case proceedings, taking into account how issues in the cases may be affected by developments in other matters.

Identify, investigate and finalize highly complex new and emerging policy issues which may involve drafting rules, standards of practice, policy statements and other reports.

Identify trends in rate structures and conditions of service and changes in Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) business practices, enabling the development of new approaches and capabilities for the agency and the State of MN.

Identify, research and recommend actions that impact or are impacted by the workings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Evaluate the cost of capital investment and recommend a specific rate of return, taking into account all relevant factors affecting the utility and relevant utility industries.

Prepare staff testimony, exhibits, and questions; participate in hearings.

Prepare recommendations to the Public Utilities Commission where required on complex or sensitive consumer complaints with broad policy impact.

Testify before legislature as requested by management.

Direct and conduct the most complex management audits and studies of regulated public utilities to determine the financial impact and effectiveness of management practices and organization.

Serve as a technical advisor as requested in highly complex matters, identifying issues and evaluating alternatives, projecting the impact of various proposals, participating in hearings and assisting in drafting important policy documents.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Advanced economics, statistical and financial principles or generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Contemporary rate-making practices.

Public utility regulatory practices in MN, other states and the federal government.

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Public Hearing Process.

Public utility rate analysis.

The rules, regulations, decisions, practices and procedures of the Public Utilities Commission, FERC, MISO and other entities identified over time.

Demonstrated skills in:

Advanced oral and written communication.

Identifying any cross-cutting technical or policy issues in utility proceedings (state and federal).

Reviewing, analyzing and investigating utility filings and preparing, defending, and explaining recommendations.

Testifying as an expert witness on utility cases and/or service issues before regulatory agencies, legislative bodies and the general public.

Ability to:

Establish and maintain harmonious and effective relationships with fellow workers, public utility companies and the general public.

Motivate and direct staff in performing highly technical work.

Plan, organize, and direct the processing of complex regulatory cases.

Testify as an expert witness in complex utility cases and other contested proceedings.

Maintain knowledge of developments in the fields of public utility regulation and of current economic and technical factors affecting public utilities.

Implement rules, regulations, and standards pertaining to consumer service and other utility matters.

Prepare and present clear and concise written and oral reports.

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