

CLASS TITLE: CHIEF PUBLIC UTILITIES ACCOUNTANT

Class Code: 02640900
Pay Grade: 40A
EO: B

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To be responsible for the identification and presentation of financial, rate, accounting, and market issues which may affect the rates developed for the various regulated telephone, electric, gas, water, sewer, and ferry companies regulated by the Division of Public Utilities; to be responsible for the coordination of the Division's rate case presentation and for financial and policy recommendations made to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC); to work closely with the Department of Attorney General, which provides legal representation to the Division in cases before the PUC; to be responsible for the financial analysis/accounting review for all matters involving the Division; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the supervision of the Administrator, Division of Public Utilities and Carriers with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgement; work is reviewed through conferences and written reports for conformance to statutory mandates and regulatory guidelines.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Plans, coordinates, supervises, and reviews the work of a professional, technical, and clerical staff.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To be responsible for the identification and presentation of financial, rate, accounting, and market issues which may affect the rates developed for the various regulated telephone, electric, gas, water, sewer, and ferry companies regulated by the Division of Public Utilities; to be responsible for the coordination of the Division's rate case presentation and for financial and policy recommendations made to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC); to work closely with the Department of Attorney General, which provides legal representation to the Division in cases before the PUC; to be responsible for the financial analysis/accounting review for all matters involving the Division.

To review/analyze voluminous and complex financial and operational data filed by the various utilities.

To be responsible for the preparation of written interrogatories.

To be responsible for the preparation of written pre-file testimony and financial schedules advocating the Division's position of the case issues.

To negotiate with utility companies and stipulate as to the appropriate revenues, rates, etc.

To assist attorneys in preparation of written briefs.

To write Requests for Proposals (RFPs), engaging outside consultants, and monitoring the consultant's work.

To direct and review work of Division accounting staff assigned to utility rate filings.

To analyze electric/gas automatic adjustment clause filings and make recommendations to the PUC; to cross-examine utility officials at hearings.

To be responsible for contract negotiations with state/regional power authorities for PUC purchase of hydropower.

To review utility petitions to issue additional stock or debt instruments.

To review grant applications submitted under the water facilities assistance program.

To establish field audit procedures to be used in compliance reviews of regulated towing companies.

To review/evaluate decisions made by other state and federal regulatory boards.

To develop a purchasing plan and strategy for natural gas and electric power which meet appropriate objectives, such as stability and affordability, for the state's energy consumers; and to make changes based on market conditions.

To review the utilities effectiveness in implementing gas and electric power purchasing strategies.
To develop alternate regulatory plans, such as Performance-Based regulatory plans.
To do related work

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of accounting principles, a thorough knowledge of economics and finance, to the extent those disciplines are relevant to utility regulations; a thorough knowledge of utility rate-making principles and practices; a working knowledge of market issues as they relate to various regulated companies; the ability to prepare analytical, written, and financial reports; the ability to plan, coordinate, supervise, and review the work of a subordinate staff; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with utility company representatives, associates, other state agency personnel and subordinate staff members; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: possession of a Master's Degree with specialization in Accounting, Business Administration, Economics or a closely related field; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: considerable employment in a supervisory capacity involving utility accounting, utility economics, or utility rate-making, including significant regulatory oversight experience.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

Class Revised: October 31, 2004