



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 24, 2011

To: Stakeholders  
From: Burl Haar, Executive Secretary  
Re: Advisory regarding possible closure of office

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Burl Haar", written over the "From:" line.

Appropriation bills for most of the State Budget for the Fiscal Years 2012-13 biennium have not yet been enacted into law. If there is not an appropriation for the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) before July 1, 2011, or a ruling by the Ramsey County District Court allowing Commission operations to continue after June 30, the Commission will close its offices until such an appropriation is enacted and authorized or a Court Order is issued.

This Notice is being provided as a precautionary measure to inform you of the impacts if the Commission's office is closed.

If the office is closed, the following Commission services will be suspended:

- a. **eFiling and eDockets.** The eFiling and eDockets systems will be closed for public use. It will not be possible to eFile a document; and the public will not be able to access the eDockets system.
- b. **Consumer Affairs Office (CAO).** Mediation efforts of the CAO between customers and utilities will continue through June 30, 2011, but will be suspended while the Commission is closed. Of course, all consumer protection provisions in statute and rule remain in effect, including the disconnection prohibitions applicable to medically necessary equipment and those applicable to residential customers during extremely hot weather.
- c. **eMail to Commissioners and Commission Staff.** The email system at the Commission will not be operating. No email messages will be received or saved. All email will be blocked and returned to the sender.
- d. **U.S. Mail and Deliveries.** All U.S. Mail or parcels from delivery services (Fed Ex, UPS, etc.) will not be delivered to the office. The Postal Service will be asked to return mailed items to the sender.
- e. **TAP Payments.** Telephone Assistance Program (TAP) payments to local telephone service providers will be suspended until the Commission re-opens. However, the temporary suspension of TAP payments does not relieve telephone companies of the statutory obligation to provide TAP credits to qualifying customers while the office is closed.
- f. **Hearings and Meetings.** The Commission will hold no public hearings or meetings of any kind during the duration of the office being closed.

[www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)

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The Commission will continue to operate in a normal manner until the end of the day on June 30, 2011, including the issuance of 10-Day Notices for meetings scheduled for July 1, 2011 or later. However, keep in mind that meetings scheduled for dates after June 30th will be cancelled without further notification if the office closes. Once the office re-opens, agenda items before the Commission may be heard on a different schedule than noticed and procedural rules may need to be varied to ensure an orderly process.

Re-opening the Commission office depends upon the timing of the Legislature and the Governor agreeing to the provisions of the various appropriations bills and the effective date of the enactment of budget items.

In order to monitor when the Commission office would re-open, please follow the news coverage of the Legislature to stay current on developments regarding the State Budget. Also, our website will contain a Statement that the office is open for business once that occurs.

If an appropriation is made by July 1, 2011, all office operations will continue uninterrupted.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Dan Wolf, the Assistant Executive Secretary, at 651-201-2217 or [Dan.Wolf@state.mn.us](mailto:Dan.Wolf@state.mn.us); or Burl Haar, the Executive Secretary, at 651-201-2222 or [Burl.Haar@state.mn.us](mailto:Burl.Haar@state.mn.us); or Marsha Battles-Jenks, the Human Resources and Business Manager, at 651-201-2219 or [Marsha.Battles-Jenks@state.mn.us](mailto:Marsha.Battles-Jenks@state.mn.us).