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Public Utilities Commission

Agency Profile 1

<https://mn.gov/puc/>

AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC):

- Regulates the rates and services of three cornerstone industries in Minnesota's economy: electricity, natural gas, and telephone utilities.
- Determines need for and location of large energy facilities including power plants and transmission lines.
- Manages an average of 591 unique dockets annually over the past five years.
- Annual average of over 13,500 public comments over the past two years.
- Through the Consumer Affairs Office, engages in nearly 30,000 contacts annually with consumers and utilities.

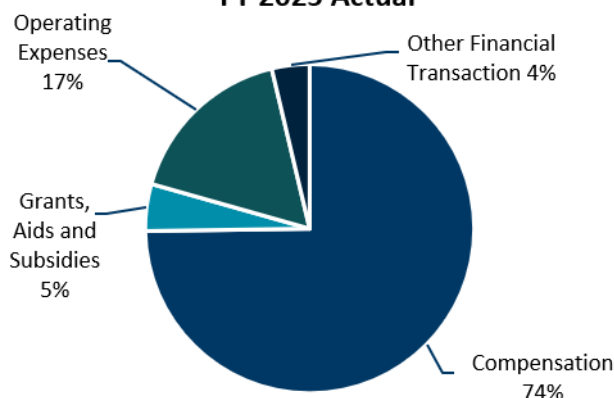
PURPOSE

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's mission is to improve the lives of all Minnesotans by ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable utility services at just and reasonable rates. The Commission regulates electricity, natural gas, and telephone services, overseeing utility investments and reviewing proposals that affect the cost and reliability of essential services. The Commission also determines the need for and location of major energy facilities, including wind and solar farms, natural gas facilities, power plants, transmission lines, and pipelines.

Working in partnership with other state agencies, the Commission engages the public to ensure decisions are made based on a fully developed record and in the public interest. This requires balancing the needs for reliable electric and gas service, affordable rates, community impacts, and environmental stewardship. When acting as a quasi-judicial body, the Commission engages in traditional fact-finding and must apply those facts to prescribed legal standards. Commission Orders are enforceable under the law.

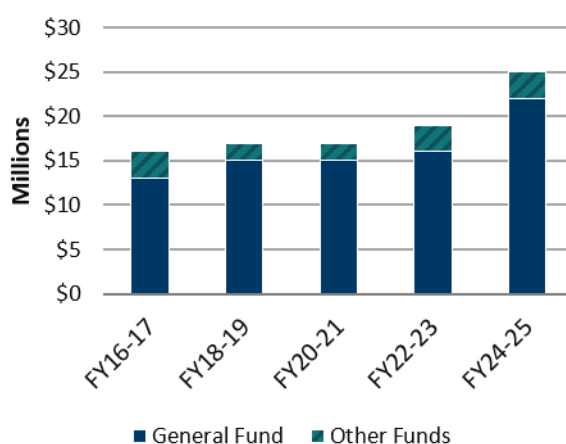
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2025 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Commission has a total annual general fund budget of \$13.417 million. Increases in recent years stem from legislative funding to address the evolving nature of the Commission's work. Subject to statutory caps, nearly 100% of the agency's expenditure is recovered through special assessment authority (Minnesota Statutes, Sections 216B.62 and 237.295) and returned to the state general fund. The Commission also administers the Telephone Assistance Program from a special revenue fund account that provides reimbursement grants to telephone companies who assist eligible low-income customers with reduced rates.

STRATEGIES

The Commission emphasizes several strategies to fulfill its mission. These include:

- Court-like, evidence-based decision-making process that ensures fairness and transparency, relying on ongoing participation by state agencies, regulated companies, the public, and a diverse stakeholder base.
- Active engagement with local, regional, and national stakeholders and subject matter experts to anticipate conditions affecting provision of necessary utility services.
- Regular consultation with Tribal Nations in Minnesota.
- Regulatory tools and processes to mitigate rate impacts.
- Public outreach and mediation services to assist and educate utility customers.
- Commissioner and staff engagement in regional organizations of state Commissions, regional transmission organizations and energy markets (i.e. Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Southwest Power Pool), and national forums (e.g. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners) to advance Minnesota's interests related to reliability, sustainability, and affordability.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

The Commission's work implementing Minnesota laws and policies, with active engagement by stakeholders, the public, and industry, has produced important results. These include:

- Minnesota's average natural gas prices for residential customers per thousand cubic feet (or MCF) were below the national averages in 2025 (\$10.98 MN vs \$15.34 US) and 2024 (\$10.65 in MN vs \$14.50 US). Minnesota natural gas prices in 2024-2025 were lower than the previous two years.¹
- In 2025, Minnesota electric rates, spanning all electric utilities, grew slower than the national average and again achieved the state's goal of rates below 95% of national average (93%).²
- In 2024, renewables accounted for 33% of total in-state electricity generation, coal fueled 19%, nuclear power supplied 20%, and natural gas contributed 26%.³
- Minnesota electric utilities have met or exceeded 1.5% annual energy savings each year since 2011, and gas utilities have generally met or exceeded 1.0% energy savings each year.⁴
- Implemented the 2024 Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act, (effective July 1, 2025), including the transfer of 12 staff and all functions from the Minnesota Department of Commerce's former Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Division to the Public Utilities Commission, and carried out the law and intent of new statute 216I.
- The Commission held more than 200 public meetings in 2025 (including Agenda Meetings, Planning Meetings and project-specific public meetings and hearings).

¹ Energy Information Agency (EIA), Price of Natural Gas Delivered to Residential Consumers. Accessible at: Average Residential Price (https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_pri_sum_a_EPGO_PRS_DMcf_a.htm). MCF is thousand cubic feet which is equivalent to 1.036 million British thermal units (MMBtu).

² Energy Information Agency (EIA), Form EIA-861M

³ EIA, Minnesota Analysis (Oct. 16, 2025) at [United States - U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#)

⁴ Department of Commerce, 2024 Quad Report, p. 141.

Measure Types	Measure	Measure Data Source	Historic Trend	Most Recent Data
Quantity	Orders issued by the Commission	Data is publicly available in eDockets and compiled by staff	661 (CY 2022-23)	617 (CY 2024-25)
Quality	Percentage of Consumer Affairs Office complaints by consumers resolved without appeal	Data collected by program staff	99.86% (CY 2022-23)	99.50% (CY 2024-25)
Quality	Percentage of orders appealed to the Court of Appeals	Data is publicly available on the Court of Appeals docketing system	0.15% (CY 2022-23)	1.3% (CY 2024-25)
Result	Ranking of average cost of residential electric bills compared with other states	Data is publicly available on the U.S. Energy Information Administration schedule of average monthly residential electric bills	8 th lowest in the nation (CY 2024)	5 th lowest in the nation (CY 2025)

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

Public Utilities Commission operations cannot be evaluated using randomized control or quasi-experimental design methods

Legal Authority: Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 216A, 216B, 216E, 216F, 216G, 216I, and 237.