

PUBLIC UTILITIES RATES ANALYST 4

KIND OF WORK

This position is used as both a technical expert in a specific area of gas, electric or telephone rate and service regulation and as a generalist. The individual provides leadwork direction for all junior level staff, and directs and conducts investigations of rate cost and service matters involving gas, electric and telephone utility companies, where Minnesota annual gross revenues exceed \$300,000,000.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The incumbent is responsible for evaluating very complex rate petitions, tariff filings, and service proposals for the largest regulated gas, electric and telephone utility companies. The work also involves technical direction and review of work performed by all junior level analysts. The work consists of evaluating and proposing alternatives to utility company proposed rate structure, allocations of revenue requirements to classes of customers, conducting or reviewing cost studies, and may include determining the appropriate rate of return, conducting cost of capital studies and evaluating delivery of service proposals. The incumbent is responsible for evaluating regulatory matters, developing a staff position, testifying in public hearings, responding to cross-examination from interested parties, cross-examining other witnesses, assisting legal counsel in the preparation of briefs. The incumbent may perform these responsibilities in the role of Department staff or as a technical advisor to the Commission. The incumbent is supervised by the Public Utility Rate Evaluation Supervisor through periodic review of work in progress and review of testimony and written reports.

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

Provides technical direction of all junior staff members.

Analyzes the most complex rate petitions.

Serves as rate case manager and the principal rates leadworker for the most complex gas, electric or telephone rate and service matters.

Conducts or reviews cost of service studies.

Analyzes variations in rate structure and prepares a recommended rate structure.

Evaluates the cost of capital investment and recommends a specific rate of return.

Prepares staff testimony, exhibits, cross-examination questions, and participates in hearings.

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

Conducts or directs specific issue research.

Testifies before legislature.

Performs related work as required by the Rate Evaluation Supervisor.

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

Serves as a technical advisor to the Commission by reviewing complex rate and service petitions, identifying issues, identifying and evaluating alternatives, projecting the impact of various rate design proposals, participating in hearings and assisting the Commission in drafting Commission orders.

Reviews work in progress and provides technical assistance to junior staff analysts working on less complex cases, issues and/or assisting with complex cases.

Develops training programs and instructs junior level rate analysts in evaluation of public utility rate design and service matter.

Identifies the need for new rules and regulations and directs or conducts the preparation of drafts of the recommended changes.

Develops and coordinates the implementation of new or revised analytical and administrative methods and procedures pertinent to the Rate Evaluation section.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Public utility rate analysis.

The rules, regulations, decisions, practices and procedures of the Public Utilities Commission, FERC, REA and FCC.

Higher mathematics.

Principles of advanced economics.

Ability to:

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

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

Develop rules, regulations, and standards pertaining to consumer service.

Testify before the Public Utilities Commission as an expert witness on utility rate and service matters.

Direct the work of all junior staff in analyzing and organizing data and preparing testimony.

Prepare and present clear and concise written and oral reports.

Experience testifying as an expert witness on gas, electric and telephone utility rate cases and/or service issues before regulatory agencies, legislative bodies and the general public.

Est.: 7/31/78

Rev.:

T.C.: 4/84

Former Title(s): Public Utility Rates
Analyst Prin.