



HB 3160 – Statutory Clean Up

**House Committee on Climate, Energy &
Environment**

February 13, 2023

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Oregon Public Utility Commission**

PUC Overview

- Economic regulator of investor-owned utilities:
 - Electric – PGE, PacifiCorp, and Idaho Power
 - Natural Gas – NW Natural, Cascade, and Avista
 - Select telecom and small water companies
- Broader role in safety and emergency support
- Quasi-judicial and policy functions
- 3 full-time Commissioners - 125 FTE

Our **mission** is to ensure Oregonians have access to **safe, reliable and fairly priced** utility services that advance **state policy** and promote the **public interest**.

We use an **inclusive process** to evaluate differing viewpoints and visions of the public interest and arrive at **balanced, well-reasoned, independent decisions** supported by fact and law.

Procedural Requirements

As a quasi-judicial entity, the PUC is required to follow numerous procedural laws found in ORS Chapter 757 and 758

- Requirements in addition or in place of those found in the Administrative Procedures Act, ORS Chapter 183
- Address various topics addressing required actions, deadlines, notice, etc.
- Designed to protect due process, transparency of PUC actions, and ensure all affected persons notified

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Rate cases – Modifies two-step process to suspend (6 mos + 3 mos) to single suspension up to nine months

757.215. (1) The Public Utility Commission may, pending such investigation and determination, order the suspension of the rate or schedule of rates[, *provided the initial period of suspension shall not extend more than six*] **for a period of up to nine months** beyond the time when such rate or schedule would otherwise go into effect. [*If the commission finds that the investigation will not be completed at the expiration of the initial suspension, the commission may enter an order further suspending such rate or schedule for not more than three months beyond the last day of the initial suspension.*]

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Merger Dockets – Extends current 19 business day requirement for decision to 11 months, with ability to extend up to 4 more

757.511 (4)(a) The commission [*promptly*] shall examine and investigate each application received pursuant to this section. [*Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section,*] The commission shall issue an order disposing of the application within [*19 business days of its receipt.*] **11 months of the date the application is filed, which the commission may extend for up to an additional four months for cause.** If the commission determines that approval of the application will serve the public utility's customers and is in the public interest, the commission shall issue an order granting the application. * * *

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Territory Allocation – Requires direct notice to customers affected by any proposed change in territory, replacing prior notice by newspaper

758.420(3)(a) *The commission shall publish notice of the filing in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in each of the territories affected by the contract. Each such notice shall be published at least once weekly for two successive weeks.]* **A notice given under this section shall be given: (A) By electronic mail to all customers of record affected by the contract; and (B) By press release to news media local to the area affected by the contract.**

Conclusion

Questions?

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Want more information about PUC?

- <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/about-us/Pages/Legislative-Media-Packet.aspx>