

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATION

The Division of Public Utility Regulation assists the Commission in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities and duties pursuant to Title 56, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia. Activities include: (i) reviewing investor-owned electric, natural gas and water/sewer utilities' cost of service studies; (ii) reviewing cost allocation methodology and rate design philosophies; (iii) reviewing long term utility resource plans; (iv) overseeing implementation of competition in landline local communications services; (v) certifying competitive local exchange and interexchange carriers; (vi) maintenance of telecommunications interconnection agreements; (vii) regulation of small incumbent local exchange carriers; and, (viii) providing expert testimony in these matters.

The Division provides expert testimony in certificate cases for service/exchange areas and major facility construction of public utilities and independent power producers. After such certificates are granted, the Division is responsible for maintaining the official certificates and associated maps. The Division monitors the collection of gas costs by gas utilities, the incurrence of wholesale purchased power expenses by electric cooperatives, the recovery of fuel expenses by investor-owned electric utilities, the construction and operation of major facilities of the investor-owned utilities, and the implementation of competition in the telecommunications market. It reviews extraordinary costs and policies related to nuclear power, including decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the storage of spent nuclear fuel.

The Division investigates and resolves informal consumer complaints/inquiries relative to electric, natural gas, water/sewer and the telecommunications industries. The Division also participates in, as appropriate, formal complaints filed with the Commission. Finally, the Division develops annual energy related financial forecasts and provides the Commission with technical expertise pertaining to mergers, acquisitions, and regulatory policy relative to these industries.

At the end of 2020, there were subject to the regulatory oversight of the Division:

14	Incumbent Local Exchange Telephone Companies
167	Competitive Local Exchange Telephone Companies
119	Intrastate Long Distance Telephone Companies
25	Payphone Service Providers
10	Operator Service Providers
3	Investor-Owned Electric Companies
13	Electric Cooperatives
7	Natural Gas Companies
34	Water/Sewer Companies

SUMMARY OF 2020 ACTIVITIES

Consumer Complaints and Inquiries Received	2,619
Written Public Comments Relative to Commission Cases Received	3,845
Testimony and Reports Filed by Staff	68
Affiliates Applications	18
Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Granted, Transferred, or Revised	38
Meters Tests Witnessed	1
Community Meetings and Presentations	1