



**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AGENCY OVERVIEW
Presentation to the House
Climate and Energy Committee**

January 24, 2022

Joe Sullivan, Commissioner

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

PUC Mission

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's mission is to create and maintain a regulatory environment that ensures safe, reliable and efficient utility services at fair and reasonable rates.

COMMISSION'S OBLIGATION

Implement statutes as written and intended by legislature

- General directive - ensure just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory rates & service (216B.03)
- Numerous specific directives

GENERAL AGENCY DESCRIPTION

- Five Member quasi-judicial decision-making board:
 - Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Minnesota Senate
 - Staggered six-year terms
 - Full-time positions
 - Governor names Chair
 - Commission appoints Executive Secretary to oversee agency operations
- Commissioner Qualifications:
 - Can't have more than three from one political party
 - At least one from outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area
 - Consider those learned in law, engineering, finance, utility/property valuation and generally representative of public
- Not a Cabinet-level agency: Independent from Administration

Who We Regulate

- Electricity (Investor-Owned Utilities)
 - Xcel, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Dakota Electric
- Gas (Investor-Owned Utilities)
 - CenterPoint, Minnesota Energy Resources, Xcel, Greater Minnesota Gas, Great Plains
- Telecom
 - Regulation through alternative forms approved by legislature

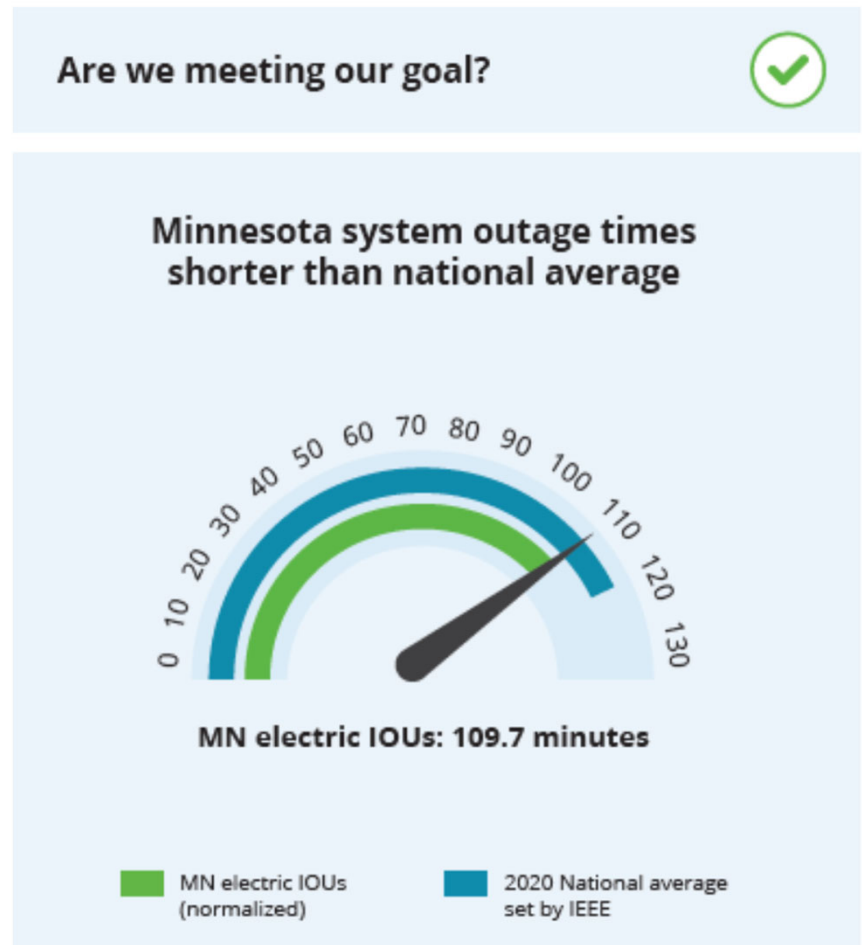
What We Regulate

- Service quality for electric and natural gas service
- Rates for investor-owned utilities (and other utilities whose members choose it)
- Resource selection (what types of resources that are used to generate power)
- Large Energy Facilities (Certificate of Need, Route/Site Permit)
- Local Telephone Service
- (Non-regulatory) Regional Wholesale Energy Markets and Transmission Planning

Reliability

The Commission's decisions help ensure that utility service is reliable and available as needed.

- Resource planning
- Grid improvements
- Transmission
- Performance metrics



Affordability

The Commission's decisions help ensure that Minnesotans pay reasonable utility rates that are below the national average.

- Rates vs. bills
- Rate cases: Status update
- Riders
- Gas price spike investigation
- Impacts from price of natural gas



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

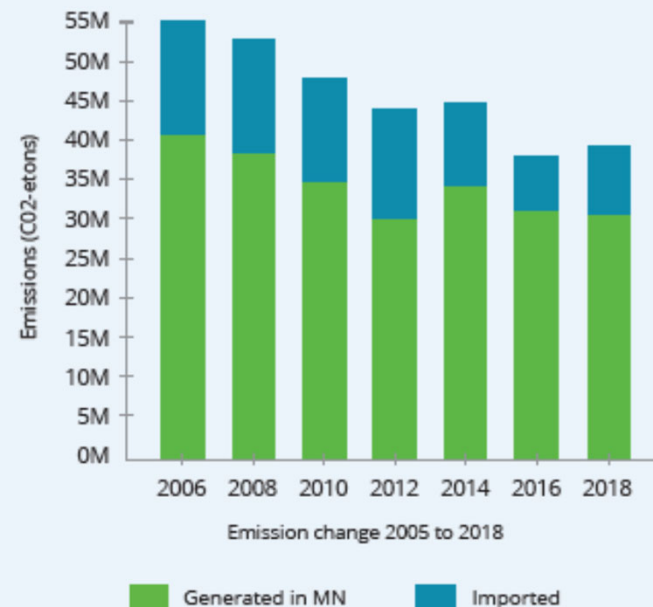
The Commission's decisions help move Minnesota towards our decarbonization and renewable energy goals.

- Integrated Resource Plans
- Distributed energy resources (DER)
- Wind and solar facility permitting
- Electric vehicles
- Utility pilot projects

Are we meeting our goal?



Emissions from electricity generation are trending downward



PUC Staff

- 54 Staff, 5 Commissioners
 - Staff consists of regulatory analysts, economists, attorneys, consumer affairs mediators, public advisor, business services, and administrative support
- Regulatory Analysis Division
 - Financial Analysis Unit
 - Economic Analysis Unit
 - Energy Facilities Permitting Unit
- Legal Services
- Consumer Affairs
- Business Office/Administrative Services
- PUC office (and public hearing rooms) located in Metro Square building, downtown St Paul

Decision-Making Process, and Code of Conduct

- **Quasi-Judicial** – Case-by case; every decision based solely on the record developed in the case; no ex parte communications, i.e., commissioners can't have off-the-record discussions with parties about material issues in any pending disputed case
 - **Role of other agencies:** Commerce, OAG, OAH
 - **Role of parties:** Trade Associations, clean energy organizations, consumer groups, low-income advocates, etc.
- **Subject to Open Meeting Law** – All Commission meetings/decisions in publicly noticed open meetings
- **Decisions Communicated In Written Orders**



PUC Highlights

- Manages an average of 900 utility filings annually
- Responds to an average of 7,000 consumer complaints and inquiries annually
- All Commission meetings available for in-person AND remote participation
- Refreshed website for improved public access, with educational videos and translations
- Tribal consultation policy includes annual meetings with Tribal Governments and increased notification

Stay Informed: Resources Available

- Follow us on twitter:
[@MN_PUC](#)
- Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter
- Attend a public meeting (virtual or in-person):
 - [Mn.gov/puc/about-us/calendar](#)
- Constituents need help with their utilities?
 - (651) 296-0406,
consumer.puc@state.mn.us
- Participate in PUC proceedings. The following is available online:
 - Instructional videos
 - Online comment submission
 - Open comment periods
 - eDockets

Thank You!

Joe Sullivan, Commissioner

Executive Secretary, Will Seuffert

Questions? Contact Will Seuffert
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mn.gov/puc