

199—1.5 (17A,474) Organization. The utilities division consists of the three-member board, the office of the executive secretary, which heads the technical and administrative staff, and the office of general counsel.

1.5(1) *The board.* The three-member board is the policy-making body for the utilities division. The chairperson serves as the administrator of the utilities division. As administrator, the chairperson is responsible for all administrative functions and decisions.

1.5(2) *General counsel.* The duties of the general counsel are prescribed by Iowa Code section 474.10. The general counsel acts as attorney for and legal advisor of the board and its staff and represents the board in all actions instituted in a state or federal court challenging the validity of any rule, regulation or order of the board.

1.5(3) *The office of the executive secretary.* The executive secretary is appointed by the board and is its chief operating officer and responsible for all technical staff. The executive secretary is also the custodian of the board seal and all board records. The executive secretary, deputy executive secretary, or secretary's designee is responsible for attesting to the signatures of the board members and placing the seal on original board orders. The executive secretary, deputy executive secretary, or the secretary's designee is responsible for certifying official copies of board documents. The executive secretary shall also be responsible for establishing procedures for the examination of board records by the general public pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 22.11 and for providing for the enforcement of those procedures.

a. The deputy executive secretary assists the executive secretary in carrying out responsibilities and is responsible for preparing the agency budget and managing the records center, technical library, and receptionist area.

b. The customer service section serves as the agency's information contact and provides customer assistance and education for both the staff and the public. The section assists customers and competitors in resolving disputes with service providers. The section monitors customer service policies and practices, provides information to the public, and advises the board on customer service quality and issues of public concern.

c. The energy section is responsible for providing the board with recommendations for appropriate actions on energy matters. The section monitors activities of gas, electric, and water service providers. It also provides analysis and recommendations on tariff filings, rate proceedings, annual fuel purchase reviews, service territory disputes, and restructuring issues. The section advises the board on issues before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

d. The information technology section is responsible for the development of electronic support and technology training for the division. This includes the development of a management information system and other database applications for the division. It also maintains the board's local area network system and provides all computer and technical support services and systems for the processing of information and records, including website development and maintenance, and monitoring incoming electronic messages and requests for information.

e. The policy development section provides professional and technical support to the industry sections and the board in the areas of policy development and research. In cases before the board, the section is responsible for the review and analysis of cost of capital, cost of service, and rate design. The section is responsible for performing analysis of competitive and restructuring issues, utility management performance, least cost alternatives, energy efficiency activities, and other public policy matters.

f. The safety and engineering section is responsible for the regulation of gas and electric providers and pipeline and electric transmission and distribution companies as it relates to safety, construction, and operation and maintenance of facilities. The section reviews and processes all petitions for electric transmission line franchises under Iowa Code chapter 478 and for pipeline permits under Iowa Code chapters 479 and 479B. It also acts as an agent for the federal Department of Transportation in pipeline safety matters.

g. The telecommunications section is responsible for providing the board with recommendations for appropriate actions on telecommunications matters. The section monitors activities of telecommunications service providers. It also provides analysis and recommendations of telecommunications providers' filings, rate proceedings, and advises the board on ratemaking and restructuring issues. The section advises the board on issues before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).