



Iowa Utilities Commission

# Update for Administration and Regulations Appropriations Subcommittee

Sarah Martz, Chair  
Iowa Utilities Commission

# About the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC)

- Independent, quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative body
- Three commissioners appointed by Governor, subject to Senate confirmation
  - Chair Sarah Martz
  - Commissioner Josh Byrnes
  - Commissioner Erik Helland
- Chair position is a separate nomination with a 2-year term, subject to Senate confirmation
- Supported by staff of ~80 FTEs organized into bureaus

# Meetings

## Open meetings

- Allow Commission to carry out its work as required by Iowa Code Chapter 21
- Can be utilized as decision-making meetings or work sessions with parties (tech conferences)
- Closed session can be utilized on contested case decision-making

## Monthly meetings

- Provide updates on current activity and provide opportunity for public comment

# Areas of Oversight

- Electric
- Natural Gas
- Water, Storm Water, Sanitary Sewer
- Telecommunications (limited)
- Infrastructure protection/safety
- Other

# Rate-Regulated Utilities

## Utilities and their service types subject to IUC rate regulation\*

Utility Name	Electricity Rates	Natural Gas Rates	Water & Wastewater Rates
MidAmerican Energy Company	X	X	
Interstate Power and Light	X	X	
Black Hills Energy		X	
Liberty Utilities		X	
Iowa-American Water Company			X

\*IUC also maintains limited jurisdiction on telecommunications rates

# Dockets

A docket is a group of filings required by compliance or a case before the Commission.

- Contains documents and actions related to a regulatory proceeding
- Proceedings include public meetings, formal hearings, issuance of orders
- Maintain documents for external parties in EFS

## Electronic Filing System

### Search Criteria

<b>Docket Number:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Docket Type:</b>	<input type="text" value="Select a Docket Type"/>
<b>Filing Title:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Date Filed:</b>	<input type="text" value="Select Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)"/>
<b>Document Title:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Document Type:</b>	<input type="text" value="Select a Document Type"/>
<b>Submitter Name:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Submitting Parties:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Industry Type:</b>	<input type="text" value="Select an Industry Type"/>

# Revenue

## **Invoices to regulated entities for assessments**

- Vast majority of IUC revenue
- IUC and Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) staff time related to a docket or project for a specific entity or to work within industry type
- Remainder Assessments based on each company's net assessable revenues and a billing rate

## **Other revenue (less than \$1 million)**

- Grants through federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in the U.S. DOT, focused on pipeline safety
- One Call grant to coordinate enforcement and education with the Iowa Attorney General's office
- Services rendered to the OCA (Accounting Services, Building Expenses)

# Expenses

- Highest expense is personnel
- IT products and services are next highest
- Other expenses are related to the IUC office, external professional services, travel, public meetings/hearings, etc.
- IUC expenses for dockets can be difficult to predict due to filings initiated by regulated entities. Uncertainty exists regarding volume, scope, complexity, and timing of filings.
- Budget estimate is based on recent activity.

# Governor's IUC Budget Recommendation

FY 2027: \$12,080,831

## Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee

### Other Fund Recommendations

	Actual FY 2025 <hr/> (1) <hr/>	Estimated FY 2026 <hr/> (2) <hr/>	Gov Rec FY 2027 <hr/> (3) <hr/>	Gov Rec FY 27 vs Est FY 2026 <hr/> (4) <hr/>
<b>Utilities Commission</b>				
Utilities Commission				
Utilities Division - CMRF	\$ 11,659,071	\$ 12,080,831	\$ 12,080,831	\$ 0
<b>Total Utilities Commission</b>	<b>\$ 11,659,071</b>	<b>\$ 12,080,831</b>	<b>\$ 12,080,831</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

# Agency Leadership and Efficiency Improvement

## Long-Term Mindset

- Past investment and hiring decisions have been made with short-term mindset
- Result can be inefficient structures, staffing, and the purchase of tools and services that aren't really needed

## Improving Processes and Results

- Now looking at a longer term, strategic mindset
- Right people in the right places
- Handling a rising workload more effectively and within our existing budget and headcount
- Improving processes to improve work product and efficiency

# IUC Prefiled Legislation

- **HF2181:** Telecommunications jurisdiction for incarcerated persons, allowing electronic E-franchise applications
- **HSB515/ SSB3054:** Utility disconnections during extreme cold and heat
- **HF2229:** Executive director position and commission oversight

# Keeping in Touch with IUC

## **IUC Customer Service**

- Constituent questions, complaints, EFS filing assistance
- 877-565-4450 or 515-725-7300 or [customer@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov)

## **Legislative Liaison**

- 515-380-9587 or [stephanie.weisenbach@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.weisenbach@iuc.iowa.gov)

## **Website**

- <https://iuc.iowa.gov>

## **Hearing and Meeting Calendar**

- Includes monthly Commission meetings and docket-related meetings
- <https://iuc.iowa.gov/commission-activity/hearing-meeting-calendar>