

Oregon Public Utility Commission Overview

Megan Decker, Commission Chair

House Energy and Environment Committee
January 24, 2019



Mission and Reach



Our mission is to ensure Oregon utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates.

Electric

- PGE, PacifiCorp, Idaho Power
- 1,405,946 customers

Natural Gas

- NW Natural, Avista, Cascade Natural Gas
- 772,512 customers

Telecom

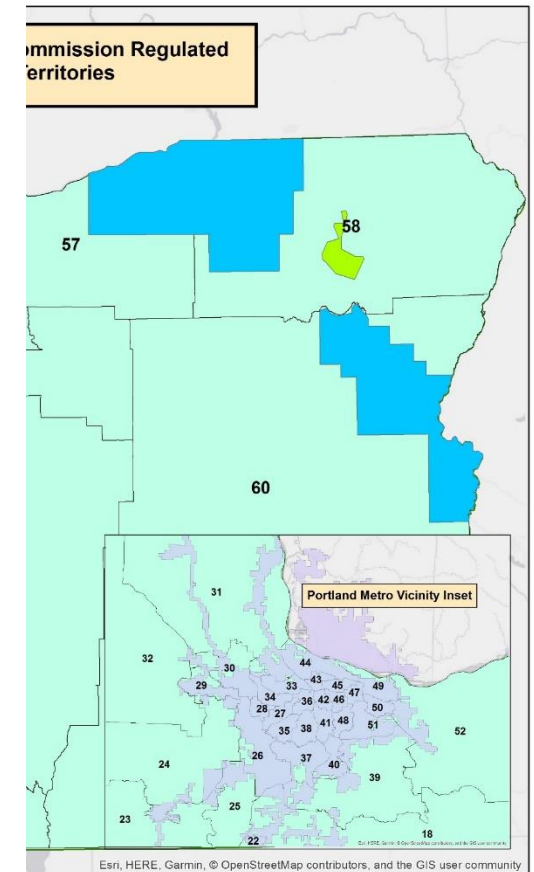
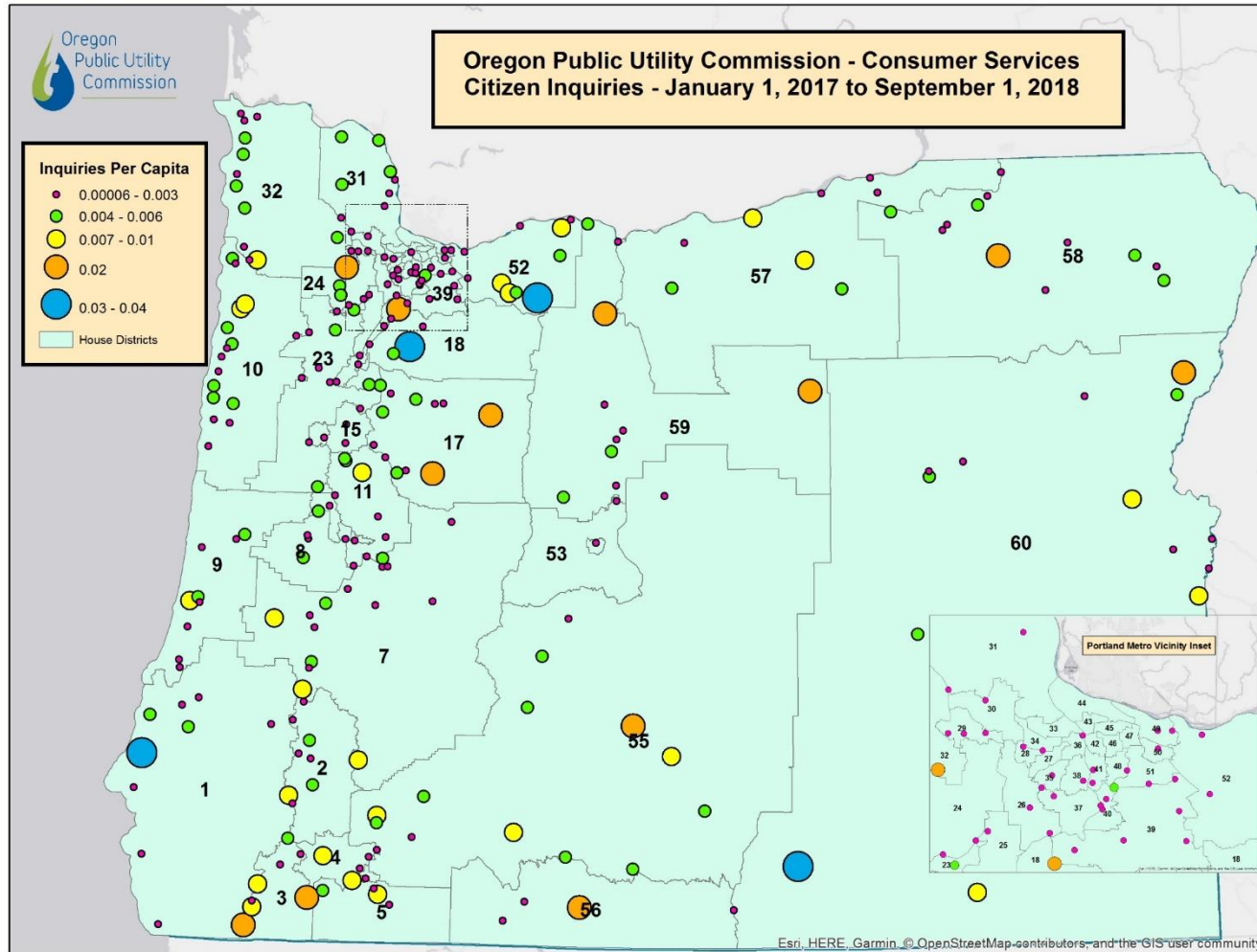
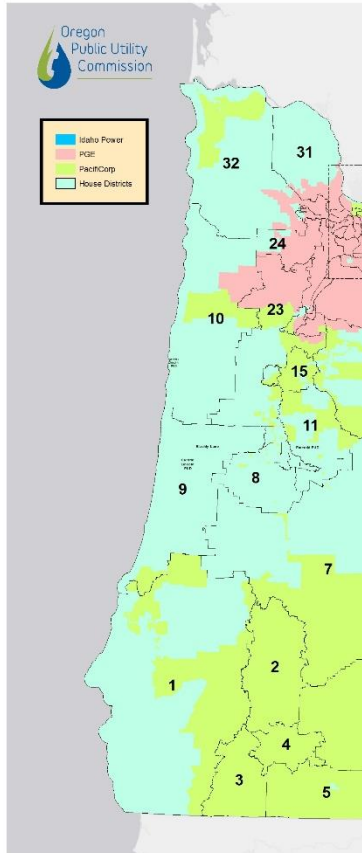
- About 373 companies
- 822,181 customers

Water

- About 80 small water utilities
- 31,000 customers

Total revenue collected by these utilities is ~\$4.9 billion annually

Statewide Service



Major Areas of Responsibility



- Ensure safety, reliability, and quality of essential utility services
 - e.g., safety inspections, vegetation management, pole attachments, service quality
- Scrutinize utility costs, risks and performance to ensure just and reasonable rates
 - e.g., rate cases, integrated resource planning and procurement
- Manage customer and community choices to ensure value for all
 - e.g., direct access, net metering, community solar, rules for fair competition
- Anticipate, inform and integrate policy, industry, market, and technology changes
 - e.g., regional electric markets, legislative policy changes

Other Specific Functions



- Provide assistance to utility customers and resolve customer complaints
- Administer the Oregon Universal Service Fund to support telecommunications service in high-cost areas
- Manage the Residential Service Protection Fund to ensure all Oregonians (low-income, people with disabilities) have access to adequate and affordable telephone service
- Oversee the Energy Trust of Oregon, which acquires cost-effective energy efficiency on behalf of customers of five regulated utilities

Commission Structure



Three **Commissioners** are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate to serve four-year, staggered terms



Chair Megan Decker

Term: April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2021



Commissioner Stephen Bloom

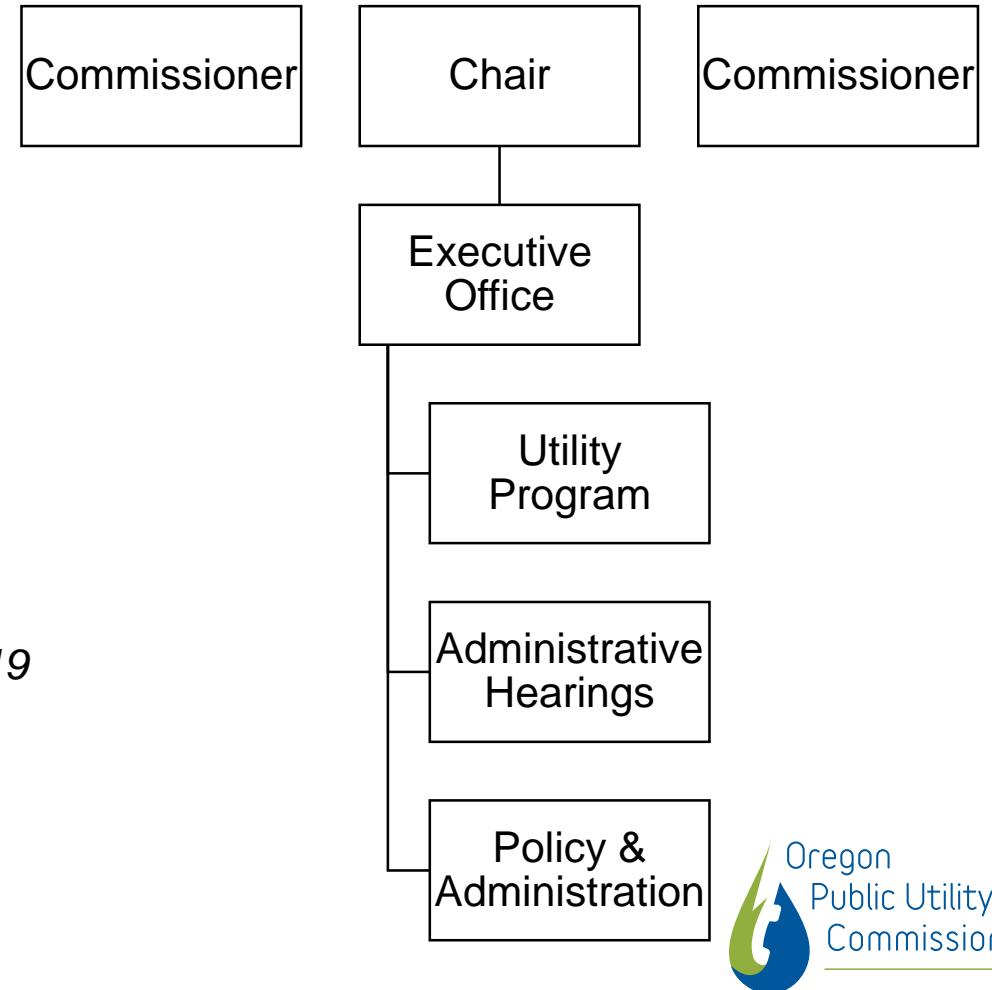
First Term: December 1, 2011 – November 30, 2015

Second Term: December 1, 2015 – November 30, 2019



Commissioner Letha Tawney

Term: June 18, 2018 – May 31, 2020



Funding and Organization



- Utility regulatory activities funded by **utility fees** passed through to customers
 - Current cap: 0.3% of revenue (~\$35 million)
 - 2019 legislative request to increase cap
- Organized to perform **quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative** functions, in compliance with open public meetings laws



<https://www.puc.state.or.us/Pages/Live-Stream.aspx>

<https://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/search.asp>

Questions



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