



HB 3160 A – Statutory Clean Up

**Senate Committee on
Energy & Environment**

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Oregon Public Utility Commission**

PUC Overview

- Economic regulator of investor-owned utilities:
 - Electric – PGE, PacifiCorp, and Idaho Power
 - Natural Gas – NW Natural, Cascade, and Avista
 - Select telecom and small water companies
- Broader role in safety and emergency support
- Quasi-judicial and policy functions
- 3 full-time Commissioners - 135 FTE

Our **mission** is to ensure Oregonians have access to **safe, reliable and fairly priced** utility services that advance **state policy** and promote the **public interest**.

We use an **inclusive process** to evaluate differing viewpoints and visions of the public interest and arrive at **balanced, well-reasoned, independent decisions** supported by fact and law.

Procedural Requirements

As a quasi-judicial entity, the PUC is required to follow numerous procedural laws found in ORS Chapter 757 and 758

- Requirements in addition to or in place of those found in the Administrative Procedures Act, ORS Chapter 183
- Address various topics addressing required actions, deadlines, notice, etc.
- Designed to protect due process, transparency of PUC actions, and ensure all affected persons notified

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Rate cases – Modifies two-step suspension process

- The PUC may suspend rates for investigation for a period up to 9 months
- Current statute requires first suspension up to 6 months, followed by another 3 months if needed
- HB 3160 A would amend law to simply provide that the PUC may suspend “for a period of up to nine months”

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Merger Dockets – Extends current 19 business day requirement for decision

- Current law requires PUC to decide applications to acquire a utility within 19 business days
- HB 3160 A would require PUC to decide within 11 months of the date the application is filed, unless extended by agreement between the commission and applicant

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Territory Allocation – Requires direct notice to customers affected

- Provisions governing changes to territory require notice by publication in paper
- HB 3160 A would amend laws to require more direct notice
 - By mail or electronic mail to all customers of record affected by the contract;
 - By press release to news media local to the area affected by the contract; and
 - By publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the area affected by the contract at least once weekly for two successive weeks.

Conclusion

Questions?

PUC Contact

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Want more information about PUC?

- <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/about-us/Pages/Legislative-Media-Packet.aspx>