

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
JOB DESCRIPTION

Classified Title: Financial Examiner II – V	Working Title: Regulatory Accountant
Class Code: 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108	Salary Group: B19, B21, B23, B25
FLSA Status: Exempt	EEO Category: Professional
Division: Rate Regulation	Supervisor: Director, Financial Review

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Perform routine to highly complex accounting work that includes reviews of rate change and other applications filed with the Commission. Work involves analyzing utility reports, accounting records, contracts, and other pertinent information for compliance with accounting standards, state laws and Commission regulations, and reasonableness of costs. Work involves preparing written recommendations with attention to mathematical accuracy of financial calculations, wording precision, and correct grammar usage. Work under moderate to limited supervision with limited to considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Review and analyze rate applications, earnings monitoring reports, and other cost, revenue, and sales information for regulated electric, telephone, and water and wastewater utilities and unregulated providers to determine appropriate accounting treatment, consistency with Commission rules, and reasonableness of costs.
- Prepare written and oral expert testimony for use in contested proceedings including utility rate cases, cost of service appeals, formal complaints, Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCN), and Sale, Transfer, Mergers (STMs), and defend position under cross-examination. Work closely with attorneys and other professional staff in the pre-hearing and post-hearing stages for contested cases.
- Evaluate financial issues related to public utility companies, recommend fair rates of return on regulated utilities' invested capital, recommend a cost of service, and determine financial integrity sufficiency for regulated electric, telephone, and water and wastewater utilities.
- Review and make recommendations on accounting and cost-recovery issues in other Commission dockets and projects including tariff revisions, registrations and certifications, performance measures, and code of conduct compliance.
- Conduct investigations of compliance with Commission rules and audits of expenses and revenues of utilities and unregulated service providers.
- At the request of the Legal Division, participate in negotiations with representatives of electric, telephone, and water and wastewater utilities.
- Participate in Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) work groups or committees addressing issues relating to accounting, reasonableness of costs, and mechanisms for recovery of costs.
- Participate in and lead rulemaking and other policymaking activities, in coordination with other divisions and with the Commissioners' offices.
- Respond to inquiries from utilities, legislative representatives, other government agencies, and the general public regarding utility rate and cost-recovery issues.
- Prepare, in conjunction with other staff as necessary, reports as required by the legislature, Commission action, or as described by supervisors.
- Work with the Compliance and Enforcement and Legal divisions to manage the enforcement of rules relating to electric, telephone, and water and wastewater utilities and the competitive markets.
- Continue professional development and maintain knowledge of contemporary issues affecting electric, telephone, and water and wastewater utility rates and electric utility restructuring, including maintaining current knowledge of Texas laws and rules, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accounting rules, National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners (NARUC) accounting guidelines, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accounting guidelines, IRS rules, generally accepted accounting and auditing procedures, and accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
- Demonstrate a spirit of teamwork, offering positive and constructive ideas, encouragement, support to other members of the staff and team, and respond professionally to constructive feedback from others, while upholding the PUC's mission and core values.

- Adhere to all agency personnel policies and division procedures and perform other work as assigned.

REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Financial Examiner II: Graduation from an accredited four (4) year college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, or economics.
- Financial Examiner III: Graduation from an accredited four (4) year college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, or economics, and a minimum of one (1) year of experience in utility accounting or finance, or public accounting.
- Financial Examiner IV: Graduation from an accredited four (4) year college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, or economics, and a minimum of two (2) years' experience in utility accounting or finance, or public accounting.
- Financial Examiner V: Graduation from an accredited four (4) year college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, economics; and a minimum of three (3) years' experience in utility accounting or finance, or public accounting; and an active Certified Public Accountant license.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Management Accountant (CMA).

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Must possess required knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience and be able to explain and demonstrate, with or without accommodations, that the essential functions of the job can be performed.

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, particularly Excel, Word, and Teams.
- Knowledge of the FERC Chart of Accounts, NARUC System of Accounts, FCC Chart of Accounts, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, PURA, Commission Substantive Rules, and IRS regulations.
- Ability to effectively plan and organize several tasks, analyze and relate accounting and finance issues to utility regulation and competitive energy markets, and maintain a prioritized workload with adherence to established deadlines.
- Ability to write concise persuasive testimony and accounting recommendations with attention to accuracy and grammar, defend accounting and financial positions through oral testimony, and work effectively with other individuals.
- Ability to research emerging utility issues and evaluate financial implications of alternative ratemaking approaches.
- Ability to analyze FERC, FCC, and NARUC regulations that affect regulatory accounting.
- Ability and willingness to work harmoniously and communicate effectively with other staff members, industry representatives, and the public.
- Ability to work independently and exercise sound judgment when dealing with complex and controversial issues.
- Ability to coordinate projects within the division and with other divisions.
- Knowledge of Commission rules, policies, and procedures, and knowledge of the electric industry, the market for public utility securities, financial reports and reporting standards, and regulatory ratemaking principles.
- Ability to attend work regularly and adhere to approved work schedule.

TELECOMMUTING ELIGIBILITY:

- This position is eligible for telecommuting up to four (4) days a week but may require team members to come into the office for scheduled meetings, and there may be unscheduled requests with appropriate notice for any PUC business need.
- If approved to telecommute, must have a secure workspace with Internet service, ability to maintain a reliable consistent work schedule and be available for weekly meetings and group collaboration via Microsoft Teams and other applications during regular business hours.

PHYSICAL AND COGNITIVE REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

The physical and cognitive demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations will be made if needed to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position primarily performs sedentary office work. It requires extensive use of computer, copiers, printers, telephone and requires communication with staff and the public. This position also requires cognitive abilities consistent with the essential functions and with the knowledge, skills, and abilities; requiring the ability to learn, recall, and apply practices and policies. It requires the stamina to maintain attention to detail despite interruptions.

Work is performed in a standard office environment or secure telework space and requires:

- Regular and punctual attendance.
- Frequent use of personal computer, copiers, printers, and telephones.
- Frequent sitting.
- Frequent work under deadlines, as a team member, and in direct contact with others.
- Occasional moving and lifting objects up to ten (10) pounds.