



Water Rate Case Process

Docket No. UW 191

South Coast Water Company



Public Utility Commission

- Regulates Rates
- Regulates Service
- Establishes Rates through Rate Cases

The regulatory obligation of the PUC is to balance the interests of both customers and the utility.

Flowchart - Water Rate Case

➤ 1. UTILITY FILING

Utility files application, direct testimony, and tariffs to PUC

➤ 2. NOTIFICATION

Utility notifies customers within 15 days of filing, by an article in the newspaper or direct customer mailing

➤ 3. TARIFF SUSPENSION

Commission orders tariffs suspended to allow time to review the utility's proposal (typically 6 to 9 months)

➤ 4. PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

Town Hall forum to ask questions, share information, voice concerns/opinions

➤ 5. PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Adopt schedule, Receive petitions to intervene, Identify issues, Identify Parties, Create service list

➤ 6. DISCOVERY

Data Requests/Data Responses

➤ 7. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Staff presents its recommended case to utility and intervenors who attempt to reach agreement on as many issues as possible

➤ 8. WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Staff and intervenors responding to utility's direct testimony

➤ 9. REPLY AND REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

Utility and all party responses as Necessary

➤ 10. EVIDENTIARY HEARING

Enter pre-filed testimony into record. Cross-examination of witnesses. Identify issues to be briefed. ALJ briefing instructions.

➤ 11. WRITTEN BRIEFS

Briefs are submitted as scheduled

➤ 12. COMMISSION DECISION

Commission issues order on requested rates

PUC Staff's Review

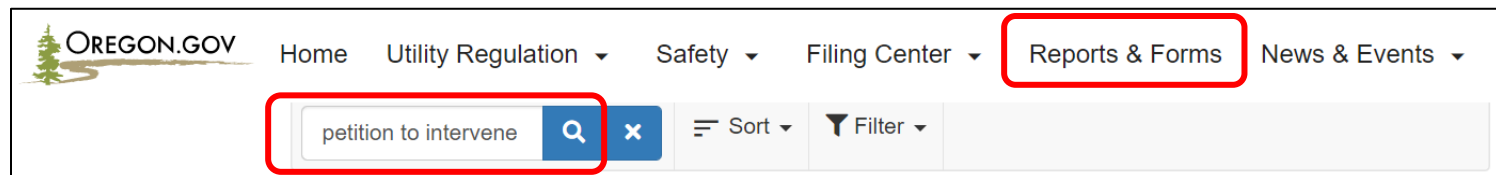
- Operating Expenses
 - E.g., Labor, repairs, utilities, management, insurance, etc.
- Other Revenue Deductions
 - Income taxes, property taxes, depreciation, etc.
- Assets
- Capital Costs
 - Amount and cost of debt and equity
- Distribution of Revenue
 - Rate spread, rate design
- Utility-Specific Matters
 - E.g., transactions with affiliates, customer comments

Rate Case – Who's Involved

- Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
 - Presides over proceeding in a fair and impartial manner
- Parties
 - PUC Staff
 - Represented by Assistant Attorney General from Oregon DOJ
 - Reviews application, sends discovery requests, prepares settlement offer, etc.
 - Utility Company
 - Burden of proof – justification of rate request
 - Intervenors (if any)
 - ALJ may grant petitions to intervene

Intervenor – Party to the Case

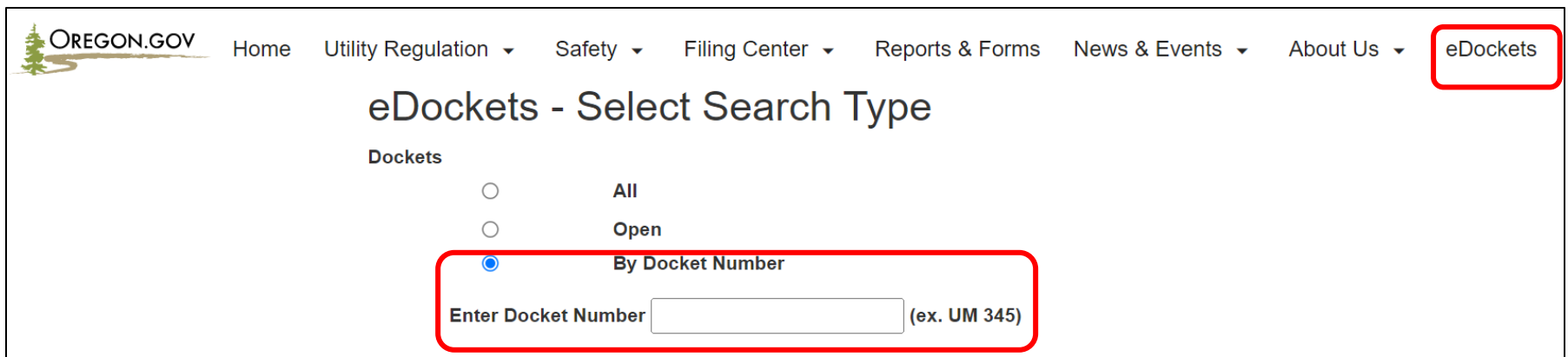
- Any person may file a Petition to Intervene
 - Usually a customer or customers' representative
- Active participation in case
 - Participate in settlement negotiations, participate in discovery, sponsor testimony, etc.
 - May not “unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings.”
 - Attorney representation not required
- How to Participate
 - Contact PUC Administrative Hearings Division
 - puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov or (503) 378-6678
 - Petition form available on PUC website: oregon.gov/puc



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Oregon.gov website. The navigation menu includes: OREGON.GOV, Home, Utility Regulation (dropdown), Safety (dropdown), Filing Center (dropdown), Reports & Forms (highlighted with a red box), and News & Events (dropdown). Below the navigation bar is a search bar containing the text "petition to intervene". The search bar includes a search icon (magnifying glass), a clear icon (x), and dropdown menus for "Sort" and "Filter". The search bar and the "Reports & Forms" link are both highlighted with red boxes.

Non-Party Status

- Interested Person
 - Receives e-mail notification of filings in the case
 - How to Participate
 - Contact PUC Administrative Hearings Division
 - puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov or (503) 378-6678
 - Reference Docket Number
- Review filings on PUC Website: oregon.gov/puc



The screenshot shows the Oregon.gov website navigation bar with the 'eDockets' link highlighted in a red box. Below the navigation bar is the 'eDockets - Select Search Type' section. Under the heading 'Dockets', there are three radio button options: 'All', 'Open', and 'By Docket Number'. The 'By Docket Number' option is selected and highlighted with a red box. Below this option is a text input field labeled 'Enter Docket Number' with a placeholder '(ex. UM 345)'.

OREGON.GOV Home Utility Regulation ▾ Safety ▾ Filing Center ▾ Reports & Forms News & Events ▾ About Us ▾ eDockets

eDockets - Select Search Type

Dockets

All

Open

By Docket Number

Enter Docket Number (ex. UM 345)

Public Comments

- Customers may voice concerns/comments
 - In person at Public Comment Hearing
 - By email: puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov
 - By mail: PO Box 1088
Salem, OR 97308-1088
- PUC Consumer Services
 - Email: puc.consumer@puc.oregon.gov
 - Phone: (503) 378-6600
 - Toll-free: (800) 522-2404
- PUC Staff
 - Steph Yamada
 - Email: stephanie.yamada@puc.oregon.gov
 - Phone: (971) 375-5110

Public Utility Commission

The Commission is charged with ensuring safe and adequate water service at fair and reasonable rates. The Commission is a consumer protection and advocacy body; responsible for protecting the customers of any public utility from unjust and unreasonable prices and practices.

The Commission is responsible for balancing the interests of the utility and the consumer in establishing fair and reasonable rates. Rates set by the Commission allows the utility to maintain its credit and attract capital. The utility should be allowed to earn sufficient revenues for reasons of debt service and capital for reinvestment.

PUC STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- ORS 756.070 – 125 INVESTIGATORY POWERS
- ORS 756.160 – 200 ENFORCEMENT & REMEDIES
- ORS 757.005 DEFINES A PUBLIC UTILITY
- ORS 757.020 DUTY TO SERVE
- ORS 757.061 REGULATION OF WATER UTILITIES