

The PUC does not have ratemaking authority over electric cooperatives or municipal electric organizations. Each electric co-op is governed by a board of directors, elected by its membership. Municipal electric organizations are managed by the local government entity. The leadership of each of these groups is responsible for setting rates paid by its electric customers.

### **Rate Case Process**

When an investor-owned electric utility wishes to modify its rates, it must seek permission from the PUC to do so. The company begins the process by filing an application with the PUC that states the proposed rate of increase for each of its customer classes – residential, commercial and industrial, for example – and the rationale for the requested increase. The PUC has six months to investigate and make a decision about a rate request before the utility may put its new rates into effect, subject to refund depending on the PUC's decision.

### **PUC Authority**

The South Dakota Legislature gave the PUC authority to ensure utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service at fair and reasonable rates. In considering a rate case, the commission weighs the public's need for adequate, efficient and reasonable service and the need for the utility to collect revenues to enable it to meet its total current cost of furnishing such service and the opportunity to earn a fair and reasonable

The commission's decision and modification that uphold the law expensive and leng

### **PUC Staff Role**

Members of the PUC rate case typically include analysts. Staff attorneys with practical experience in business management procedure. Staff analysts in accounting, economics. The staff conducts a review of the company's request for rate information from the utility and outside experts as needed for expenses, employee compensation, corporate generation and transmission. The many facets of the utility. In addition to reviewing the request submitted by the applicant, staff request and analyze and question the public information relative to the request presents recommendations to the Commissioners.

### **Public Involvement**

South Dakotans have been informed and involved

**Review the electronic docket.** A docket is the continually updated collection of documents filed with the commission for a particular case. Dockets

- In instances where deemed to be a docket copies of a mass