

Public Night Hearing Procedures



**A PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



Public Night Hearing Procedures



The purpose of this presentation is to prepare you for the events that will take place in the event of a public night hearing held by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

It is important to remember that protestants are not parties of record in a proceeding, and do not have certain rights, such as the right for cross examination and the right to appeal.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the public night hearing process, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Service Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit us online at www.psc.sc.gov



Public Night Hearing Procedures



Upon arrival at a public night hearing, you will be asked to sign in before entering the hearing.

The sign in sheet requires that you list your name, address, and “yes” or “no” if you wish to testify at the public hearing. (The sign in sheet will be available before & during the hearing.)

Please note: If you do not sign in and indicate “yes” to testify, you will not be allowed to do so.

There may also be additional materials available to you at the sign in table regarding the public hearing you are attending.



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At the scheduled time of the hearing, the Chairperson of the Commission will open the proceeding and introduce the members of the Commission.

The Chairperson will then turn the proceeding over to the Advisory Attorney.



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Following the introduction, the following administrative matters will be covered:

- The Advisory Attorney relates the procedures to be followed for the hearing.
- The Advisory Attorney explains the purpose of the evening public hearing and its part in the overall Commission decision making on the particular case.
- The Advisory Attorney explains that the law prohibits the audience from asking the Commissioners questions. The audience may ask questions to the Company, Intervenor(s), or the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) representatives on a break or after the evening public hearing.
- The Advisory Attorney advises that the public witnesses are subject to questioning from attorneys for the Company, Interveners, ORS, and the Commission itself. If other evening public hearings are scheduled, the Advisory Attorney announces the date and time for them.
- The Advisory Attorney will also note that a time limit of three (3) minutes will be set for each person who wishes to testify.
- The Advisory Attorney introduces the attorneys representing the various parties in the case. The attorneys are allowed to briefly address the audience, if a request is made by them.



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Here is an example of an oral opening statement by the Commission regarding procedures during a Public Night Hearing:



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Upon completion of the explanation of the administrative matters, the Advisory Attorney will begin calling names of the witnesses one by one who have signed up to be heard on the issues in the case.

Each witness called forth will be asked to do the following:

- Be sworn in or affirmed
- State his/her name and address for the Court Reporter



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The witness will then proceed with his/her testimony. Exhibits may be entered into the record by a witness; however, they are subject to objection by the parties in the case.

Please remember that the Commission has set a three (3) minute time limit for all persons wishing to testify.



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When the witnesses are concluded, either the Chairman or the Advisory Attorney will announce the date and time of the general evidentiary hearing where engineers, auditors, and other expert witnesses will be testifying in regards to the case, and when an Order will be issued.

The Chairman adjourns the hearing.



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For more information regarding Commission Rules and Regulations, please visit www.psc.sc.gov

