



Access to PUC budget

1 message

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Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 3:51 PM

To: Marguerite Salazar - DORA <marguerite.salazar@state.co.us>, Doug Dean - DORA <doug.dean@state.co.us>

Cc: "Ackermann - CEO, Jeffrey" <jeffrey.ackermann@state.co.us>, Wendy Moser - DORA <wendy.moser@state.co.us>

Marguerite and Doug, I believe that the budget and year to date budget performance of the PUC should be provided to commissioners and section heads on a monthly basis. I believe that all staff should have access to the budget and YTD performance. I have served on several state commissions--Colorado Lottery and OEDIT. Staff prepared every month and circulated to those commissions the budget and year to date performance. Those entities provided that information publicly so that anyone could view it, including staff. I see no reason why the PUC should behave any differently.

As you both know, budget and year to date performance is used as a management tool, a performance tool and to engage staff.

By way of example, as a commissioner, this information is helpful to me to understand where we are on our legal budgets, travel and speaking budgets. Are my requests reasonable or unreasonable.

If too much is being spent on enforcement, it could mean that we are not regulating properly. These are only a few of the reasons why access to this information is important to all of us.

There are also instances in which the Commissioners set surcharges, rates and tariffs. To determine if we are appropriately assessing these types of fees, I need to know how we are spending these amounts, as well as the history of the revenues and expenditures and estimates for future surcharges.

The funds spent by the Commission come from the industries that we regulate and each of us has an obligation to insure that the Commission is collecting an appropriate level of fees/tariffs/surcharges, penalties and that those amounts are being spent wisely.

I am copying the other two commissioners on this request, not to request, that they take any action, but so that the open meetings requirement cannot be used to conduct separate meetings with the other two commissioners and lobby their position before the three of us can have an open discussion about this on the bench.

If there is a policy reason that dictates keeping this information from Commissioners and staff, I would appreciate knowing what that is.

There will be an opportunity for me to raise these issues in a public meeting in the next couple of weeks. I would prefer to avoid issuing a written decision that raises these issues as it appears to me that the two of you can easily resolve this matter and make this information available.

Thank you.

Frances Koncilja

Commissioner

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