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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Public Utilities Commission

This topic was first brought to the attention of the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) in October 2011 as a legislator sponsored review request. The request stemmed from a 10-person complaint filed with the PUC that resulted in a multi-year PUC case. Systemic issues regarding PUC's compliance with its statute and rules when processing complaints and handling cases were identified in the request.

At the Committee's November 15, 2012 meeting the results of OPEGA's preliminary research on this topic were discussed and the GOC approved the following questions for a review of the Public Utilities Commission.

- Is the PUC acting in compliance with its statute and rules when handling 10-person complaints filed with the Commission under 35-A MRSA §1302(1)? Is the process accessible to citizens and responsive to their concerns?
- What other avenues are available to groups of citizens with common concerns about utility plans and practices? Are those avenues accessible and responsive to their concerns?
- What measures are in place to ensure the PUC acts in an unbiased and impartial manner when regulating public utilities? Are these measures adequate? Is the PUC acting in accordance with these measures?

This project is expected to be completed by June 2013.