

# Office of the Public Advocate

Briefing to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and  
Technology Committee: Water

January 29, 2015

William C. Black

Deputy Public Advocate

# Overview

- The Office of the Public Advocate intervenes on behalf of consumers in most cases involving water utilities before the PUC.
- This presentation:
  - Types of cases involving water utilities
  - Overall trends in water utility cases

# Principal Types of Water Utility Cases

- **Section 307 Rate Increase**

A formal request for a general rate increase, initiated by the utility

- **Section 6104 Rate Increase**

Comes before the Commission only if 15 of the customers petition for a PUC investigation

- **Ten-Person Complaint**

Ten or more customers ask the Commission to investigate an unreasonable act, practice, or rate

- **WISC Rate Case**

A temporary surcharge that allows recovery by the water utility of the costs of completed replacement of water system infrastructure

# Section 6104 Rate Increases

- Water districts and departments have the ability to file a “shortened” rate case in accordance with Title 35-A, section 6104
  - Requires public notice and hearing
  - Customers can petition the PUC to open an investigation
  - Once petitioned, it becomes a regular, investigated rate case
  - If it isn’t petitioned, rates go into effect automatically

## 35-A M.R.S. § 6107-A

# Funding for Infrastructure Improvements for Water Utilities

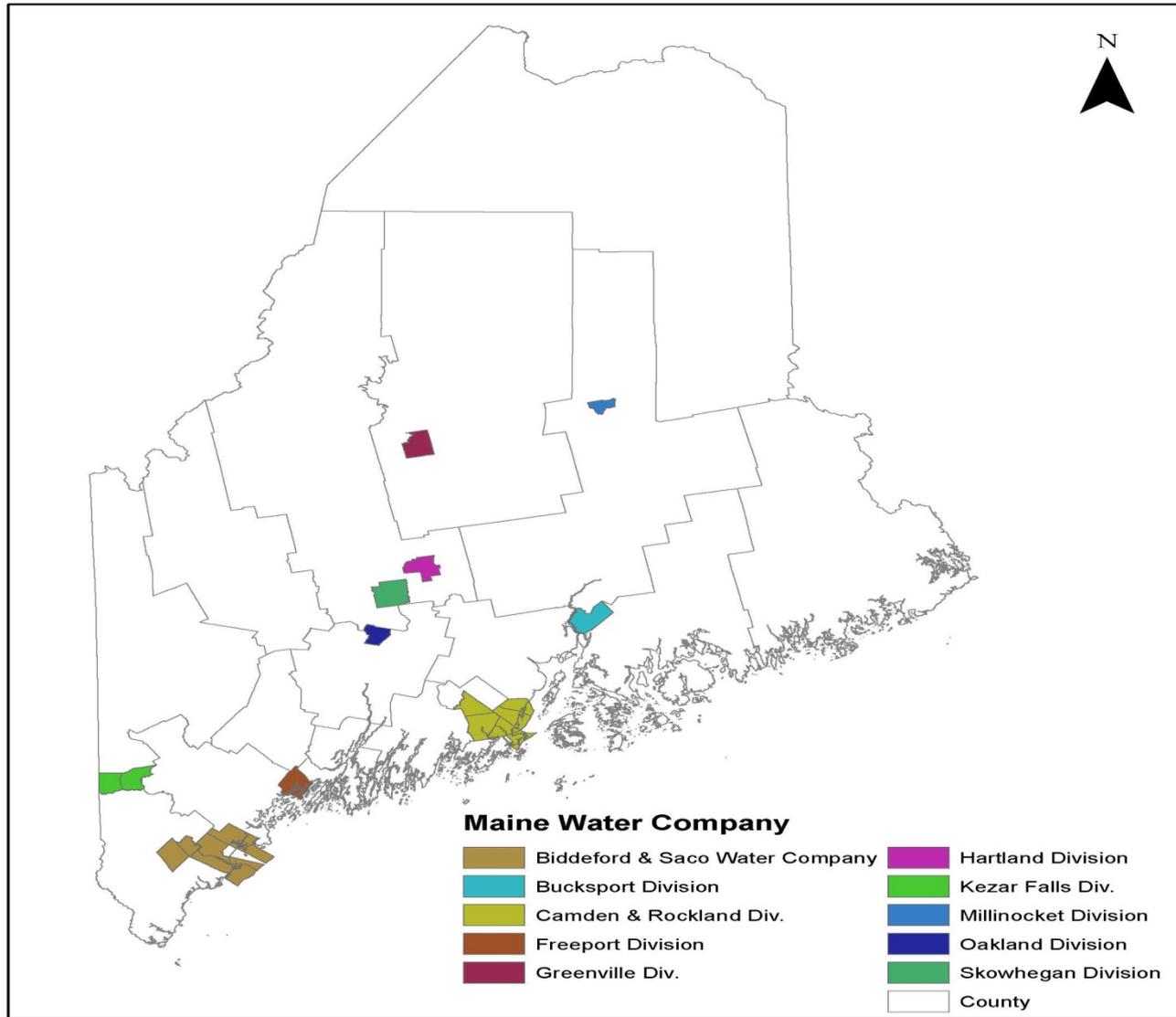
- This Section authorizes the use of:
  - Water infrastructure surcharges (WISC)
  - Capital reserve accounts for water utilities

# Frequency of Water Utility Rate Cases

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Section 307 Rate Increase-MWC	1	1	3	0	4	1	
Section 307 Rate Increase	5	3	1	1	2	0	
Section 6104 Rate Increase Investigation	2	0	0	0	1	1	
Ten-Person Complaint	1	0	0	0	0	0	
WISC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	7	4
Capital Recovery Charge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	

# MAINE WATER COMPANY

*Formerly Aqua Maine*



Updated by MJohnson 1/3/2013

0 15 30 60 Miles