

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

MISSION

The Department of Public Service is the staff arm of the Public Service Commission, which regulates the rates and services of the State's public utilities, including electric, gas, steam, telephone and water. The Commission also oversees the siting of major electric and gas transmission lines and facilities. In addition, it ensures the safety of natural gas and liquid petroleum pipelines and is responsible for oversight and regulation of the cable television industry in New York State.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Public Service Commission consists of five members who are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Chairman serves as the chief executive officer of the Department which operates offices in Albany, New York City, Buffalo and Syracuse.

The Department's budget has two programs: the Administration Program, which supports the Public Service Commission and Department activities; and the Regulation Program, which undertakes activities to ensure fair and reasonable rates, monitor service standards, address consumer complaints, promote efficient operation and ensure that industry construction programs meet safety and environmental requirements.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$80.4 million All Funds (\$78.7 million Special Revenue Funds; \$1.7 million Other funds)** for the Department of Public Service. This is an increase of **\$2 million (\$2 million Special Revenue Funds)** from the 2007-08 budget. This net change primarily reflects continued growth in personal service and related fringe benefits, and non-personal service inflationary growth. The Department will have an estimated **workforce of 540** for 2008-09, the same level as in 2007-08.

The Department's 2008-09 operating budget includes funding of \$78.1 million from utility and cable assessments. Public utility assessments are based on a utility's gross intrastate operating revenues above \$25,000. Cable television assessments are based on revenues from those companies with 1,000 or more subscribers.

In addition, the local assistance budget provides a total of \$550,000 from fees paid by entities proposing the siting of electric generation facilities. These funds can be accessed by local governments and community groups to fund intervention activities related to the siting review process.

The Department also receives Federal grants to perform pipeline safety activities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Department's highest priorities for the coming year will be:

- Developing energy efficiency programs to ensure the goal of reducing electricity consumption by 15 percent below the forecasted level in 2015;
- Conducting a process to begin long-range electricity planning;

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- Continuing implementation of the Renewable Portfolio Standard, designed to increase to at least 25 percent by 2013 the proportion of electricity sold to consumers in New York State that is generated from renewable resources; and
- Ensuring the reliability of the electric, gas, steam, and telecommunications networks.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2007-08	Appropriations Recommended 2008-09	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2008-09
State Operations	77,994,000	79,828,000	1,834,000	0
Aid To Localities	400,000	550,000	150,000	3,589,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	78,394,000	80,378,000	1,984,000	3,589,000

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	2008-09 Estimated FTEs 03/31/09	FTE Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	98	98	0
Regulation of Utilities			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	12	12	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	430	430	0
Total	540	540	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,691,000	1,691,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	76,303,000	78,137,000	1,834,000
Total	77,994,000	79,828,000	1,834,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12,852,000	13,001,000	149,000
Regulation of Utilities			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,691,000	1,691,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	63,451,000	65,136,000	1,685,000
Total	77,994,000	79,828,000	1,834,000

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2008-09 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	13,001,000	149,000	6,728,000	132,000
Regulation of Utilities	66,827,000	1,685,000	36,681,000	691,000
Total	79,828,000	1,834,000	43,409,000	823,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	6,273,000	17,000
Regulation of Utilities	30,146,000	994,000
Total	36,419,000	1,011,000

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Other	400,000	550,000	150,000
Total	400,000	550,000	150,000

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Regulation of Utilities			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	400,000	550,000	150,000
Total	400,000	550,000	150,000