Utility services and infrastructure are essential to the economy of Missouri. Virtually every Missouri citizen receives some form of utility service (electric, natural gas, telecommunications, steam, water or sewer) from a company regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission or PSC).

The PSC is the state government agency charged with ensuring that you receive safe, adequate, and reliable utility services at reasonable rates. The Commission must balance the interests of the public — ratepayers as well as company shareholders. In proceedings before the Commission, rates are set to give the utility company an opportunity, but not a guarantee, to earn a reasonable return on its investment after recovering its prudently incurred expenses.

**Missouri’s Regulated Utilities**

**Electric** -- The PSC regulates four investor-owned electric companies (Ameren Missouri, Kansas City Power and Light, KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations and The Empire District Electric Company). These companies serve more than 1.9 million customers. The Commission does not regulate the rates of rural electric cooperatives or municipal electric systems. The Commission does regulate rural electric cooperatives when it comes to safety issues.

**Natural Gas** -- Five investor-owned natural gas companies are regulated by the PSC (Ameren Missouri, The Empire District Gas Company, Liberty Utilities, Laclede Gas Company -- Laclede and Missouri Gas Energy Divisions and Summit Natural Gas Of Missouri.) These companies serve nearly 1.4 million customers. While the Commission does not regulate the rates of municipal gas systems, the PSC does have jurisdiction in terms of safety. The PSC does not regulate propane.

**Water and Sewer** -- There are approximately 65 regulated water and/or sewer companies in Missouri. The largest company is Missouri-American Water Company, serving more than 459,000 water customers and nearly 12,000 sewer customers. Water quality issues are regulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The Commission does not regulate the rates of municipal water and/or sewer systems, public water supply districts or public sewer districts.

**Telephone** -- The PSC regulates, in different forms, over 600 telecommunications providers (local telephone service providers, long distance companies, pay phone providers, and shared tenant service providers) in Missouri. The PSC does not regulate wireless telephone providers, internet providers or cable television.

**Manufactured Housing** -- The PSC regulates manufacturers and retail dealers who sell new and used manufactured homes and modular units. There are 132 registered manufacturers, 205 registered dealers and 77 licensed installers in Missouri.

**Steam** -- Two steam companies are under PSC jurisdiction -- KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations and Veolia Energy Kansas City, Inc. These companies serve approximately 56 customers, primarily commercial and industrial.