

A GUIDE TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Each year, the Missouri Public Service Commission holds several local public hearings across the state to give consumers an opportunity to speak directly to Public Service Commissioners who will be making decisions in pending cases. Local public hearings provide a forum for consumers to express their views, opinions and concerns about a case before the Commission. Consumers can also bring any service-related problems to the Commissioners' attention.



Who Participates In A Local Public Hearing?

- Affected customers
- Public Service Commissioners
- A PSC Regulatory Law Judge
- Parties to the case (which includes the PSC staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, representatives of utility companies, and others interested in the case)

How Will A Local Public Hearing Proceed?

A Commission regulatory law judge presides over the hearing. At the start, the judge will introduce the members of the Commission and explain how the local public hearing process works. Witnesses will be asked to testify. Witnesses appearing before the Commission are not allowed to ask questions of the Commissioners. Because the case is still pending, Commissioners are not allowed to comment on the proceedings.

Witnesses Who Testify Must Be Sworn In

Witnesses are sworn in so their comments can be included as part of the official record in the case. Witnesses will be asked to state their name for the record. Local public hearing statements are considered evidence and part of the official record that the Commission considers when making its decision in the case.

Making A Statement

Those wishing to make a statement before the Commission should sign the witness list before the public hearing begins. The regulatory law judge will call witnesses from this list during the local public hearing. Once the witness has testified, Commissioners may ask questions in order to clarify comments and concerns.