

COVID-19 Office and Hearing Procedures

March 31, 2020

Our primary focus during this time is supporting the health and safety of our community. Therefore, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) has closed its offices, allowing in person visitors by appointment only. Staff will continue to assist you over the phone and through online services. As we continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19, the Commission is also preparing its staff to conduct scheduled meetings and hearings utilizing teleconferencing, including livestreaming the hearings.

During the pendency of the state of emergency, special arrangements may be used in conducting meetings and hearings including:

Regular and Special Commission Meetings

- The meetings will be livestreamed. The link to watch the meetings can be found at: <https://www.psc.nd.gov/>.
- Anyone interested in attending a meeting is strongly encouraged to listen via livestream.

Administrative Hearings

- The hearing room will be limited to a total of 10 people including PSC staff and attorneys.
- All administrative hearings will be livestreamed. The link to watch the hearings can be found at: <https://www.psc.nd.gov/>.
- Anyone interested in any of the administrative hearings is strongly encouraged to listen via the livestream.
- For any administrative hearing held under this set of procedures, the record will be left open for 5 days to allow those listening to submit written comments regarding the hearing. The party requesting relief will be allowed ten days to respond to any written comments received.
- For all parties and interveners in any matter docketed for this time:
 - The PSC is requiring all witnesses to appear by telephone.
 - All exhibits, including copies for staff to be utilized during the hearing, must be delivered to the PSC at least 2 days prior to the hearing. If opposition has been filed, the parties must exchange exhibits at least 2 days prior to the hearing.
- Attorneys representing a party are strongly encouraged to appear by teleconference.

Siting Hearings

- Siting Hearings will proceed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Governor. To the extent permitted by law, the PSC will be flexible in future proceedings while continuing to commit to engaging the public throughout the process. Instructions for participating in a hearing can be found on the PSC's website at www.psc.nd.gov.

These procedures are subject to change as we continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and to maintain compliance with Governor Burgum's directives.