

1 or independence of the Department’s representation of ratepayers in rate
2 proceedings, including base rate filings under an alternative regulation plan.

3 (c) To assist with meeting the purpose stated in subsection (b) of this
4 section, the Attorney General shall monitor and detail at least one rate
5 proceeding annually and make findings and recommendations related to the
6 effectiveness and independence of the Department’s ratepayer advocacy. In
7 performing his or her duties under this section, the Attorney General shall have
8 full access to the work and work product of the Department as it relates to each
9 proceeding he or she monitors. The Attorney General’s findings and
10 recommendations shall be included in the Department’s annual report.

11 (d) The report required by this section shall be submitted annually on or
12 before November 1, except that the first report shall be submitted on or before
13 December 1, 2016.

14 (e) The Department shall not be required to disclose privileged information
15 in connection with a report submitted under this section, nor shall it be
16 required to disclose information relating to litigation strategy in any matters
17 then pending before the Public Service Board or other tribunal.

18 (f) Prior to submitting a report under this section, the Department shall
19 solicit public comments and shall summarize and respond to such comments
20 by topic in the report. Comments shall be solicited by announcement on the

1 Department's website and by such other means as the Commissioner deems
2 appropriate.

3 (g) The Public Service Board shall allocate the reasonable expenses
4 incurred by the Attorney General under this section to the public service
5 company involved in a proceeding he or she monitors, as provided in 30
6 V.S.A. §§ 20 and 21.