

Public Utility Commission

FY2021 Budget Request



Chair Anthony Roisman

Public Utility Commission FY2021 Budget Request

MISSION: The Public Utility Commission is a three-member, judicial commission whose mission is to ensure the provision of high-quality public utility services in Vermont at reasonable costs, consistent with the long-term public interest of the state. The Commission strives to achieve this mission by providing an independent, fair, and efficient means of resolving public utility disputes, and by guiding the development of state utility policies and rules for public utilities to best serve the long-term interests of Vermont and its citizens, all as defined in Title 30 V.S.A.

The Commission supervises the rates, quality of service, and financial management of Vermont's utilities; electric, gas, telecommunications, and private water companies. The Commission also supervises cable television companies, although federal law preempts most authority to regulate cable programming. The Commission also reviews the environmental and economic impacts of proposals to purchase, supply or build new energy facilities; monitors the safety of electric dams; evaluates the financial aspects of nuclear power commissioning and radioactive waste storage; reviews applications for independent power producers; and oversees the state's Energy Efficiency Utility programs.

FY 2021 SUMMARY

- 100% Special Funds with 3.9% increase;
- 5 Classified, 22 Exempt positions;
- In FY 2019:
 - Commission received more than 3,500 cases
 - More than 13,900 filings were made in ePUC
 - Commission issued more than 1,300 Orders and certificates of public good for proposed projects

FY2021 Budget Request

\$3,904,459



■ 100% Special Funds

Report ID: VTPB-11-BUDRLLUP

Run Date: 01/30/2020

Run Time: 03:53 PM

State of Vermont

FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget: Rollup Report

Organization: 2250000000 - Public Utility Commission

Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Salaries and Wages	2,107,935	2,261,966	2,261,966	2,356,767	94,801	4.2%
Fringe Benefits	859,812	956,691	956,691	1,005,348	48,657	5.1%
Contracted and 3rd Party Service	320,143	46,411	46,411	46,411	0	0.0%
PerDiem and Other Personal Services	0	20,500	20,500	500	(20,000)	-97.6%
Budget Object Group Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES	3,287,891	3,285,568	3,285,568	3,409,026	123,458	3.8%

Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Equipment	3,532	12,700	12,700	7,500	(5,200)	-40.9%
IT/Telecom Services and Equipment	126,423	132,683	132,683	189,839	57,156	43.1%
Travel	37,862	50,000	50,000	24,261	(25,739)	-51.5%
Supplies	12,914	22,400	22,400	14,900	(7,500)	-33.5%
Other Purchased Services	47,166	59,610	59,610	64,403	4,793	8.0%
Other Operating Expenses	1,012	1,045	1,045	1,191	146	14.0%
Rental Other	5,540	10,350	10,350	9,200	(1,150)	-11.1%
Rental Property	152,160	140,792	140,792	141,987	1,195	0.8%
Property and Maintenance	4,537	5,000	5,000	4,800	(200)	-4.0%
Repair and Maintenance Services	28,000	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Rentals	0	37,352	37,352	37,352	0	0.0%
Budget Object Group Total: 2. OPERATING	419,146	471,932	471,932	495,433	23,501	5.0%

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Run Time: 03:53 PM

State of Vermont

FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget: Rollup Report

Organization: 2250000000 - Public Utility Commission

Total Expenses	3,707,037	3,757,500	3,757,500	3,904,459	146,959	3.9%
Fund Name	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Special Fund	3,707,037	3,757,500	3,757,500	3,904,459	146,959	3.9%
ARRA Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Funds Total	3,707,037	3,757,500	3,757,500	3,904,459	146,959	3.9%

Position Count				27		
FTE Total				26.35		

Report ID: VTPB-07
 Run Date: 01/30/2020
 Run Time: 03:52 PM

State of Vermont
FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 225000000 - Public Utility Commission

Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES

		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Salaries and Wages							
Description	Code						
Classified Employees	500000	2,107,513	299,684	299,684	307,990	8,306	2.8%
Exempt	500010	0	1,962,282	1,962,282	2,080,438	118,156	6.0%
Overtime	500060	422	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Vacancy Turnover Savings	508000	0	0	0	(31,661)	(31,661)	-100.0%
Total: Salaries and Wages		2,107,935	2,261,966	2,261,966	2,356,767	94,801	4.2%

		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Fringe Benefits							
Description	Code						
FICA - Classified Employees	501000	155,499	22,925	22,925	23,560	635	2.8%
FICA - Exempt	501010	0	148,454	148,454	157,037	8,583	5.8%
Health Ins - Classified Empl	501500	329,382	41,701	41,701	33,360	(8,341)	-20.0%
Health Ins - Exempt	501510	0	308,996	308,996	320,644	11,648	3.8%
Retirement - Classified Empl	502000	332,090	60,776	60,776	64,678	3,902	6.4%
Retirement - Exempt	502010	0	325,861	325,861	359,076	33,215	10.2%
Dental - Classified Employees	502500	17,970	4,265	4,265	3,344	(921)	-21.6%
Dental - Exempt	502510	0	18,766	18,766	18,392	(374)	-2.0%
Life Ins - Classified Empl	503000	6,113	1,264	1,264	1,300	36	2.8%

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 Run Date: 01/30/2020
 Run Time: 03:52 PM

State of Vermont

FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

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Fringe Benefits		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Life Ins - Exempt	503010	0	8,281	8,281	8,779	498	6.0%
LTD - Classified Employees	503500	3,875	145	145	0	(145)	-100.0%
LTD - Exempt	503510	0	4,513	4,513	4,784	271	6.0%
EAP - Classified Empl	504000	764	155	155	160	5	3.2%
EAP - Exempt	504010	0	682	682	704	22	3.2%
Employee Tuition Costs	504530	1,200	6,000	6,000	2,000	(4,000)	-66.7%
Workers Comp - Ins Premium	505200	5,543	3,907	3,907	7,530	3,623	92.7%
Unemployment Compensation	505500	7,201	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Catamount Health Assessment	505700	174	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total: Fringe Benefits		859,812	956,691	956,691	1,005,348	48,657	5.1%

Contracted and 3rd Party Service		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Contr & 3Rd Party - Legal	507200	46,123	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Contr&3Rd Pty-Appr/Engineering	507300	19,795	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Contr&3Rd Pty-Educ & Training	507350	4,800	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Adr Mediation	507505	2,058	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Contr&3Rd Pty - Info Tech	507550	25,245	0	0	0	0	0.0%
IT Contracts - Application Development	507565	7,000	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Contr and 3Rd Pty Serv	507600	195,881	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Naruc,Nrri,Necpuc	507610	19,241	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Contractual & 3Rd Party	507999	0	46,411	46,411	46,411	0	0.0%

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 Run Date: 01/30/2020
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Contracted and 3rd Party Service		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Total: Contracted and 3rd Party Service		320,143	46,411	46,411	46,411	0	0.0%

PerDiem and Other Personal Services		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Other Pers Serv	506200	0	20,000	20,000	0	(20,000)	-100.0%
Sheriffs	506230	0	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Total: PerDiem and Other Personal Service:		0	20,500	20,500	500	(20,000)	-97.6%
Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES		3,287,891	3,285,568	3,285,568	3,409,026	123,458	3.8%

Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING

Equipment		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Hardware - Desktop & Laptop Pc	522216	1,855	9,000	9,000	5,000	(4,000)	-44.4%
Furniture & Fixtures	522700	1,677	3,700	3,700	2,500	(1,200)	-32.4%
Total: Equipment		3,532	12,700	12,700	7,500	(5,200)	-40.9%

Report ID: VTPB-07
 Run Date: 01/30/2020
 Run Time: 03:52 PM

State of Vermont

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IT/Telecom Services and Equipment		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
ADS VOIP Expense	516605	16,939	0	0	16,939	16,939	100.0%
Tele-Internet-Dsl-Cable Modem	516626	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Telecom-Video Conf Services	516653	0	700	700	700	0	0.0%
Telecom-Conf Calling Services	516658	879	900	900	900	0	0.0%
Telecom-Wireless Phone Service	516659	3,051	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
ADS Enterp App Supp SOV Emp Exp	516660	57,403	0	0	0	0	0.0%
ADS App Support SOV Emp Exp	516661	0	59,390	59,390	94,380	34,990	58.9%
It Intsvccost-Vision/Isdassess	516671	22,424	23,052	23,052	25,249	2,197	9.5%
ADS Centrex Exp.	516672	2,017	10,500	10,500	10,500	0	0.0%
It Inter Svc Cost User Support	516678	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
ADS Allocation Exp.	516685	23,580	33,641	33,641	36,671	3,030	9.0%
Hw - Other Info Tech	522200	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Hw-Personal Mobile Devices	522258	130	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Total: IT/Telecom Services and Equipment		126,423	132,683	132,683	189,839	57,156	43.1%

Other Operating Expenses		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Other Operating Expense	523199	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Support Persons In St. Custody	523299	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Single Audit Allocation	523620	1,012	1,045	1,045	1,191	146	14.0%
Total: Other Operating Expenses		1,012	1,045	1,045	1,191	146	14.0%

Report ID: VTPB-07
 Run Date: 01/30/2020
 Run Time: 03:52 PM

State of Vermont

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Other Purchased Services		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Insurance Other Than Empl Bene	516000	372	619	619	1,028	409	66.1%
Insurance - General Liability	516010	5,127	5,661	5,661	12,427	6,766	119.5%
Property Insurance	516099	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Dues	516500	1,088	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Licenses	516550	840	1,680	1,680	1,680	0	0.0%
Telecom-Mobile Wireless Data	516623	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Advertising-Print	516813	7,466	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
Advertising - Job Vacancies	516820	3,394	9,000	9,000	6,000	(3,000)	-33.3%
Printing and Binding	517000	27	100	100	0	(100)	-100.0%
Printing, Registration, Post	517099	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Registration For Meetings&Conf	517100	10,328	10,500	10,500	8,500	(2,000)	-19.0%
Postage	517200	1,095	4,500	4,500	2,500	(2,000)	-44.4%
Freight & Express Mail	517300	796	1,175	1,175	1,200	25	2.1%
Other Purchased Services	519000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Human Resources Services	519006	15,758	17,275	17,275	22,668	5,393	31.2%
Moving State Agencies	519040	876	1,700	1,700	1,000	(700)	-41.2%
Total: Other Purchased Services		47,166	59,610	59,610	64,403	4,793	8.0%

Property and Maintenance		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Disposal	510200	340	0	0	800	800	100.0%
Repair and Maintenance	512099	0	5,000	5,000	4,000	(1,000)	-20.0%

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 Run Date: 01/30/2020
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Property and Maintenance		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Repair&Maint-Non-Info Tech Equ	513100	4,197	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total: Property and Maintenance		4,537	5,000	5,000	4,800	(200)	-4.0%

Rental Other		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Rentals	514099	0	1,200	1,200	0	(1,200)	-100.0%
Rental of Equipment & Vehicles	514500	0	50	50	0	(50)	-100.0%
Rental - Auto	514550	1,397	1,900	1,900	2,000	100	5.3%
Rental - Office Equipment	514650	4,104	7,200	7,200	7,200	0	0.0%
Rental - Other	515000	39	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total: Rental Other		5,540	10,350	10,350	9,200	(1,150)	-11.1%

Rental Property		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Rent Land&Bldgs-Non-Office	514010	123	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fee-For-Space Charge	515010	152,038	140,792	140,792	141,987	1,195	0.8%
Total: Rental Property		152,160	140,792	140,792	141,987	1,195	0.8%

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State of Vermont

FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 225000000 - Public Utility Commission

Supplies		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Office Supplies	520000	4,233	12,000	12,000	6,000	(6,000)	-50.0%
Gasoline	520110	952	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Food	520700	1,371	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Supplies	520999	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Books&Periodicals-Library/Educ	521500	229	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Subscriptions	521510	5,934	8,000	8,000	6,500	(1,500)	-18.8%
Paper Products	521820	196	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Total: Supplies		12,914	22,400	22,400	14,900	(7,500)	-33.5%

Travel		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Original As Passed Budget	FY2020 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2021 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed	Percent Change FY2021 Governor's Recommend and FY2020 As Passed
Description	Code						
Travel-Inst-Auto Mileage-Emp	518000	2,968	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Inst-Other Transp-Emp	518010	2,364	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Inst-Meals-Emp	518020	231	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Inst-Incidentals-Emp	518040	939	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Auto Mileage-Emp	518500	873	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Other Trans-Emp	518510	6,830	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Meals-Emp	518520	2,462	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Lodging-Emp	518530	20,236	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Incidentals-Emp	518540	958	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel	518999	0	50,000	50,000	24,261	(25,739)	-51.5%
Total: Travel		37,862	50,000	50,000	24,261	(25,739)	-51.5%

Programmatic Performance Measure Report

Attachment A-2

Public Utility Commission	Performance Measure Info				
Programs	Measure Name	Measure Type	Previous Period Value	Current Period Value	Reporting Period
PROGRAM #1 NAME					
Public Utility Commission - regulation of siting of electric and natural gas infrastructure and supervision of the rates, quality of service, and overall financial management of Vermont's public utilities: electric, gas, energy efficiency, telecommunications, cable television (terms of service only, not rates), water, and large wastewater companies.	Percent of cases disposed of or otherwise resolved within established timeframes (not including net-metering registration cases)	How Well?	95%	94%	SFY
	Percent of public inquiries and information requests satisfied within established timeframes	How Well?	95%	94%	SFY
	Percent of net-metering registration cases disposed of or otherwise resolved within established timeframes	How Well?	N/A	97%	SFY
PROGRAM #2 NAME					
Program name and description					
PROGRAM #3 NAME					
Program name and description					
PROGRAM #4 NAME					
Program name and description					
PROGRAM #5 NAME					
Program name and description					

Update on Public Utility Commission Activities

February 18, 2020

What is the Commission?

The Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “PUC”) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency funded by a gross receipts tax on Vermont utilities, fees paid by applicants for certificates of public good who do not pay the gross receipts tax, and “billbacks” for certain out-of-pocket costs (no general fund monies). We supervise the rates, quality of service, and overall financial management of Vermont’s public utilities: electric, gas, energy efficiency, telecommunications, cable television (terms of service only, not rates), water, and large wastewater companies. The PUC also reviews requests for certificates of public good, or CPGs, authorizing the construction of electric transmission, natural gas transmission and electric generation facilities of all sizes (including net-metered electric generation facilities), and wireless telecommunications towers.

The Commission is assisted by 15 hearing officers, who hear smaller cases directly and assist the three Commissioners in larger cases, a solar net-metering program manager, and seven administrative staff.

Under Vermont law, the PUC hears most cases under “contested case,” or court-like, procedures. We also use more informal processes, particularly when implementing policy directives from the Legislature, and we adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

FY19 Actual Spending compared to FY20 Budget and FY21 Proposed Budget

- FY19 actual spending was \$3,707,037
- FY20 budget is \$3,757,500, a 1.34% increase
 - The Commission is not affected by the FY20 budget adjustment act
- FY21 proposed budget is \$3,904,459, a 3.9% increase
 - No new initiatives are included in the FY21 proposed budget
 - FY21 proposed budget includes significant cuts in other personal services and travel as well as \$31,661 in vacancy savings

Budget Challenges

- Upward pressures
 - Because the Commission does not receive any general funds, we must self-fund our salary and benefit increases. This is particularly significant because salaries and benefits are more than 86% of the Commission’s budget.
 - Increases in internal service costs, which are an additional 9.5% of the Commission’s budget

Reserve

- The Commission has accumulated its reserve as a result of prudent financial management over the years and other contributing factors:
 - Mandatory salary freezes starting in 2008 and pay cuts starting in 2009
 - Mandatory position reductions in 2009
 - Federal stimulus grant (ARRA) that funded three staff for four years
- The purpose of the reserve is to enable the Commission to absorb changes in gross receipts tax collections over time and to provide funds for special one time projects, like creating ePUC and updating the hearing room to increase ease of public participation, as anticipated by Act 174 and recommended in the Act 174 Working Group on “Increasing Ease of Citizen Participation in PUC Proceedings”
- Since FY17, the Commission has used the reserve to make up funding shortfalls (approximately \$25,000 in FY17, \$100,000 in FY18; and \$3,395 in FY19)
- The Commission anticipates continuing to use its reserve to make up any funding shortfalls until gross receipts tax revenues increase as a result of, for example, strategic electrification (electric vehicles, heat pumps, etc.)
- Commission’s reserve balance as of June 30, 2019, was \$4,172,472.54 million.

Special Fund Balance

- As of January 31, 2020, the Commission’s cash balance is \$1,901,397.79.
- As of January 31, 2020, the Commission has expended \$2,511,186.92. We have \$1,248,965.26 remaining of our approved spending authority.

Commission’s Workload and Performance

- How much did we do in FY19?
 - More than 3,500 new cases were filed with the Commission
 - More than 13,900 filings were made in ePUC (the Commission’s online filing and case management system)
 - More than 120 hearings and workshops were held
 - More than 1,300 orders and certificates of public good were issued and more than 2,500 net-metering registration certificates of public good were issued
- How well did we do it?
 - Percent of cases disposed of or otherwise resolved within established timeframes – 94%
 - Percent of public inquiries and information requests satisfied within established timeframes – 94%
 - Percent of net-metering registration cases resolved within established timeframes – 97%

Responses to Other Questions from the Committee

- The Commission is not proposing any new initiatives for FY21 and did not have any new initiatives last year

- The Commission submitted a budget that is within our anticipated revenues; it is not a level-funded budget
- The Commission did not have any vacancy savings in FY19. Our FY21 budget includes \$31,661 in vacancy savings
- The number of the Commission’s employees has remained essentially unchanged over the last 20 years

Major policy-related steps in 2019

- Continued implementation of recommendations from Act 174 Working Group on “Increasing Ease of Citizen Participation in PUC Proceedings”
 - Ongoing work with stakeholders regarding implementing a mediation pilot program
 - Continuing to work on updating our hearing room to allow live streaming of hearings
- Provided two reports to the legislature on matters related to the conversion of transportation in Vermont from carbon-emitting vehicles to electric vehicles in order to help meet Vermont’s greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Update of Commission’s pole attachment rule to allow “one-touch make-ready”

Major cases in 2019

- Green Mountain Power (GMP) multi-year regulation plan case
- GMP and Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) rate cases
- Investigation into Consolidated Communications’ compliance with its service quality standards
- Several investigations into whether a certificate of public good holder complied with the conditions of its CPG
- Petition for a certificate of public good to build a new renewable generation facility in a grid-constrained area of northern Vermont

Ongoing and expected cases

- Investigation into whether and how to implement efficiency programs for all fuels, and how such programs should be funded as required by Act 62
- Budgets, goals, and demand resources plans for the 3 energy efficiency utilities
- Proposed alternative regulation plan for VGS
- Updates to net-metering and interconnection rules
- Ongoing implementation of the Renewable Energy Standard, including finalizing an administrative rule governing the Standard
- Reviews of alternative regulation, standard-offer program, regulation of energy efficiency utilities
- Continuous review of requests for approval of smaller electric generation facilities – e.g., more than 2,500 net-metering cases in FY19
- Continuous review of wireless telecommunications towers – 133 in FY19