



Proposal for **Law Seminars International**

STATE COMMISSIONS: WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD

MARCH 2007

Provided by:

Glen Thomas

Blank Rome LLP & LLC

(215) 569-5582

thomas@blankrome.com

As of February 20, 2006

- There are 222 utility commissioners in this country (including FERC and FCC.)

Gender

- 167 or 75% are men
- 55 or 25% are women

Political Party

- 83 are Republican
- 76 are Democrat
- 3 are Independent
- 60 are Unknown

Education

- 101 Attorneys
- 5 Ph D.'s
- 44 Masters Degrees
- 33 Bachelors Degrees
- 39 Unknown

Time in Office

- The median term served for Commissioners (as of 2/1/2006) is 3.1 years.

Political Trends

- Democratic Tide having an impact at the state level
- Democratic governors will appoint commissioners to reflect their philosophies
- Regional trends are significant

Policy Trends

- Alternative Energy
- Climate Change
- Natural gas prices
- Nuclear Energy

Industry Trends

- Suppliers are getting tighter; demand is increasing
- High demand + low supply = higher prices

State Jurisdiction – Electricity

- Distribution – State Jurisdiction
- Transmission – Federal Jurisdiction
- Generation - ???

Typical Bill - PECO

- \$63 – Generation and Transmission
- \$27 – Transition Charge
- \$45 – Distribution Charge (1/3 of total bill)
- Nearly 2/3 of a typical consumer's bill is outside the regulatory control of the PUC
- PJM, FERC and the market control what the PUC doesn't

State Jurisdiction – Natural Gas

- Supply – Federal
- Interstate pipeline: Federal
- Distribution Networks: State

Tension Points

- Transmission siting
- Generation Adequacy

Concluding Thoughts

- Legal authority is shifting to federal level
- States continue to be primary interface with consumers