



Making Rules at the PUC

How does the Public Utility Commission turn a law into a detailed rule?

INFORMAL ACTIONS: Before the formal rulemaking process, the PUC gathers input in a variety of ways. They may include:



QUESTIONS: The PUC may publish questions for public comment by filing in the Project. The questions might ask for facts, opinions, or both. Commenters typically have ten to 30 days to respond. *(The questions can be issued by staff or by the commissioners at an OM.)*



DISCUSSION DRAFT: This document is the first draft of a potential new rule or may reflect possible changes to an existing rule. The discussion draft is filed in the relevant project, and commenters typically have ten to 30 days to respond.



WORKSHOP: This is a public meeting with PUC staff and stakeholders to discuss a rulemaking in a formal setting. They're often used for more complex rules that require input from technical experts, including engineers. Commissioners only rarely attend these deliberative conversations.

FORMAL ACTIONS: The rulemaking process formally begins when the Commission approves a **Proposal for Publication** at an open meeting and publishes it in the Texas Register. The PUC can adopt a final rule any time after 30 days have passed and must do so within six months. The Administrative Procedures Act requires:



PUBLIC COMMENT: The public may file written comments with the Commission on the proposed rule as published in the Texas Register. Typically, the schedule allows for one month for comments and another two weeks for written replies.



PUBLIC HEARING (if requested): The PUC must hold a public hearing if requested by at least 25 Persons. More typically, stakeholders make comments in writing.



OPEN MEETING DISCUSSION: After public comment has been received, PUC staff will prepare a draft order and file it one week in advance of the open meeting. The Commissioners may deliberate and must vote on order adopting the new or revised rule. The adopted rule is then filed with the Secretary of State and becomes effective 20 days later, unless otherwise stated in the order.
