

*People's Counsel**13. (Appointment, qualifications, tenure, compensation.)*

The People's Counsel shall be an attorney at law of this State. He shall be appointed by the Governor and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. He shall receive an annual salary as provided in the budget.

14. (Functions.)

The People's Counsel shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) He shall appear before the commission and the courts on behalf of the interests of the public in general in any matter or proceeding, of which the commission has original jurisdiction and in which he may deem the public interest to be involved, including but not limited to proceedings with regard to the rates, service, or practices of any public service company or any violation of the provisions of this article. He shall have, in such appearance, all the rights of counsel for a party in interest, including but not limited to the right to present his case, to cross examine, to object, to be heard, and to appeal.

(2) He shall make such investigations as he may deem necessary to the intelligent performance of the duties imposed by the preceding subparagraph.

(3) He shall have full access to the commission's records, shall be entitled to call upon the assistance of the commission's experts, and shall have the benefit of all other facilities or information of the commission in carrying out his duties.

*Personnel of the Commission in General**15. (Prohibited Conduct.)*

(a) No personnel of the commission shall, during their service, hold any official relation or connection with any public service company, or have any pecuniary interest therein, whether as the holder of stock or other securities or otherwise.

(b) No personnel of the commission shall hold any office or position, or be engaged in any business or avocation which is incompatible with the duties of their office or employment with the commission.

(c) No personnel of the commission shall solicit, suggest, request or recommend directly or indirectly to any public service company the appointment of any person to any office or place of employment.

(d) No personnel of the commission shall accept from any public service company, its officers, agents or employees, any present, gift, or gratuity, or any special consideration of any kind whatsoever.

(e) No personnel of the commission shall divulge to any person any fact or information learned during the course of inspection of the plant, or the examination of the records, of any public service company, except in so far as may be directed by the commission or a court, or as may be authorized by law.

(f) No personnel of the commission shall violate any of the provisions of this article.