

shall have been filed with the proper commission; but nothing in this subdivision shall operate to prevent the commission from fixing proper, just and reasonable rates and charges to be made for service, as authorized in this article.

1910, ch. 180, sec. 31¼ (p. 376).

445. The commission shall have the general supervision of all persons and gas corporations and electrical corporations having authority under any general or special law, or under any charter or franchise, to lay down, erect or maintain wires, pipes, conduits, ducts or other fixtures in, over or under the streets, highways and public places of any municipality, for the purpose of furnishing or distributing gas, both natural and artificial, or of furnishing or transmitting electricity for light, heat or power, or maintaining underground conduits or ducts for electrical conductors.

Investigate and ascertain, from time to time, the quality of gas supplied by persons and corporations, examine the methods employed by such persons, corporations, in manufacturing, selling, delivering or supplying gas or electricity for light, heat or power, and in transmitting the same, and have power to order such improvements as will best promote the public interest, preserve the public health and protect those using such gas or electricity and those employed in the manufacture and distribution thereof, or in the maintenance and operation of the works, wires, poles, lines, conduits, ducts and systems in connection therewith.

Have power by order to fix the standard illuminating power and purity of gas, not less than that prescribed by law, both natural gas and gas to be manufactured, distributed or sold by persons, corporations, for lighting, heating or power purposes, and to prescribe methods of regulation of the electric supply system as to the use for incandescent lighting, and fix the initial efficiency of incandescent lamps furnished by the persons, corporations, generating and selling electric current for lighting, and by order to require the gas so manufactured, distributed or sold to equal the standard so fixed by it, and to establish regulations as to pressure at which gas shall be delivered. For the purpose of determining whether the gas manufactured, distributed or sold by such persons or corporations for lighting, heating or power purposes conforms to the standard of illuminating power and purity, and, of its own motion, examine and investigate the methods employed in bringing in, obtaining, manufacturing, delivering and supplying gas, and shall have access through its members or persons employed and authorized by it to make such examinations and investigations to all parts of the manufacturing plants owned, used or operated for the manufacture, transmission or distribution of gas or electricity by any such person or corporation. Any employee or agent of the commission who divulges any fact or information which may come to his knowledge during the course of any such inspection or examination, except in so far as he may be directed by the commission, or by a court or judge thereof, or authorized by law, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.