

to be heard, and to appeal. The people's counsel may appear before the Interstate Commerce Commission in cases where applications for potential excess or abandonment of rail lines are in dispute.

(2) He shall make such investigations as he may deem necessary to the intelligent performance of the duties imposed by subparagraph (1) of this section.

(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.

(4) He may intervene or participate in proceedings before federal agencies on behalf of Maryland consumers in matters in which the Public Service Commission has jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the Federal Power Commission, the Federal Energy Office, and the Federal Communications Commission.]

16.

[(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.]

20.

[A majority of the Commission shall constitute a