

(1) THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE IN BALTIMORE CITY AT THE PLACE THAT THE COMMISSION SELECTS.

(2) EXCEPT FOR LEGAL HOLIDAYS, THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS FROM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AND AT OTHER TIMES AS THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

(B) MEETINGS.

THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE TIMES AND PLACES IN THE STATE AS THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

(C) SEAL.

THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE A SEAL.

(D) STAFF.

(1) THE STATE BUDGET SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MONEY FOR THE COMMISSION TO HIRE, DEVELOP, AND ORGANIZE A STAFF TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING ANALYZING DATA SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AND PARTICIPATING IN PROCEEDINGS AS PROVIDED IN § 3-104 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(2) AS THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION SHALL HIRE EXPERTS INCLUDING ECONOMISTS, COST OF CAPITAL EXPERTS, RATE DESIGN EXPERTS, ACCOUNTANTS, ENGINEERS, TRANSPORTATION SPECIALISTS, AND LAWYERS.

(3) THE COMMISSION MAY RETAIN ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS ADDITIONAL EXPERTS AS REQUIRED FOR A PARTICULAR MATTER.

(4) THE LAWYERS WHO REPRESENT THE COMMISSION STAFF IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION AND SHALL BE ORGANIZED AND OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL.

(5) (I) AS REQUIRED, THE COMMISSION SHALL HIRE HEARING EXAMINERS.

(II) HEARING EXAMINERS ARE A SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT AND SHALL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSION.

(6) THE COMMISSION SHALL HIRE PERSONAL STAFF MEMBERS FOR EACH COMMISSIONER AS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ADVICE, DRAFT PROPOSED ORDERS AND RULINGS, AND PERFORM OTHER PERSONAL STAFF FUNCTIONS.

(7) SUBJECT TO § 3-104 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COMMISSION MAY DELEGATE TO A COMMISSIONER OR PERSONNEL THE AUTHORITY TO PERFORM AN ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT A DUTY OF THE COMMISSION.