

Public utility customers can voice their opinion on matters that will go before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC).

## Protestant & Intervenor

### Definitions

**Protestant** - An individual objecting on the ground of private/public interest to the approval of a matter which the PSC may have under consideration.

**Intervenor** - A person or entity who files a petition to intervene in a proceeding before the PSC.

**Applicant** - A party that has made a request before the PSC.

### Who is a Party of Record?

ORS is automatically a party of record in most proceedings.

**Protestant** - No, a protestant may offer sworn testimony but may NOT cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties and is not entitled to receive a copy of matters filed in the proceeding.

**Intervenor** - Yes, an intervenor may cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties and is also entitled to receive a copy of all the matters relevant to the proceeding. An intervenor may be subject to discovery and be required to respond to discovery requests such

as depositions, interrogatories, requests for production, etc.

### What is Filed?

**Protestant** - A protest is filed to advise the PSC and all parties of the fact and character of the protestant's objection to the subject matter of the proceeding.

**Intervenor** - A petition to intervene is filed. Certification that service of the petition has been made on all parties of record is required. Handwritten petitions are accepted, if legible.

### Who is Served?

**Protestant** - The protest is served on the PSC with a copy served on the applicant, ORS, and all other parties of record.

**Intervenor** - The petition to intervene is served on the PSC with a copy served on the applicant, ORS, and all other parties of record.

### Format

**Protestant** - There is no specific form for a protest - the document should contain:

- Name and address of the protestant
- Proceeding or matter to which the protest is addressed
- Concise statement of the protest
- Whether the protestant wishes to make an appearance at the hearing. (Only protestants indicating a desire to appear at the hearing will be provided with a notice of hearings scheduled.)

**Intervenor** - A petition to intervene should set forth clearly and concisely:

- Facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined
- Grounds of the proposed intervention
- Position of the petitioner in the proceeding

### Additional Information

**Protestant** - The protest will be placed in a public file associated with, but not part of, the formal record. For remarks of the protestant to be a part of the formal record, a protestant must appear at a hearing on the matter and present sworn testimony. A protestant desiring to become an intervenor may file a petition for intervention.

**Protestant and Intervenor** - A list of the names of all parties of record, who must be served with a protest or a petition to intervene, can be obtained from the docketing department at the PSC.

### Participating in the Regulatory Hearing Process

If you would like to voice your opinion concerning a given case before the PSC, you should take the following steps:

- Write a letter to the PSC using the format for Protestant or Intervenor.
- Mail it to:  
Public Service Commission of SC  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

## About the ORS

The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) was created in 2004 by the S.C. General Assembly.

The ORS represents the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation with regard to rates, charges, service standards, facilities, and practices of the major utility industries - electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water/wastewater, and transportation - before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC), the court system, the S.C. General Assembly, and federal regulatory bodies. The ORS has responsibility for oversight of railroad safety and natural gas pipeline safety in the state.

In fulfilling this mission, the ORS strives to balance the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina.



## Contact Us

The Office of Regulatory Staff can be reached several ways:

**Phone** 803-737-5230 (Columbia, S.C.)  
1-800-922-1531 (toll-free in S.C.)  
803-737-5175 TTY (Columbia, S.C.)  
1-800-334-2217 TTY (toll-free in S.C.)

**Fax** 803-737-4750

**Web** [www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov](http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov)

**Mail** 1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Hours** 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Messages can be left on 24-hour  
Consumer Services hotline  
(closed state holidays)

## How to Participate in the Regulatory Hearing Process



## Office of Regulatory Staff