

**Public Service Commission  
Budget 408  
House Bill No. 1008**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013-15 legislative appropriation	44.00	\$7,091,740 <sup>1</sup>	\$13,387,469	\$20,479,209
2011-13 legislative appropriation	<u>43.00</u>	<u>6,020,215</u>	<u>13,061,648</u>	<u>19,081,863</u>
2013-15 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriation	1.00	\$1,071,525	\$325,821	\$1,397,346

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$424,080 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing general fund appropriation is \$6,667,660.

**Item Description**

**Accrued leave payments** - In Section 1 of House Bill No. 1008, the Legislative Assembly identified \$168,278 from the general fund for accrued leave payments.

**One-time funding** - In Section 2 of House Bill No. 1008, the Legislative Assembly identified \$778,000 of one-time funding, including \$424,080 from the general fund. This includes \$750,000 for reclamation and grain licensing litigation and \$28,000 for a hydraulic soil probe. These amounts are not to be considered part of the agency's base budget for preparing the 2015-17 executive budget, and the Public Service Commission is to report to the Appropriations Committees during the 2015 legislative session on the use of this funding.

**Gas pipeline safety inspector and public utility analyst** - In Section 8 of House Bill No. 1008, the Legislative Assembly directed the Public Service Commission to proceed in the hiring process of the gas pipeline safety inspector and public utility analyst positions that have been repurposed in the commission's 2013-15 biennium budget from the weights and measures program prior to June 30, 2013.

**Rail rate complaint case** - The Legislative Assembly in 2013 provided for a transfer of \$900,000 from the Bank of North Dakota beginning farmer revolving loan fund to the Public Service Commission to pay for costs associated with a rail rate complaint case. If any amount is spent, the commission is to reimburse the beginning farmer revolving loan fund using the amount from damages or proceeds, net of legal fees, received from a successful outcome of a rail rate complaint case.

**Status/Result**

The Public Service Commission has charged \$7,032 to the accrued leave payments line item. The commission does not plan to use the funds in the accrued leave payments line item for salaries.

The Public Service Commission has spent approximately \$83,244 on reclamation and grain licensing litigation and does not anticipate additional expenditures through the remainder of the biennium. The commission purchased a hydraulic soil probe for approximately \$23,858 and does not anticipate spending the remaining one-time funds.

The Public Service Commission filled the gas pipeline safety inspector position on August 5, 2013, and the public utility analyst position on October 14, 2013.

A rail rate complaint case has not been filed. Readily accessible funds to pursue regulatory relief against the railroad industry have guarded against abusive rail industry practices.