

§1310. Funding of intervenors by the commission

1. Intervenor funding. Intervenor funding may be provided as follows.

A. In any commission proceeding in which standards under the United States Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, United States Code, Title 16, Section 2601, et seq., are implemented, the commission may order the utility to compensate the intervenor for reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees and other reasonable costs incurred in preparation and advocacy of the intervenor's position whenever the commission finds that:

- (1) The position of the intervenor is not adequately represented by the Office of the Public Advocate or the Public Utilities Commission staff;
- (2) The intervenor substantially contributed to the approval, in whole or in part, of a position advocated by the intervenor in the commission proceeding, except that, if no commission advocacy staff is appointed to a proceeding, the intervenor must be likely to contribute substantially to the conduct of the commission proceeding and to assist in the resolution of the issues raised in the proceeding; and
- (3) Participation in the proceeding by the intervenor would impose a significant financial hardship on the intervenor. [PL 1997, c. 691, §4 (AMD); PL 1997, c. 691, §10 (AFF).]

B. In any proceeding in which the commission does not implement standards under the United States Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, United States Code, Title 16, Section 2601, et seq., the commission may compensate the intervenor for reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees and other reasonable costs incurred in preparation and advocacy of the intervenor's position whenever the commission finds that requirements of paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) to (3), are satisfied. Compensation may be provided from the commission's regulatory fund and filing fees subject to the commission's determination of the availability of the funds. [PL 1989, c. 281 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 691, §4 (AMD); PL 1997, c. 691, §10 (AFF).]

2. Determination of eligibility. A determination that an intervenor is eligible for an award of compensation pending the outcome of the proceeding shall be made by the commission at the earliest practicable time in the commission proceeding.

[PL 1989, c. 281 (NEW).]

3. Rules. The commission may, after notice and hearing, adopt rules as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

[PL 1989, c. 281 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 281 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 691, §4 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 127, §D5 (AFF).

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