

## DIVISION OF ENERGY REGULATION

### Activities for Calendar Year 1999

The Division of Energy Regulation assists the Commission in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities pursuant to Title 56, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia. Activities include reviewing investor-owned electric, natural gas, and water/sewer utilities' cost of service studies; reviewing allocation methods, depreciation rates, and rate design philosophies; and providing expert testimony in that regard. The Division also provides expert testimony in certificate cases for service areas and major facility construction for these utilities and for independent power producers. Additional duties include the preparation and defense of prefiled testimony as it relates to electric cooperatives and other technical functions related to regulation of the cooperatives. It also has monitoring responsibilities relative to: the collection of gas costs by gas utilities, the incurrence of wholesale purchased power expenses by electric cooperatives, and the recovery of fuel expenses and the construction and operation of major facilities by the investor-owned utilities. It also reviews extraordinary costs and policies related to nuclear power, including decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the storage of spent nuclear fuel. The Division administers pipeline safety programs for intrastate jurisdictional gas and hazardous liquid companies in Virginia, including inspections of facilities, records, and construction activities to determine compliance with pipeline safety regulations. It administers the enforcement of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act; investigates all reports of violation of that Act; and makes enforcement recommendations to the Commission. The resolution of complaints/inquires received against regulated utilities and the maintenance of official records/maps of utility certificated areas are also duties of the Division. It provides the Commission with technical expertise in policy related issues and has provided testimony in several hearings required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act and in other proceedings associated with restructuring of natural gas and electric utilities.

### SUMMARY OF 1999 ACTIVITIES

Consumer Complaints, Letters of Protest, and Inquiries Received	4,382
Tariff Filings Received	486
Tariff Sheets Accepted	1,159
Safety Inspections (Person Days)	237
Testimony and Reports Filed by Staff	57
Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Granted, Transferred, or Revised	10
Special Reports	25
Gas Accident Investigations and Incident Reports	1
Electric On-Site Construction Inspections	0
Underground Utility Damage Reports Investigated	2,764