



Iowa Utilities Commission

Update for Iowa House Commerce Committee

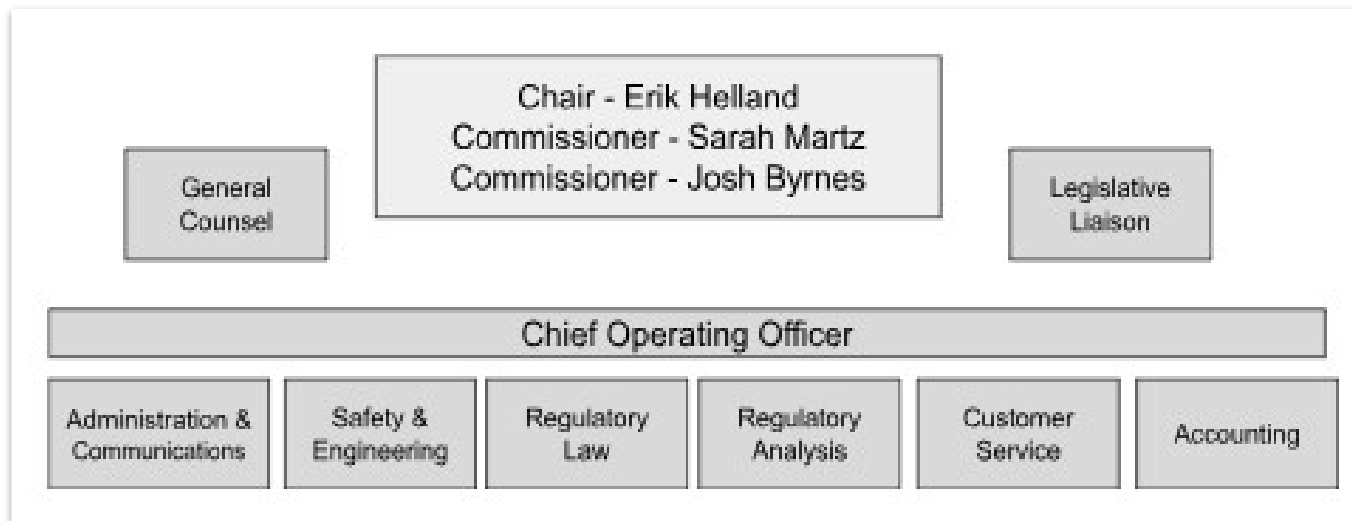
Erik Helland, IUC Chair

Mission and Vision

- Mission: The Iowa Utilities Commission regulates utilities, as established by law, to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to Iowans.
- Vision: The Iowa Utilities Commission is engaged in continuous improvement activities in order to be a regulatory expert and solutions-oriented partner regarding current and emerging utility matters.

Organization of the IUC

- Independent, quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative body
- Three commissioners appointed by Governor, confirmed by Senate
- Supported by staff of ~80 FTEs organized into bureaus



Areas of Oversight

- Electric
- Natural Gas
- Water, Storm Water, Sanitary Sewer
- Telecommunications
- Infrastructure protection/safety
- Other

Regulated Entities

- Utility Service Providers
 - Electric, natural gas, water
 - Jurisdiction varies per entity type
 - Investor-owned utilities more heavily regulated than municipal utilities or cooperatives
 - Minimal jurisdiction over telecommunications
- Generation and Infrastructure Developers and Operators (transmission, pipeline, others)

IUC Activities

- Docket proceedings, including public informational meetings, formal hearings, and issuance of orders
- Enforce limits on disconnections/emergency management
- Oversee safety
 - Infrastructure inspections
 - One Call investigations and education
- Address utility customer complaints and inquiries

Dockets

A docket is a group of filings required by compliance or a case before the Commission.

- Contains documents and actions related to a regulatory proceeding
- Final orders are decisions
- The Electronic Filing System (EFS) is the repository of documents filed and orders issued by the IUC; it is accessible to stakeholders and general public.

Electronic Filing System

Search Criteria

Docket Number:	<input type="text"/>
Docket Type:	<input type="text" value="Select a Docket Type"/>
Filing Title:	<input type="text"/>
Date Filed:	<input type="text" value="Select Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)"/>
Document Title:	<input type="text"/>
Document Type:	<input type="text" value="Select a Document Type"/>
Submitter Name:	<input type="text"/>
Submitting Parties:	<input type="text"/>
Industry Type:	<input type="text" value="Select an Industry Type"/>

Utility Regulation Basics

- Each state has a public utility commission (PUC)
 - Offices of Consumer Advocate are also established
- Utilities are considered “natural monopolies”
 - PUCs help mitigate risk and maximize value of the service(s) to the public
- Regulatory proceedings serve as a process to ensure reliable services at just and reasonable rates

Electric Utilities in Iowa

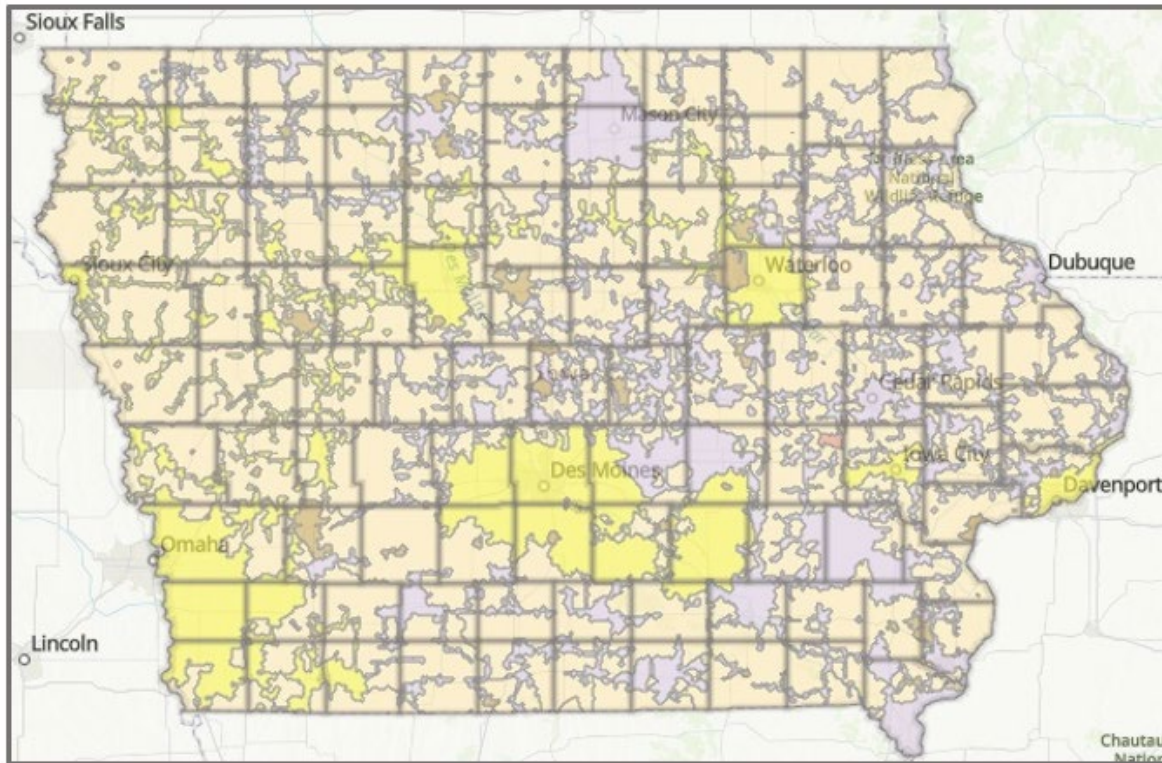
Electric Utility Types and Customer Share (2023)

Utility Type	Number of Utilities	Percentage of Iowa Electric Customers
Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU)	2	72.5%
Municipal Utilities	146	13.16%
Rural Electric Cooperatives	43	14.34%

Source: Iowa's Electric Profile webpage, <https://iuc.iowa.gov/regulated-industries/electric/iowas-electric-profile>

- Iowa has a regulated market with vertically integrated utilities
- IUC regulates rates and services for two IOUs
- Utilities operate in exclusive service territories

Electric Service Boundaries



Source: IUC Electric Service Area Boundaries map, <https://iowa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d595a7d431bc4c789065348a8f454dbb>

Iowa's Electric IOUs

MidAmerican Energy and Interstate Power and Light

Similarities include: Both own generation and distribution

Differences include:

MidAmerican Energy	Interstate Power and Light
Owned by Berkshire Hathaway, a diversified holding company, increased ability to claim federal tax credits for generation	Parent company Alliant Energy, an energy utility holding company with investors and shareowners
More customers, more urban areas	Fewer customers, more rural areas
Owns transmission assets	Does not own transmission assets

Regulation of IOUs

- Base rate includes investments made by the utility to serve customers and allowable adjustments
 - Investment must be both used and useful, prudently incurred
- Commission determines allowable base rate, rate of return, and operating expenses
 - These three factors determine the revenue requirement
 - Rates are designed accordingly
- Rate cases: Proceedings to consider changes
 - Tariff: Approved conditions, terms and prices of utility services

Advance Ratemaking

- Established in 2001
- Provides regulatory process to assess plans for generation assets
 - how assets can serve energy needs
 - determine treatment in utility's rates
- Mitigates risk associated with utility investment
- Iowa Code requires an approved energy efficiency plan and for IUC evaluation to include alternative generation and project economics

Continuous Improvement

- Workflow challenges
 - Information is manually input and siloed across file storage systems
 - Limited performance metric tracking and reporting capabilities
 - Manual process to determine staff workload, limited planning capabilities
- Improvement strategies
 - Analyzed workflow, processes, and desired reporting
 - Acquired new software targeted at internal work activities

Case Management Software Platform

- Features
 - Task creation and tracking from system docket filings
 - High-level dashboards for reporting metrics and KPIs
 - Create/manage legal documents
 - Streamline order routing
- Project Status
 - Started in 2023
 - Soft launch Q1 CY25
 - Complete rollout in Q2 CY25
- Vendor: Thomson Reuters

Iowa Code Clarifications

IUC 2025 Legislative Proposal

- Alternative operator services (476.91)
 - Clarify and limit IUC jurisdiction to what is currently regulated, service to incarcerated persons
- Electric franchise format description (478.7)
 - Addresses required content for electric transmission line franchise
 - Deletes references to a blank form

Questions?

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