



**PS-COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF**

Characteristics of Work

This is specialized professional engineering work primarily related to the design, construction, extension and expansion of complex public communications systems and secondarily related to any class of public utility. The employee performs analyses and evaluation of technical data related to the construction, operation and maintenance of such communication systems and the application of laws and regulations thereto. Documents technical data, and plans submitted by public utility services are evaluated in conjunction with applications for initial and supplemental Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity. The employee coordinates these reviews with corresponding efforts by accounting, economic, and legal personnel in order to fully safeguard the consumers' interests. The employee may serve as the technical expert in charge of communication of rate analyses and supervise one or more rate specialists or may serve as a technical expert who independently conducts complex rate analyses or in testifying in major rate hearings. Extensive guidelines are provided by federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and procedures supplemented by judicial interpretations and interpretations by administrative and technical superiors; however, employees must use considerable judgement in the application of appropriate guidelines. Direction is received from the Chief Engineer and administrative superior; however, primary responsibility is assigned to the employee for public utility communications. Work is evaluated by the administrative superior who reviews through periodic conferences the findings of engineering investigations to determine if conclusions drawn are substantiated by data collected and that recommendations are made in accordance with legal requirements.

Examples of Work

The following are examples of work performed for positions in this job class, and are not intended to reflect the essential functions of any one position. The essential functions of each individual position are determined and maintained by each individual agency.

Performs rate separation analyses necessary in establishing public communications system rates and may direct rate specialists in the performance of rate separation analyses.

Collects utility operating data for analysis to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of current and proposed public communications systems, and the reasonable rates associated with each.

Collects and analyzes utility operating data and records to determine compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the need for utility rate increases.

Reviews industry plans for public communicating systems to determine appropriate need, size, type or class of utility service.

Presents and defends under cross-examination technical testimony before the Commission or court concerning engineering investigations and analyses.

Inspects utilities operating physical plants and construction of new facilities to ensure compliance with appropriate safety procedures and construction standards and to determine the need for future expansion.

Examples of Work (continued)

Evaluates methods used in investigation of customer complaints regarding inmate utility operations, service, and/or safety conditions; evaluates findings based on commission rules and the utility's filed tariff provisions.

Assists in the review of construction contracts proposed for execution by utility companies and determines the appropriateness of construction costs.

Evaluates construction costs and related data submitted by communications utility companies in support of rate-related applications.

Assists in the analysis of applicant and intervenors testimony in utility rate proceedings and may testify as to the accuracy of findings resulting from engineering investigations.

In communications matters, prepares or supervises the preparation of findings of engineering investigations and rate analyses for inclusion in reports and composes the explanatory or descriptive text for inclusion in the report.

Related or similar duties are performed as required or assigned.

Minimum Requirements

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in engineering, possession of a certificate of registration as a professional engineer from the Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, and a thorough knowledge and experience in the engineering principles related to the design, construction, extension and expansion of complex public communications systems and the operation and maintenance of the same.

Required Document: Applicant must attach a valid copy of his/her certificate of registration as a professional engineer from the Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

Qualifications set by statute under Section 25, Chapter 530, SB 2679 of the Laws of 1990.