

# A Day in Your Life – The North Dakota Public Service Commission



Public Service Commission

# Introduction

Most people don't know much about the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the role it plays in North Dakota. The purpose of this document is to show you how the activities of the PSC touch every North Dakotan's life every day. You may be surprised at all the different parts of your life the PSC plays a part in.

More detailed information can be found by visiting our website at [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the North Dakota Public Service Commission!



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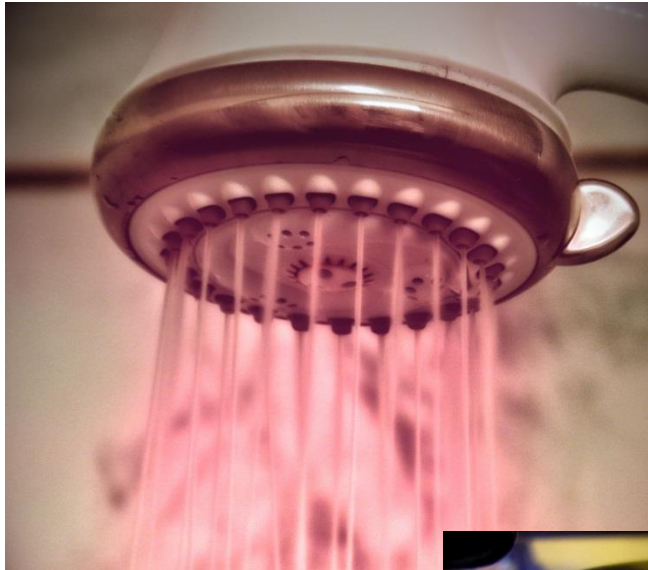
Your alarm clock wakes you up. You turn on the lights, start the coffee maker, and turn on the TV to catch the morning news.

The PSC works to ensure affordable and reliable electricity by directly regulating investor-owned electric companies.

The PSC also works with consumers to resolve disputes with utilities, along with establishing fair rates and regulations.



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You jump in the shower and turn on the hot water. Your hot water heater and furnace use natural gas...something you probably don't think about.

The PSC has inspectors that ensure the pipelines delivering natural gas meet safety standards. The PSC also directly regulates investor-owned natural gas companies and approves rates that are fair to consumers.



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You pick up the paper and see that a public hearing will be held in your community regarding the location of a proposed electric transmission line south of town. The PSC works with utilities and the public to ensure that everyone has a chance to weigh in on projects before a decision is made.

The PSC announces public hearings through notices in local newspapers, news releases sent to reporters across the state, on our website and through our Twitter account!



Follow us on Twitter  
[@NDPSC](https://twitter.com/NDPSC)

Visit our website at  
[www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov)



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You have a meeting out of town so you head onto the highway. You look out over the beautiful western North Dakota landscape. Little do you know that some of the land you are looking at is reclaimed mine land.

The PSC works to ensure that land is reclaimed back to the way it was before it was mined. Looking at it...you won't even know!

They also work to eliminate existing and potential hazards caused by abandoned surface and underground coal mines.



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While driving, you notice a train going by in the distance. The PSC works in conjunction with the Federal Rail Administration to inspect trains and over 3,000 miles of tracks for safety. The Railroad Safety Program was started in 2015 to ensure railroads operate safely and efficiently.



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You get to your meeting and several people participate on the phone via teleconference.

The PSC has varying roles when it comes to your telephone, but they work closely with telephone companies to ensure consumers are treated fairly and receive good services.



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You had a good meeting and start the trip back home. A few miles down the road, you see a row of wind towers in the distance. The PSC approves where wind towers can be

built, working to ensure that safety, environmental and landowner needs are addressed.

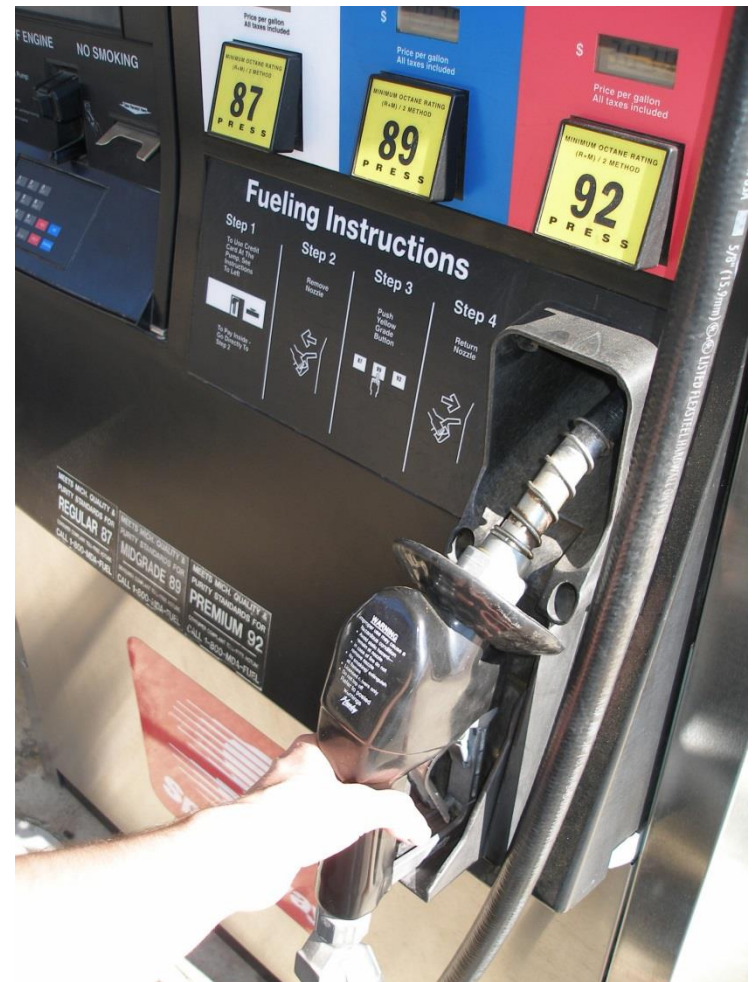
The PSC also approves siting applications for things like transmission pipelines, transmission power lines, gas processing plants, and new power plants.



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You stop at the gas station before heading home and fill up your tank. Thanks to the PSC, you are getting exactly what you paid for. Inspectors make sure that when the meter says a gallon, you are actually getting a gallon.

The Commission promotes fairness in the marketplace by enforcing state and federal laws governing the installation and operation of ALL commercial weighing and measuring devices (yes...even the scale at the checkout counter in your grocery store used to weigh vegetables).



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You get home from your meeting that evening...time to relax. There is an auction advertised in the paper you want to attend – perfect time to try and find some treasures.

That fast talking auctioneer at the front of the crowd is licensed and bonded by the Public Service Commission. (Who would have thought...SOLD!)



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