

7.

The compensation of the chairman [shall be \$16,000 per year and that of each of the other commissioners shall be 14,000 per year] AND OTHER COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET BUT IN NO CASE SHALL BE LESS THAN \$40,000 PER YEAR FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND \$35,000 PER YEAR FOR EACH OF THE OTHER FULLTIME COMMISSIONERS. Members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the standard travel regulations.

12.

The general counsel of the Commission shall be an attorney-at-law of this State and shall be appointed by, AND SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF, the [Governor upon the recommendation of the] Commission. His compensation shall be as provided in the annual State budget. [His term of office shall be two years, and he shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments are made. He may be removed by the Governor for the same reasons, and in the same manner as commissioners.]

14.

The people's counsel shall be an attorney-at-law of this State. He shall be appointed by the Governor WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. HE SHALL SERVE FULL-TIME. He shall receive an annual salary as provided in the budget WHICH MAY NOT BE LESS THAN \$35,000 PER YEAR. HE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL.

15B.

The ANNUAL BUDGET SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE OFFICE OF people's counsel [may] TO hire [from time to time, as needed, in connection with specific proceedings before the Commission,] SUCH STAFF AS IS DEEMED NECESSARY IN ADDITION TO THAT PROVIDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF § 15(C) TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES. THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL MAY HIRE, OR MAY RETAIN FROM TIME TO TIME AS REQUIRED FOR A PARTICULAR MATTER, experts in the utility regulation field including but not limited to economists, cost of capital experts, rate design experts, [and, to the extent Commission personnel cannot be utilized,] accountants, engineers, [and] transportation specialists, LAWYERS, AND ANY OTHER EXPERTS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. [An aggregate sum of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for compensation and/or expenses of these experts shall be provided in the budget, and if not used for this purpose, shall revert to the treasury; nothing] NOTHING contained herein precludes the people's