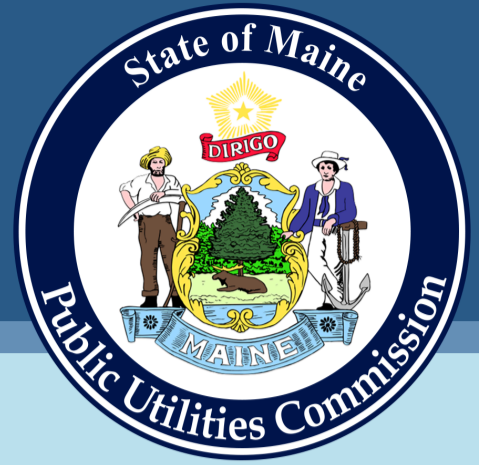


# HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

## QUICK GUIDE



### 1) KNOW

Know that this will be Quite formal. The PUC is a quasi-judicial agency of state government that operates similar to a court. The process of a public witness hearing is set up like a trial. A lawyer from the PUC staff will be designated as the "Hearing Examiner" and will take testimony from members of the public.



### 2) PREPARE

Prepare specific and concise points for your testimony. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to testify, please limit the length of your testimony. Bring utility bills or other documents that may help your testimony. Also, discuss the hearing with others in your community to encourage them to get involved.



### 3) ARRIVE

Arrive early. If you want to testify, locate the sign-up sheet to put your name on the list. The Hearing Examiner will use the list when it is time to call on people to present testimony.

### 4) GET SWORN IN

Customarily, people that wish to testify will need to be sworn in. The Hearing Examiner may administer the oath to all witnesses at once at the start or may administer oaths to individuals when it is their turn to testify.



### 5) TESTIFY

Testimony is typically on the subject of utility impacts on the consumers and/or quality of service. Share your testimony with the PUC. Speak loudly and clearly. Generally, there will not be any questions asked of you.

### 6) AFTER

Know that although **the PUC cannot respond to your testimony at the hearing**, it will be considered in the case. On occasion there could be clarifying questions asked of the witness. Testimony will be transcribed and entered into the case file.



### 7) MORE INFORMATION

If you want to follow along with the case to get updates on what is happening, you can look up the case in the PUC, Case Management System: <https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/online-services>

### 8) REMEMBER: YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

Your testimony is an important part of the process and the PUC wants to hear from consumers. This is the way the PUC can hear what consumers are concerned about. Testimony may impact PUC decisions by providing previously unknown information or new perspectives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED,  
**CHECK OUT THE PUC  
WEBSITE**



[HTTPS://WWW.MAINE.GOV/MPUC/](https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/)

