

**State of Alaska
FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Law
Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Regulatory Affairs & Public Advocacy Section exercises the Attorney General's responsibility to represent the public interest in regulatory affairs by performing the public advocacy function in utility and pipeline carrier matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and providing policy analysis on related matters.

Core Services

Effective July 1st, 2004, the Regulatory Affairs & Public Advocacy Section (RAPA) was established within the Department of Law to advocate for the public in utility and pipeline matters that come before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). Executive Order 111 had transferred the responsibility for the public advocacy function from the Regulatory Commission to the Attorney General in August of 2003. SB 392 and its accompanying fiscal notes transferred the funds and positions and created the budgetary component within Law. It also provided a funding mechanism directly from the regulatory cost charge, rather than via a reimbursable services agreement with the RCA.

The Attorney General, as the Public Advocate, determines and advocates for the public interest with particular attention to the interests of consumers who would not otherwise have an effective voice regarding the rates and services of regulated utilities operating in the state.

RAPA represents the public interest in rate cases and other proceedings before the RCA, in court appeals, before the Legislature and other policymakers. In doing so, the Attorney General utilizes the expert technical support of RAPA non-attorney professionals who provide accounting, engineering, economic and policy analysis for all types of regulated utilities and who prepare written testimony for hearing. Alaska's public advocate was admitted as a full member of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2006 Component Budget: \$1,335,400	Personnel:	
	Full time	8
	Part time	0
	Total	8

Key Component Challenges

The budgetary and personnel changes will require ongoing integration and implementation in the near term. Also, the creation of RAPA impacts the development of standards and procedures to enhance the effectiveness of our public advocacy efforts. Longer term challenges will include maintaining adequate funding for public advocacy, successful recruitment to develop additional, necessary expertise in the areas of economics and finance, and continuing professional training for existent staff.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006

No service changes are anticipated.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2004

- In addition to activities associated with ongoing investigations, the Attorney General with the support of then-RCA professional staff assigned to public advocacy conducted investigations and participated as a party in 32 separate dockets.
- During FY04, the Attorney General filed Comments or briefs in three dockets and prefiled direct testimony in twelve dockets: an electric utility rate case, a statewide refuse utility rate case, a statewide natural gas utility contract case, and nine local exchange carrier telecommunications rate cases, including depreciation study testimony.
- The section attended numerous prehearing scheduling and discovery conferences before RCA hearing examiners. The section participated in four adjudicatory hearings (in dockets involving utilities with common ownership and issues consolidated for hearing) before the RCA and was involved in numerous settlement conferences resulting in stipulations to settle issues in fourteen dockets.
- Also, the section provided legal and policy analysis for several telecommunications bills before the Legislature and testified at committee hearings regarding SB 392.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Executive Order 111 and SB 392

Contact Information
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**Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	737.5	759.6
72000 Travel	0.0	6.0	6.0
73000 Services	0.0	557.0	557.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	11.6	11.6
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	1.2	1.2
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4
Funding Sources:			
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0
1141 RCA Receipts	0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4
Funding Totals	0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Alaska Public Utilities Comm. Receipts	51066	0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4
Restricted Total		0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	1,313.3	1,335.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2005 Management Plan	0.0	0.0	1,313.3	1,313.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-FY 05 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: GGU	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5
-FY06 Cost Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	0.0	0.0	15.4	15.4
-Adjustments for Personal Services Working Reserve Rates and SBS	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.2
FY2006 Governor	0.0	0.0	1,335.4	1,335.4

**Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2005</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2006</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	8	8	Annual Salaries	553,474
Part-time	0	0	COLA	5,733
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	251,969
			<i>Less 2.96% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(23,976)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	8	8	Total Personal Services	787,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Attorney IV	1	0	0	0	1
Attorney VI	1	0	0	0	1
Chief, RCA Advocacy	1	0	0	0	1
Economist III	1	0	0	0	1
Law Office Assistant I	1	0	0	0	1
Utility Eng Analyst IV	1	0	0	0	1
Utility Fin Analyst III	2	0	0	0	2
Totals	8	0	0	0	8