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Date: March 28, 2003  
Budget page: PUC-1 – Volume I

**General Government  
Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Budget Highlights**

**Budget Account: 3920 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

	2002 Actual	2003 W. P.	% Chg	2004 Gov Rec	% Chg	2005 Gov Rec	% Chg
<b>Revenues</b>							
BALANCE FORWARD	-1,199,391	4,863,939	-505.53	5,009,697	3.00	4,373,669	-12.70
FEDERAL FUND	174,731	140,795	-19.42	174,731	24.10	174,731	
INTER AGENCY							
TRANSFER	70,245	114,464	62.95	70,245	-38.63	70,245	
OTHER FUND	11,577,559	10,546,396	-8.91	10,992,590	4.23	11,089,765	.88
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>10,623,144</b>	<b>15,665,594</b>	<b>47.47</b>	<b>16,247,263</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>15,708,410</b>	<b>-3.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Base				16,247,263	100.00	16,197,029	103.11
Maintenance						-261,504	-1.66
Enhancement						-227,115	-1.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<b>16,247,263</b>		<b>15,708,410</b>	
<b>Total FTE</b>		<b>87.00</b>		<b>88.00</b>		<b>88.00</b>	

**Overview**

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is comprised of three commissioners whose responsibilities are to balance the interests of customers of public utilities to receive safe and adequate service with reasonable rates while providing shareholders of public utilities the opportunity to earn a fair return on their investment. The PUC is also responsible for railroad safety and natural gas pipeline inspection programs.

**Major Issues**

1. Legislative History.
2. No provisions for expanding the PUC from three to five commissioners.
3. New Hearings Officer position.
4. Mill assessment/reserves.

**Discussion of Major Issues**

1. Legislative History: Assembly Bill 366 (1997) provided the framework for utility deregulation in Nevada. Customers were scheduled to obtain potentially competitive services from alternative sellers no later than December 31, 1999, unless the PUC or the Governor determined that a different date was necessary to protect the public interest. Senate Bill 438 (1999) revised the date customers could begin receiving potentially competitive services from December 31, 1999 to March 1, 2000 and provided a three-year cap on the rates of Nevada's two investor-owned electric utilities. On February 28, 2000, the Governor indefinitely postponed the effective date of deregulation due to ongoing issues in opening the markets, along with unstable energy markets in the west.

The 2001 Legislature approved Assembly Bill 369 repealing the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes that provided for the opening of competitive electric markets and reinstated the traditional regulation of electric