

**Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Annual Report of Financial Impact of Videoconferencing Activities
Period Covered: January-December 2020**

Date Prepared: January 31, 2021

During calendar year 2020, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina conducted most hearings using videoconferencing as a means of all parties' participation in the proceedings. With the Covid19 pandemic onset in March 2020, the Commission had to immediately cancel a night hearing scheduled for 03/12. With another night hearing already scheduled for 03/19, the following week, the Commission was able to allow participation from the public by conference lines. For the 03/19 night hearing, there were 50 audio conference attendees who called in to testify (22 witnesses actually testified along with two political officials' statements). The night hearing held on 06/22 had 47 audio conference attendees who called in to testify (32 witnesses actually testified along with two officials' statements). Live stream data is shown in the table below:

	Total Events (Live)	Total Events (On-Demand)	Monthly Total
July 2019	206	561	767
August 2019	670	70	740
September 2019	389	10	399
October 2019	1,878	35	1,913
November 2019	485	85	570
December 2019	724	47	771
January 2020	351	24	375
February 2020	804	28	832
March 2020	753	24	777
April 2020	336	10	346
May 2020	545	14	559
June 2020	530	37	567
FY 19-20 TOTALS	7,671	945	8,616

The "Live" sessions totals include replays, including "play" and "pause", of the original events. The "On-Demand" sessions are the livestream events that were viewed after the conclusion of the live event.

The Commission was already live streaming hearings and business meetings prior to Covid19. With the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, the Commission began holding virtual hearings via Skype in March. The number of Virtual Events held between March and June is shown in the following schedule:

Virtual Commission Events during COVID-19 Pandemic		
	Virtual Commission Meetings	Virtual Hearings
March 2020	2	1
April 2020	4	7
May 2020	5	4
June 2020	4	2
TOTALS	15	14

There were actually 140 persons participating virtually in PSC meetings and hearings for FY20 as shown in the chart below. The bulk of those participating virtually occurred between March and June 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. These numbers also do not include those persons watching the live streams which is shown in the first schedule above.

The Commission is currently adding WebEx as another platform for participation in the Commission's business affairs and will continue to seek opportunities to enhance participation capabilities.

Virtual Participants in Commission Events			
	Hearing Examiner	Witnesses/ Presenters	Counsel/ Reps
July '19	1		
Aug '19		5	
Sept '19			
Oct '19	2		
Nov '19			
Dec '19			
Jan '20			
Feb '20	1	2	1
Mar '20		25	2
Apr '20		2	19
May '20		8	16
Jun '20		42	14
Totals	4	84	52

Additionally, Commission Consideration Public Interviews of the Prospective Contractors Who Responded to the Request for Proposal Issued Pursuant to Commission Order No. 2020-789 and Solicitation No. 5400020652 was conducted via videoconferencing, allowing multiple interviewees, during the Commission meeting on 12/16/2020.

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