

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is pleased to be participating in the D.C. Historical Studies Conference with a panel presentation on

“A Crying Need’: 100 Years of Regulating Washington’s Public Utilities”



1913 Women's Suffrage March



William McK. Clayton, founding President of the Federation of Citizens Associations, successfully lobbied for the creation of the Public Utility Commission (PUC).



President Taft signs legislation creating the PUC, March 4, 1913.



Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., speaks at a citizen's meeting to protest Capital Transit's refusal to hire African-American drivers, 1942.



PUC Chairman Hayes testifies before House District Committee in mid-1950s. The PUC name changed to Public Service Commission (PSC) in 1964.



Commissioners listen to citizen testifying at a community hearing.



Demonstrators protesting before a Pepco rate case hearing.



Citizens participating in a Smart Meter Working Group meeting.

Saturday, November 16, 2013

The Historical Society of Washington D.C. / Carnegie Library

801 K Street, N.W. at Mount Vernon Square

Washington, D.C. 20001

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Conference Fee (November 14-17): \$20

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (PSC) will continue to celebrate its Centennial Anniversary during the 40th Annual Conference hosted by The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. on November 14-17, 2013. The theme of the conference is “Marching on Washington—A Diverse Range of Anniversaries” which will also highlight the Centennial Anniversary of the 1913 Women’s Suffrage March, the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, and the 40th Anniversary of the 1973 Home Rule Act in the District.

In 1913, the notion that huge corporations that provided electric, natural gas, streetcar, and telephone services should benefit consumers as well as investors was relatively new. Congress balked but, long before Home Rule, D.C. citizens pushed until a PUC was established which 100 years later regulates electric, natural gas, and local telephone providers in the District. On Saturday, November 16 at 12:30 p.m., the PSC will present a panel discussion on “A Crying Need’: 100 Years of Regulating Washington’s Public Utilities.” Beginning in the mid-1950s, two PUC/PSC Chairmen used their civil rights litigation experience to broaden the PSC’s authority to effect the kind of changes in the utility industry that people were marching for in the streets. The presentations will showcase the PUC’s creation by Congress and the President with much grassroots support; early struggles to establish itself; changes in its responsibilities and membership; and how the Office of the People’s Counsel, public advocacy groups and individual citizens have played a major role in shaping issues before the PSC such as low-income programs and the affordability of rates, reliability, quality of service, energy efficiency and environmental quality, competition, and consumer education. Please contact Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman on 202-626-5100 if you have any questions.

Panelists:

Moderator: Betty Ann Kane, Chairman, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
“A Crying Need’: 100 Years of Regulating Washington’s Public Utilities”

Mara Cherkasky and Bill Rice, RCR Associates
“A Photographic History of the DC Public Service Commission’s First Century”

Marie Johns, L&L Consulting
“Bringing the Public to the Table: Citizen Involvement with the D.C. Public Service Commission”

Please register on-line at The Historical Society of Washington D.C. website
at: <https://secure.donationpay.org/historydc/marching2013.php>

Feel free to bring your lunch.