



**STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**CANDIDATES FOR THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
EDITED PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**NOTICE:** The information requested herein is needed to assist the Committee in its investigation of candidates for the Public Service Commission. This questionnaire is the initial step in the investigation of your candidacy. A completed questionnaire should be returned to the Committee as soon as possible, but in any event no later than noon, 12:00 p.m., on Friday, October 11, 2019. (Use and attach separate sheets, if necessary.)

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**PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING (THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE; YOU MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE SEAT):** Charleston

1. Full Name: Mr. George Robert Newman  
Ms.

Home Address: 1836 Delacourt Ave.  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

Business Address: 1836 Delacourt Ave.  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

6. List each institution of higher learning you attended, including dates of attendance and degrees awarded. Please provide an official transcript prior to your screening hearing. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving.

1. North Carolina State University – First 2 years of Mechanical Engineering, Left to transfer to the University of Tennessee to concentrate on Machine Design.
2. University of Tennessee – Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering 1968
3. United States Navy Officer Candidate School – Commissioned Officer US Navy 1970
4. University of Tennessee – Master of Science Mechanical Engineering 1974

7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years.

Finance and Accounting for Engineers – Preparation to assume job as President of International business. (More than five years ago)  
Marine Diesel Engine Surveying Course

Several Marine Surveyor Seminars

8. Have you been employed or held any position in any of the following areas?

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (a) energy issues  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (b) telecommunications issues  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (c) consumer protection and advocacy issues  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (d) water and wastewater issues  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (e) finance, economics, and statistics  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (f) accounting  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (g) engineering  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (h) law

Please provide the duration of your employment or service and details about the nature of the work or the position.

**Energy Issues** – My first energy experience was operation of ships service turbo steam generators for the US Navy. Each generator had a 1 megawatt capacity. This included the technical side and the operational side of several multi megawatt steam driven power plants. I was in the US Navy for 3 years doing this type of work. Next, I was a Board Member for the Fairmont Minnesota Public Utilities Commission which included electric power generation, and electricity distribution. I held this position for about 4 years. Following this I was the final decision maker on purchase of electrical power by a multinational business. I was President of this business for 21 years.

**Telecommunications** – I was a decision maker for remote customer energy usage data transmission. Also, I have been involved in the CAN BUS (Controller Area Network sometimes called distributed input output) system.

**Water and Wastewater** – As a Board Member of the Fairmont Public Utilities Commission I was involved in the major decision-making process for the potable water system, storm drainage piping, and wastewater treatment.

**Finance, economics, and statistics and Accounting** – For the last 21 years of my career job I was President of Harsco Rail: See <https://www.harscorail.com/> In this business we design, manufacture, and market heavy, highly complex, railroad track construction and maintenance machinery for railways around the world. As President of this company I was ultimately responsible for the balance sheet, income statement, and use of funds. We also arranged for finance for our customers including the United States Export Import Bank, and other financing sources. Major parts of this work were large purchases for our machinery by the Ministry of Railroads of China. I was involved with railroad customers worldwide. Another field of Finance I worked in is Performance Bonds. As President I was 100% responsible for the Profit and Loss (P&L) of this unit of a public company. I was deeply involved in promoting this public company to Equity Analysts which included making positive presentation about the company, but being very accurate to prevent over positive expectations. I was a member of the company negotiating team for labor agreements with the UAW (United Auto Workers). As President of the Company I was the final decision maker on these labor agreements. We have two plants that are unionized and one plant in West Columbia that was non-union. There was a one year

attempt to unionize the West Columbia plant, and using a labor attorney for advice I led the company effort to keep the union out which was successful. I learned over the years that having an organized workforce in our out of state plants was not so difficult, and in some cases, an advantage, but my preference was to stay non-union in our South Carolina plant.

**Engineering** – My formal training for both my bachelor’s and master’s degrees is in Mechanical Engineering. I started my career designing heavy Diesel Powered, electronically / hydraulically controlled machinery. As I progressed in Engineering, I worked my way up to Manager of Research and Development, then Vice President Operations, and finally as President of this large multinational company. I served as President for 21 years. Additionally, I was an Engineering Duty Officer for the United States Navy. Presently I instruct United States Navy Nuclear Power Sailors as a Volunteer on the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant / Charleston, South Carolina. The Navy Nuclear Power Training Command is in Goose Creek, South Carolina. This school trains enlisted and officers, and I provide engineering tours to these students on USS Yorktown CV 10. During the tour I explain the difference between fossil fuel propulsion/electrical power generation and nuclear power generation. I lead discussion on boilers, high pressure steam turbines, low pressure steam turbines, condensers, and many other components such as feedwater pumps. After retiring from my 36 years with Harsco Rail (present name) I started a successful engineering consulting business “Robert Newman Engineering LLC.” In this business I provide railroad track engineering services and expert witness in railroad engineering. See <http://www.railwayexpertwitness.com/index2.html>

**Law** – As President of Harsco Rail, located in Cayce – West Columbia, South Carolina, all legal matters had to at least pass through my approval. I was deeply involved with Patent Law and Products Liability. Additionally, I was involved in a great amount of detail in contract law. Most of our contract law involved foreign customers and attorneys who specialize in foreign contract law. The main issue was always making sure we got paid by our customers under the terms of each contract.

9. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates of service, branch of service, highest rank, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD-214 prior to your screening hearing. I served in the United States Navy, and my DD – 214 is included in this submission. I was on active duty from 1969 until 1972. Also included is a document showing that I earned the rank of Lieutenant in the Navy which is equivalent to Captain in the US Army. I have an Honorable Discharge, and my serial number is 758620. Currently I am honorably discharged and in the inactive reserve.
  
10. Have you ever held public office? If so, provide details, including the office, whether elected or appointed, the length and dates of your service. Also, state whether or not you timely filed reports with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty. If so, provide details, including dates. I have not held public office. I was appointed by the Mayor to serve as Public Utility Commission Board Member for the Fairmont, Minnesota Utility.

11. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, provide details, including dates. No
  
12. Please list in chronological order any employment of you by any governmental agency (whether full time or part time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise). Provide dates of employment, name of employer, name of supervisor, and major job responsibilities.
  1. United States Navy – Mr. Curtis Hinton Main Propulsion Assistant, My position was Engineering Duty Officer aboard USS Albany CG 10 and Supervisor of Shipbuilding Conversion and Control Jacksonville, Florida 1969 – 1972.
  2. Fairmont Public Utility Commission – Mr. Richard Wade, 1989 – 1992 I was a Board Member.
  
13. Please list in chronological order any occupation, business, or profession in which you have been engaged or employed (other than serving in a public office or being employed by a governmental agency). Please briefly note the nature of your work during each period.
  1. Sanford Day Division of Long Airdox – 1968 – 1970 – Design Engineer Mining Machinery
  2. United States Navy – Engineering Duty Officer 1969 - 1972
  3. Harsco Rail – Design Engineer 1974 – 1976
  4. Harsco Rail – Manager of Research and Development 1977 – 1982
  5. Harsco Rail – Vice President of Operations (Engineering and Manufacturing)
  6. Harsco Rail – President 1986 – 2007 Full P and L responsibility for this public company
  7. Robert Newman Engineering LLC – Railroad and Marine Engineering Consulting: Railroad Track Engineering and Expert Witness
  
14. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain. Yes. I now do consulting and expert witness work for railroads. My customers have generally been Class I US Railroads and Transit Systems such as Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, CSX, coal mines, Long Island Railroad and others. Often, I am working for law firms representing railroads. See: <http://www.railwayexpertwitness.com/index2.html> Additionally, I am on the

Advisory Board of Directors for a family owned railroad track machinery business in Alabama. The company is Knox Kershaw Inc. located in Montgomery, AL. You are welcome to talk to the owner Mr. Knox Kershaw, and I will be happy to arrange your call to him.

15. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships that you currently have or have had in the past that could pose a conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. I have no potential conflicts. All of my investments are personal such as mutual fund equities, and I am not in partnership with any other person or company. I would resolve any potential conflict by not entering into any business, investment, or organization which would create a conflict of interest during my period as a Public Service Commission or after my tenure with the PUC. For my entire career I had to follow and know Corporate Governance as part of a USA public company.
20. Have you ever been a named party in a lawsuit, either personally or professionally? If so, provide details. No
22. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(14)? No If so, please provide the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
23. Since your decision to seek a position on the Public Service Commission, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value, as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(1), from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No If so, please specify the item(s) received, date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal providing the item(s).
26. Other than expenditures for travel or room and board, please itemize all expenditures (by amount, type, and date) by you, or on your behalf, in seeking the office of Public Service Commissioner. None other than I paid \$10 to the University of Tennessee for my transcripts.
27. Please list the amount and recipient of all contributions made to members of the General Assembly within six months of filing this questionnaire. None

28. Have you directly or indirectly requested a pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No  
Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No
29. Have you or has anyone on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy for the position of Public Service Commissioner? No If so, please specify the amount, solicitor (if applicable), donor, and date of solicitation and/or receipt. None
30. List all professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.  
Registered Professional Engineer South Carolina Registration # 16987  
Patriots Point / USS Yorktown Volunteer Member – Specialist Engineering and Nuclear Power Sailor Education
31. List all civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five (5) years.  
Patriots Point / USS Yorktown Volunteer Member
32. State any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on you, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for a position on the Public Service Commission. I plan to work 10 more years. I want to do more work than my current engineering consulting practice provides. I was a Public Utilities Commission Board Member for Fairmont, MN for several years. My business career with Harsco Rail required so much international travel I had to resign from the Fairmont, MN Public Utility Commission.
33. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom references could be required. Also, provide this Committee with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature. A photocopy, facsimile, or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation will not be accepted.

**Original Response:**

- 1) **Harley Doug Ferguson**
- 2) **Charles A. Spears**
- 3) **Thomas Ford**
- 4) **Banker Letter**
- 5) **Don Benza**
- 6) **John Collins**
- 7) **Andy Clawson**

**Amended Response:**

- 1) **Harley Doug Ferguson**
- 2) **Thomas Ford**
- 3) **John McCardell**
- 4) **Banker Letter**
- 5) **John Collins**

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY RECORD INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Collins", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 9/23/2019

***PLEASE NOTE: S.C. CODE SECTIONS REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE CONTAINED IN THE PDQ CODE REFERENCES DOCUMENT.***

**I ACKNOWLEDGE, AS A CANDIDATE, THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE PROVIDED ON THE USB FLASH DRIVE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPLICATION MATERIALS AND ARE ACCESSIBLE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE'S WEBSITE:**

- (1) An Introduction to the Public Service Commission;**
- (2) The press release issued by the Committee announcing the start of its application process;**
- (3) An Advisory Opinion relating to attendance by candidates for the Public Service Commission at legislative receptions;**
- (4) An Advisory Opinion relating to attendance by candidates for the Public Service Commission at legislative caucus meetings;**
- (5) The Judicial Code of Conduct;**
- (6) Statutory definitions and statute concerning pledges; and**
- (7) Information regarding accessing your credit report.**

**Signature:**

**Date:**