

South Carolina House of Representatives

Ways and Means

Transportation and Regulatory  
Subcommittee



Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Budget Report

2024-2025

## Key Officials



Commissioner  
Carolyn "Carolee" Williams  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 1



Commissioner, Chair  
Florence P. Belser  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 2



Commissioner  
Stephen M. "Mike" Caston  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 3



Commissioner  
Thomas J. "Tom" Ervin  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 4



Commissioner  
Headen B. Thomas  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 5



Commissioner  
Justin T. Williams  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 6



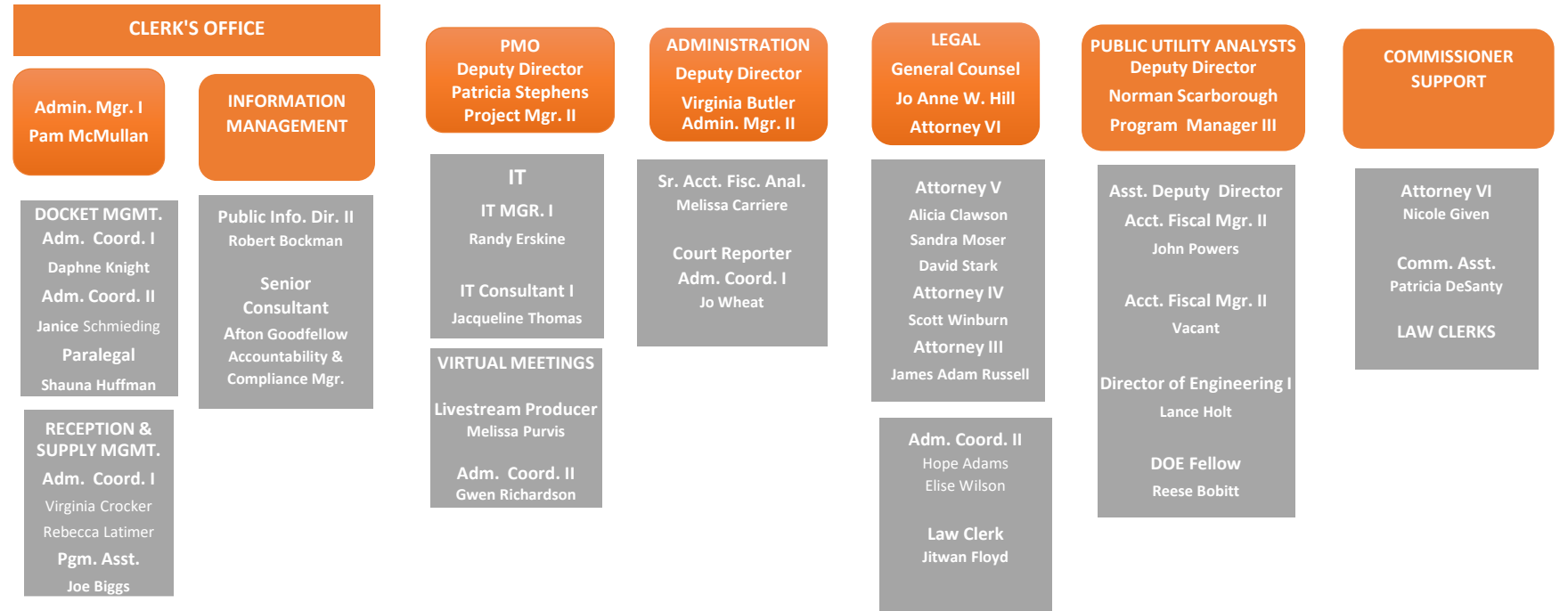
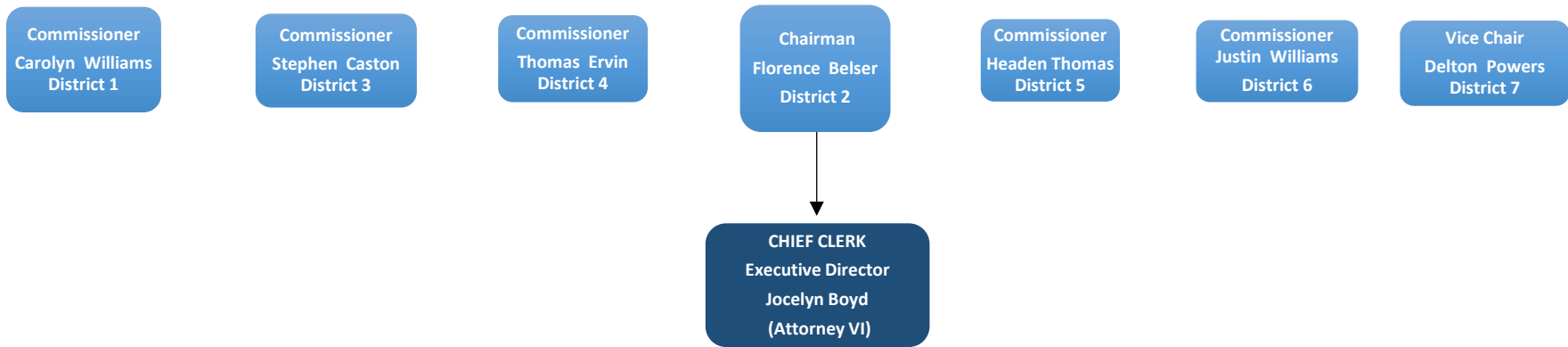
Commissioner, Vice Chair  
Delton W. Powers, Jr.  
(803) 896-5100  
Representing District 7

Chief Clerk  
Jocelyn Boyd  
Columbia, SC  
(803) 896-5100

## Agency Overview

<b>AGENCY MISSION</b>	Regulate just and reasonable rates and services of public utilities in the state.
<b>AGENCY VISION</b>	Safe and reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates.

Program/Title	Purpose
Administrative	Manages the administrative operations of the Public Service Commission - Finance, Procurement, and Human Resources.
Clerk's Office	Processes applications and filings, communicates with the public/industries, and supports public databases of Commission activity.
Commissioners	Adjudicates cases involving investor-owned electric and gas utility companies, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications companies, motor carriers of household goods, hazardous waste disposal, and taxicabs.
Commissioner Support	Provides professional legal expertise and legal research for the Commissioners regarding Commission dockets and caseload.
Legal	Serves as legal counsel in Commission proceedings, as well as advisors to Commissioners.
Project Management Office	Facilitates Project Management; Information Technology; Strategic Planning; Risk Management; Information Security; Contract Administration for Technology, Security, and PSC Building Services.
Public Utility Analysts Office	Serves as accounting, economic and engineering advisors to the Commissioners.



## **Public Service Commission of South Carolina**

### **FTE Breakdown**

**12/19/2023**

The Public Service Commission currently has 44 approved FTE positions:

Commissioners	7
Classified Exempt	22
Classified Non-exempt	10
Vacant Positions	5

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission or PSC) regulates the rates and services of investor-owned public utilities in the State of South Carolina and has limited jurisdiction related to the South Carolina Public Service Authority (“Santee Cooper”). With over 100 years of service to the state of South Carolina, the PSC establishes just and reasonable standards for their rates and services.

### **Executive Summary of Achievements**

#### **Strategic Goal I: Optimize the Effectiveness of Commission Processes and Systems**

- Phases V, VI, and VII of the Docket Management System Enhancement Project were completed during the year. The updates included modified Notices of Electronic Filing (NEF), added information to Docket detail pages, and increased functionality by giving users the ability to create duplicate filings to file in multiple dockets.
- The Commission continued to review its regulations pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-23-120(J). Five hearings on Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 of Chapter 103 of the S.C. Code of Regulations were held, and two workshops were conducted by Commission Staff.

#### **Strategic Goal II: Promote Operational Excellence & Transparency**

- The Commission’s fiscal year 2022-2023 ad campaign resulted in a 19% increase in traffic to PSC websites.
- The Commission produced and published 20 Public Information Notices (PINs), exceeding its goal of one dozen. Two of the PINs were advertised nationally.

#### **Strategic Goal III: Embrace Risk Management**

- A risk assessment was conducted via a survey to employees. Opportunities for improvement were noted regarding internet usage, building security, and emergency plans.
- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Training was held for Commissioners and Staff.

#### **Strategic Goal IV: Maintain Commitment to an Engaged Adjudicatory Process**

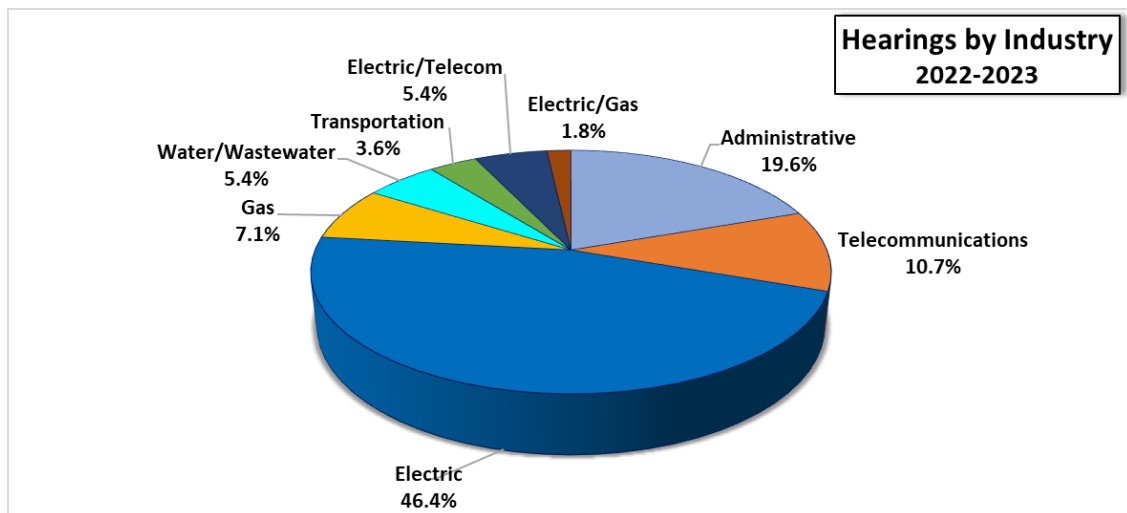
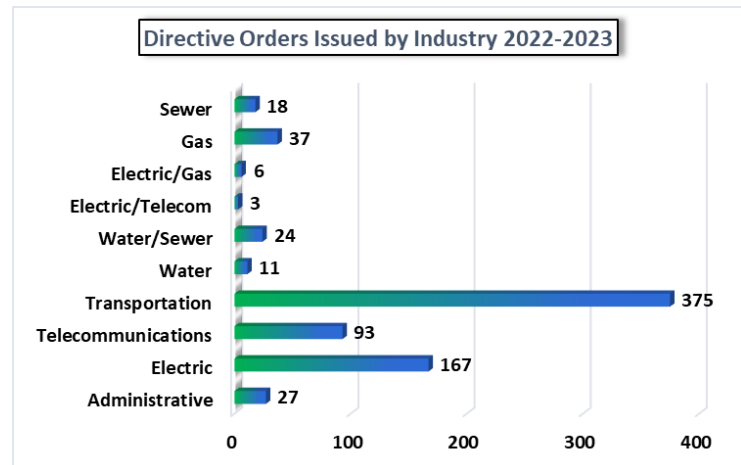
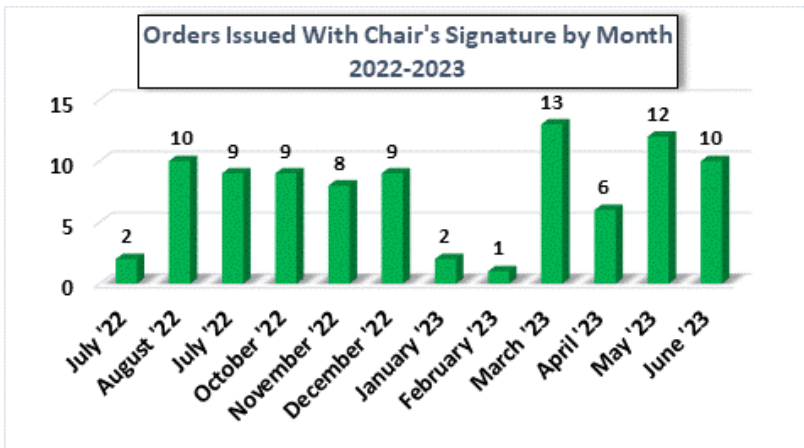
- The PSC hosted three in-house educational sessions during the year with external experts from the Regulatory Assistance Project, U.S. Department of Energy, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on Performance Based Ratemaking and Grid Resilience.
- Commissioners and Staff participated in over 760 hours of professional education.
- Annual Ethics Training was conducted in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-30 (C).

For the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to carry out its mission, the Commission must be alert to and anticipate emerging issues in the industries it regulates, including federal regulatory developments. Maintaining effective communications with its stakeholders through social media and public notices aids in achieving this goal.

The Commission continues to improve its hearing procedures to provide accessible, transparent, and effective regulation of public utilities and to provide the public with clear information about the regulatory process and its decisions. To increase transparency and engagement with public utility consumers, the Commission continues the implementation of a more robust communications platform, including its SC Utility Consumer website, social media accounts, advertisement campaign, and its livestreaming platform. The livestream averaged 1,840 users per month (live and on-demand) during the year, with visitors averaging five minutes and thirty-eight seconds each visit.

An ongoing goal of the Commission is to improve its operations through technological advances. As opportunities are identified, the Commission investigates both costs and benefits before taking the appropriate actions.

The Commission’s primary duty is to adjudicate cases involving the state’s investor-owned utilities. This past fiscal year, the Commission opened 450 new dockets, including non-docketed items, held 41 hearings, issued 91 orders, and 726 directive orders. In 2021-2022, the PSC issued 366 orders and 423 directive orders. The Commission saw a significant increase and decrease to its Directive Orders and Orders, respectively, during the fiscal year. This is a direct result of Act 214 of 2022, which amended the Commission’s regulatory authority of motor vehicle carriers. Notably, the Commission issued its orders within an average of 38 days between Commission Directive and Order issuance. The following charts breakdown this work product by industry. A total of 7,462 matters were posted on the Commission’s Docket Management System (DMS). The Commission also held 44 Commission Business Meetings during the year. The Commission also held nine customer public hearings virtually and in-person throughout the year.



Hearings & Allowable <i>Ex Partes</i> by Industry									
Fiscal Year	Administrative	Telecommunications	Electric	Gas	Water/Wastewater	Transportation	Electric/Telecom	Electric/Gas	TOTAL
2018-2019	2	7	24	2	4	20	0	0	59
2019-2020	5	7	16	4	8	18	0	0	58
2020-2021	12	7	15	4	3	22	0	0	63
2021-2022	12	4	21	8	3	14	0	0	62
2022-2023	11	6	26	4	3	2*	3	1	56

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**Budget vs Actual Expenditures (as of 01/04/2024)**

**FUND 30350000 OPERATING FUND**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>Administration</b>				
501014	Executive Director	147,390.00	43,904.19	103,485.81	29.8%
501026	Chairman	144,355.00	72,917.81	71,437.19	50.5%
501033	Commissioners	854,061.00	438,602.71	415,458.29	51.4%
501050	Subsistence	75,000.00	39,481.41	35,518.59	52.6%
501058	Classified Positions	2,854,735.00	1,262,785.79	1,591,949.21	44.2%
501070	Temporary Positions	101,872.00	9,454.50	92,417.50	9.3%
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>4,177,413.00</b>	<b>1,867,146.41</b>	<b>2,310,266.59</b>	<b>44.7%</b>
512001	Other Operating	1,834,372.00	714,225.52	1,120,146.48	38.9%
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>6,011,785.00</b>	<b>2,581,371.93</b>	<b>3,430,413.07</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
	<b>State Employer Contr</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	1,664,837.00	714,506.42	950,330.58	42.9%
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>1,664,837.00</b>	<b>714,506.42</b>	<b>950,330.58</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b>Total Operating Appropriations</b>		<b>7,676,622.00</b>	<b>3,295,878.35</b>	<b>4,380,743.65</b>	<b>42.9%</b>

**34170002 SANTEE COOPER FUND**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>Administration</b>				
501014	Executive Director	3,963.44	310.96	3,652.48	7.8%
501026	Chairman	4,347.13	284.11	4,063.02	6.5%
501033	Commissioners	5,656.33	1,668.29	3,988.04	29.5%
501058	Classified Positions	26,663.08	7,813.56	18,849.52	29.3%
501070	Temporary Positions	852.31	-	852.31	0.0%
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>41,482.29</b>	<b>10,076.92</b>	<b>31,405.37</b>	<b>24.3%</b>
512001	Other Operating	831,753.25	249,116.00	582,637.25	30.0%
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>873,235.54</b>	<b>259,192.92</b>	<b>614,042.62</b>	<b>29.7%</b>
	<b>State Employer Contr</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	12,984.84	3,709.38	9,275.46	28.6%
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>12,984.84</b>	<b>3,709.38</b>	<b>9,275.46</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
<b>Total Santee Cooper Appropriations</b>		<b>886,220.38</b>	<b>262,902.30</b>	<b>623,318.08</b>	<b>29.7%</b>



**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**Budget vs Actual Expenditures (as of 01/04/2024)**

**10010000 GENERAL FUND**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>Administration</b>				
501058	Classified Positions	1,302.00	-	1,302.00	0.0%
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>1,302.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,302.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>1,302.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,302.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	<b>State Employer Contr</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	15.00	-	15.00	0.0%
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>15.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total General Fund Appropriations</b>		<b>1,317.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,317.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**10050024 GENERAL FUND-NONRECURRING APPROPRTN-FY24**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>SC Integration Study</b>				
561000	Miscellaneous Operations	250,000.00	-	250,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total SC Integration Study</b>		<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total General Fund-Non-Recurring Approptrn-FY24</b>		<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**30240000 HR-PR DEFAULT**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>HR Pay Only</b>				
501060	Unclassified Positions	-	422.93	(422.93)	N/A
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>422.93</b>	<b>(422.93)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total HR Pay Only</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>422.93</b>	<b>(422.93)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Employer Contributions</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	-	63.40	(63.40)	N/A
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>63.40</b>	<b>(63.40)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total PR Liabilities Fund</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>486.33</b>	<b>(486.33)</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**  
**Budget vs Actual Expenditures**

**30350000 OPERATING FUND**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>Administration</b>				
501014	Executive Director	144,377.00	143,340.24	1,036.76	99.3%
501026	Chairman	141,401.00	138,940.38	2,460.62	98.3%
501033	Commissioners	836,599.00	834,110.76	2,488.24	99.7%
501050	Subsistence	60,000.00	52,132.28	7,867.72	86.9%
501058	Classified Positions	2,431,767.00	2,252,605.90	179,161.10	92.6%
501070	Temporary Positions	94,831.00	94,652.06	178.94	99.8%
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>3,708,975.00</b>	<b>3,515,781.62</b>	<b>193,193.38</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
512001	Other Operating	1,168,610.00	1,046,758.17	121,851.83	89.6%
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>4,877,585.00</b>	<b>4,562,539.79</b>	<b>315,045.21</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
	<b>Employer Contributions</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	1,428,801.00	1,305,463.55	123,337.45	91.4%
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>1,428,801.00</b>	<b>1,305,463.55</b>	<b>123,337.45</b>	<b>91.4%</b>
<b>Total Operating Appropriations</b>		<b>6,306,386.00</b>	<b>5,868,003.34</b>	<b>438,382.66</b>	<b>93.0%</b>

**34170002 SANTEE COOPER OPERATING FUND**

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Expended</b>
	<b>Administration</b>				
501014	Executive Director	5,000.00	1,036.56	3,963.44	20.7%
501026	Chairman	5,000.00	652.87	4,347.13	13.1%
501033	Commissioners	10,000.00	4,343.67	5,656.33	43.4%
501058	Classified Positions	20,000.00	18,336.92	1,663.08	91.7%
501070	Temporary Positions	1,000.00	147.69	852.31	14.8%
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>41,000.00</b>	<b>24,517.71</b>	<b>16,482.29</b>	<b>59.8%</b>
512001	Other Operating	928,314.00	61,560.75	866,753.25	6.6%
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>969,314.00</b>	<b>86,078.46</b>	<b>883,235.54</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
	<b>Employer Contributions</b>				
513000	Employer Contributions	12,000.00	9,015.16	2,984.84	75.1%
<b>Total Employer Contributions</b>		<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>9,015.16</b>	<b>2,984.84</b>	<b>75.1%</b>
<b>Total Santee Cooper Operating</b>		<b>981,314.00</b>	<b>95,093.62</b>	<b>886,220.38</b>	<b>9.7%</b>

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SC  
SCEIS CASH BY FUND  
CARRY FORWARD AMOUNTS FOR FY2024**

▼ Fund	▼	▼ Beginning Balance
30240000	PR LIABILITIES	-\$287.88 *
30350000	OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 2,387,138.14 **
34170002	SPECIAL OPER - SANTEE	\$886,220.33
39580000	SALE OF ASSETS	\$6,114.09
		\$ 3,279,184.68

\* Payroll Liabilities

\*\* Includes \$200 petty cash.