7825.5500 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO LOBBYING EXPENDITURES.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purpose of parts 7825.5500 to 7825.5700, the following definitions shall apply.

Subp. 2. **Commission.** "Commission" means the Public Utilities Commission.

Subp. 3. **Lobbying expenditure.** "Lobbying expenditure" means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing legislation or administrative action or supporting the election of any candidate to office. Lobbying expenditures also include the pro rata portion of salaries of lobbyists which represents the portion of their duties related to lobbying. Lobbying expenditures do not include any expense properly allowable under FPC Account 928, regulatory commission expenses.

Subp. 4. **Lobbyist.** "Lobbyist" means any individual or association engaged for pay or other consideration or authorized by a public utility to spend money who spends more than five hours in any month or more than $250, not including travel expenses and membership dues, in any year, for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials. "Lobbyist" does not include any person engaged in formal rate cases before a regulatory body.

Subp. 5. **Public utility.** "Public utility" is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.02, subdivision 4 and shall also include municipally owned utilities.

Subp. 6. **Utility nonoperating expense.** "Utility nonoperating expense" means expenditures associated with activities other than those resulting from the regular activity of supplying energy and service to the consumer.

Subp. 7. **Utility operating expense.** "Utility operating expense" means expenditures associated with the direct or regular activity of supplying energy and service to the consumer.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 216B.08; 216B.10; 216B.12*

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