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For further information, contact the Office of the President, Inter-American Foundation, 901 North Stuart Street, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone, 703–841–3810.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

Twelfth Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423
Phone, 202–927–7119

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Vice Chairman	GUS A. OWEN
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Deputy General Counsel	ELLEN D. HANSON
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Assistant Secretary	ANNE K. QUINLAN
Chief, Section of Records	EDWARD C. FERNANDEZ

Chief, Section of Licensing	(VACANCY)
Chief, Section of Publications	ELLEN R. KEYS

[For the Interstate Commerce Commission statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 49, Part 1011]

The Interstate Commerce Commission regulates interstate surface transportation, including trains, trucks, buses, water carriers, household goods transporters, freight forwarders, transportation brokers, and pipelines that are not regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The regulatory laws vary depending on the type of transportation; however, they generally involve certification of carriers seeking to provide transportation for the public and regulation of their rates, adequacy of service, and carrier consolidations. The Commission assures that the public receives shipping rates and services that are fair and reasonable.

The Interstate Commerce Commission was created as an independent regulatory agency by act of February 4, 1887 (49 U.S.C. 10301 *et seq.*), now known as the Interstate Commerce Act.

The Commission's responsibilities include regulation of carriers engaged in transportation in interstate commerce and in foreign commerce to the extent that it takes place within the United States. Surface transportation under the Commission's jurisdiction includes railroads, trucking companies, bus lines, household goods transporters, freight forwarders, water carriers, transportation brokers, and pipelines that are not regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Commission's authority has been strengthened and its jurisdiction broadened by subsequent legislation, such as the Hepburn Act, the Panama Canal Act, the Motor Carrier Act of 1935, and the Transportation Acts of 1920, 1940, and 1958.

However, in more recent legislation, beginning with the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801), the Commission's statutory mandate has been altered to provide for less regulation over carrier rates and practices. This fundamental shift in national transportation policy has proceeded in the Motor Carrier Act of 1980, the Staggers Rail Act of 1980, the Household Goods Transportation Act of 1980, the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982, the Surface Freight Forwarder Deregulation Act of 1986, the Negotiated Rates Act of 1993, and the Trucking Industry Regulatory Reform Act of 1994. These measures provided for a sharply reduced Federal role in regulating the trucking, railroad, and bus industries.

The Chairman is designated by the President from among the five Commissioners. The Commissioners elect their own Vice Chairman annually and may delegate certain duties and functions to individual Commissioners or to boards consisting of not less than three eligible employees.

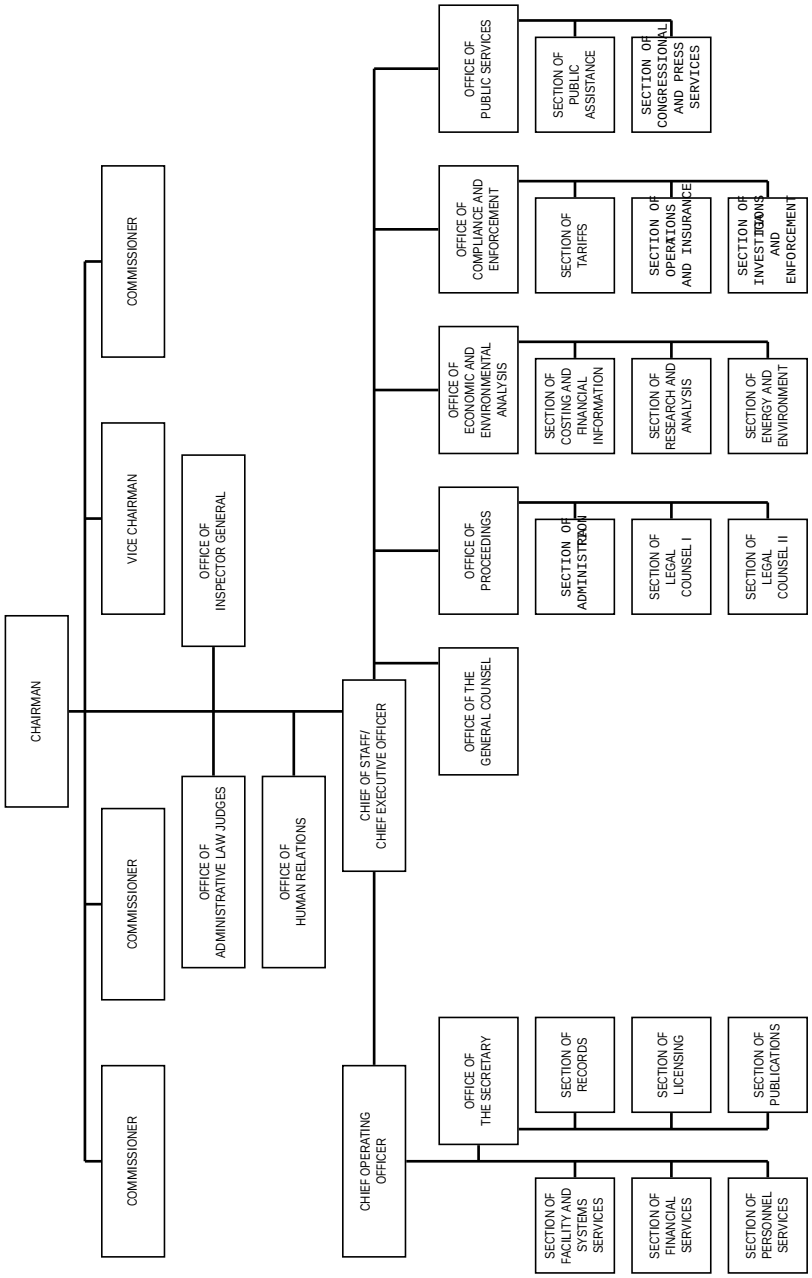
Field offices are maintained in various cities to monitor the utilization of railroad freight cars in order to avoid severe shortages, investigate violations of the Interstate Commerce Act and related laws, and provide assistance to the public in its use of regulated carriers that provide transportation by railroad, highway, and waterway.

Activities

In broad terms and within prescribed legal limits, Commission regulations encompass transportation economics and service.

In the transportation economics area, the Commission settles controversies over rates and charges among regulated carriers, shippers, receivers of freight, passengers, and others. It rules upon applications for mergers, consolidations, and acquisitions of control. It prescribes accounting rules and awards reparations and administers laws relating to railroad bankruptcy. It acts to prevent unlawful discrimination, destructive competition,

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION



and rebating. It also has jurisdiction over the use, control, supply, movement, distribution, exchange, interchange, and return of railroad equipment. Under certain limited conditions, the Commission is authorized to direct the handling and movement of traffic over a railroad and its distribution over other lines of railroads.

In the transportation service area, the Commission grants the right to operate railroads, trucking companies, bus lines, household goods transporters, freight forwarders, water carriers, and transportation brokers. It also approves applications to construct and abandon railroad lines.

Although public hearings on matters before the Commission may be held at any point throughout the country, final decisions are made at the Washington, DC, headquarters in all formal proceedings. These cases include rulings upon rate changes, applications to engage in for-hire transport, carrier mergers, adversary proceedings on complaint actions, and punitive measures taken in enforcement matters.

Regional Offices—Interstate Commerce Commission

Headquarters/Address	Director
CENTRAL—Rm. 1304, 219 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604	William Redmond, Jr.
EASTERN—Rm. 16400, 3535 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104	Richard M. Biter
WESTERN—Suite 500, 211 Main St., San Francisco, CA 94105	John H. Kirkemo

Sources of Information

Consumer Affairs The Commission maintains a staff at each of its regional offices to handle complaints from the public regarding the transportation services provided by carriers.

Among the many consumer-oriented services are a series of advisory bulletins alerting the public and prospective transportation users to the existence of certain transportation problems. There is also a regulation requiring household goods carriers to furnish an information bulletin to each prospective customer. These public advisories may be obtained from the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–5500.

Contracts and Procurement Inquiries regarding the Commission's procurement and contracting activities should be addressed to the Chief Operating Officer, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–5370.

Employment Applications for employment may be sent to the Chief, Section of Personnel Services, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–7288.

Publications A complete list of publications, including explanatory material on the operation and activities of the Interstate Commerce Commission and on special consumer-related fields, such as household goods movements and small shipments, is available. It may be obtained from the Office of Public Services, Room 3130, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–5350.

Reading Rooms The library and several rooms at ICC Headquarters are available for records inspection and copying. Requests for access to public records should be made at the Office of the Secretary, Room 2215, ICC Building; or write to the Secretary, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–7428.

Small Business Activities The Commission maintains an Office of Public Services to help the small business owner or transportation firm in such matters as how to file protests on rates, how to file for new operating authority or extensions, or how to obtain adequate service where there is none. Inquiries should be addressed to the Office of Public Services, Room 3119, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–7597.

Speakers Requests for speakers to discuss subjects relating to the Commission's organization, operations, procedures, and regulations should be

directed to the Office of Public Services, Room 3130, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–5350.

For further information, contact the Office of Public Services, Interstate Commerce Commission, Room 3130, Twelfth Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423. Phone, 202–927–5350.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

1120 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20419
Phone, 202–653–7124

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[For the Merit Systems Protection Board statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 5, Part 1200]

The Merit Systems Protection Board protects the integrity of Federal merit systems and the rights of Federal employees working in the systems. In overseeing the personnel practices of the Federal Government, the Board conducts special studies of the merit systems, hears and decides charges of wrongdoing and employee appeals of adverse agency actions, and orders corrective and disciplinary actions when appropriate.