

## **Preside or Lead?**

The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators

# **51. Regulatory Resources II: Do the Differentials Make a Difference?**

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The preceding essay argued that “[e]ffective regulation should aim for excellence...” The process should induce continuous improvement in utility performance. Absent equivalent expertise and sufficient resources, regulators cannot assess performance credibly. Comparing utilities’ and commissions’ expertise and resources, I asked three questions: Is there a differential? Why does it exist? Why does it persist? The present essay addresses three more questions: Do the differentials make a difference? Why do they receive so little attention? How might we solve the problem?

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