

M. GRACE SALAZAR

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I have built a career in public service focused on strategic communication, public engagement, and effective program, project, and administrative management. With experience across multiple State of Alaska agencies, I've contributed to policies and initiatives that directly impact communities statewide. I have completed robust training in utility ratemaking, housing administration, state procurement, project management, and public communications.

EXPERIENCE

CHIEF CONSUMER PROTECTION & INFORMATION OFFICER + SPECIAL ASSISTANT

State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED)

Regulatory Commission of Alaska (2005-2011 and 2016-2021)

Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (2021-2022)

- Served as primary liaison to the public, media, and legislators on utility regulation across Alaska, ensuring accurate, timely, and accessible communication on complex regulatory matters.
- Led public outreach and media strategy for rate cases, service disruptions, and high-profile commission decisions, translating technical content into clear, public-facing messaging.
- Coordinated cross-functional responses to press and legislative inquiries, collaborating with commissioners, legal counsel, and technical staff under tight deadlines and high scrutiny.
- Improved transparency and public trust through proactive communication efforts, website content updates, and educational materials on consumer rights and regulatory processes.
- Partnered with stakeholders by preparing briefings, talking points, and issue summaries; tracked key legislation and contributed to policy analysis.
- Applied regulatory drafting experience from RCA to help shape AOGCC communications in alignment with applicable statutes and policies.
- See sample work product at rca.alaska.gov for Consumer E-News and Press Releases

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER + ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II

State of Alaska, DCCED and Department of Natural Resources

RCA (2002-2005) + Office of Project Management & Permitting (2011-2016)

- Led full-scope administrative functions, including budgeting, finance, procurement, HR, and payroll, for two regulatory agencies overseeing major infrastructure and public utility projects.
- Managed multi-million-dollar operating and capital budgets, prepared fiscal notes, revenue forecasts, and legislative responses.
- Oversaw Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements, Reimbursable Services Agreements (RSA), and professional service contracts, ensuring compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.
- Guided organizational restructuring efforts to improve workflow, staffing, and operational efficiency.
- Advised leadership on personnel actions, grievances, and labor agreements; ensured budget alignment and regulatory compliance.
- Supervised and coached administrative and accounting staff.

MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST + AUDIT SPECIALIST

State of Alaska, Department of Revenue, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (1996-2002)

- Ensured 100% compliance across a statewide portfolio of affordable housing developments by conducting thorough audits under HUD HOME, IRS Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and state housing program guidelines.
- Improved regulatory understanding among property managers and owners through clear, solution-oriented audit presentations.
- Successfully administered HUD Capital Fund grants, contributing to the modernization of public housing across Alaska while ensuring full regulatory compliance.
- Supported clean federal audits and earned recognition from a HUD auditor for excellence in grant and compliance management.

MEMBERSHIPS & CREDENTIALS

- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs & Public Interest, and Alaska Low Income Heating Assistance Policy Advisory Committee
- NARUC Utility Ratemaking Course, Michigan State University-Institute of Public Utilities
- Procurement Certification (Levels I, II, & III), State of Alaska
- Project Management Principles, Management Concepts
- Public Housing Management Certification, Nan McKay and Associates
- Business Communications (Charter College)
- Accounting (AK Pacific University)

REFERENCES

- Robert “Bob” Pickett, RCA Commissioner, 907.315.8614
- Jody Colombie, former AOGCC Employee, 907.748,7473
- Sara Longan, Former DNR OPMP Executive Director, 907.229.5213
- Candy Cheshire, AHFC HR Director, 907.338.6100
- Brittany Loper, former RCA Employee, 907.590.8439