

April 29, 2002

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(Wednesday, May 22, 2002)**

RE: Commission's Solid Waste, Gas, Electric, and Water Company rules establishing the interest on deposits collected from customers and WAC 480-100-148, Service responsibility.
Docket No. A-020405

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has authorized the filing of a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) with the Code Reviser in Docket No. A-020405. The focus of this rulemaking will be to consider a different standard for calculating the interest rate on customer deposits.

In 1994, the Commission began using the 52-week Treasury bill rate to compute the interest rate payable on customer deposits. After February 2001, the 52-week Treasury bill auctions were discontinued. It is no longer possible to calculate interest based upon the 52-week Treasury bills. Therefore, it will be necessary to establish a different method to ascertain the interest rate utilities must pay customers on deposits the utilities require. Accordingly, the following rules may be considered for amendment:

- WAC 480-70-411(6)(a) and (b), Establishing credit and deposits,
- WAC 480-90-113(9)(a) and (b), Residential deposit requirements,
- WAC 480-90-118(6)(a) and (b), Nonresidential deposit requirements,
- WAC 480-100-113(9)(a) and (b), Residential deposit requirements,
- WAC 480-100-118(6)(a) and (b), Nonresidential deposit requirements, and
- WAC 480-110-335(6)(a) and (b), Establishment of credit and deposits must be amended.

In addition, the Commission will consider whether WAC 480-100-148 Service responsibility, subsection (2)(d), should be amended to clarify current language that may unintentionally prevent electric utilities from suspending services for reasonable periods in order to repair meters.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the rules relating to interest on customer deposits and WAC 480-100-148 must be filed with the Commission no later than **Wednesday, May 22, 2002**. All commenters are asked, but are not required, to file an original and 10 copies of their written comments. The Commission also requests, but does not require, that comments be provided on a 32 inch IBM formatted high-density disk, in ASCII text or WordPerfect version 5.1, 6.0, or 6.1, labeled with the docket number of this proceeding and the commenter's name and type of software used. Commission Staff will post on the Commission's web site those comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is <http://www.wutc.wa.gov>. We ask all commenters to include a summary of their comments. Questions may be addressed to Sharyn Bate (360) 664-1295 or e-mail at sbate@wutc.wa.gov.

Your participation is welcomed via written comments. Opportunity for further comment is anticipated. Information about schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may 1) call the Commission's Records Center at 360-664-1234, 2) e-mail the Commission at records@wutc.wa.gov, or 3) mail written comments to the address below. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. A-020405 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P O Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

NOTICE

If you do not want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Secretary in one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket No. A-020405. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary

Enclosure