

[Service Date April 18, 2003]

April 18, 2003

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(Friday, May 16, 2003)

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Friday, June 13, 2003)

RE: Least Cost Planning Rulemaking, WAC 480-90-238
Docket No. UG-030312

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

On April 15, 2003, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider revisions to WAC 480-90-238, "Least-cost planning." The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/030312. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the CR-101 mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

The review of WAC 480-90-238, "Least-cost planning," is part of the Commission's overall review of its rules. While the Commission recently reviewed Chapter 480-90, "Gas Companies Operations," WAC 480-90-238 was deferred from that review of Chapter 480-90 WAC for further study pending the availability of sufficient resources. The Commission intends to conduct the review at this time. Consequently, WAC 480-90-238 will be reviewed for content and readability, with attention to the rule's need; effectiveness and efficiency; clarity; intent and statutory authority; coordination; cost; and fairness. The review will also

consider whether the current rule has achieved its intended results, and whether it is consistent with Commission policies and advances in technology.

Subjects included in this review may cover but are not limited to:

- the roles of risk and uncertainty in resource planning,
- the role of demand management,
- the role of resource diversity, resource adequacy, and financial and physical hedging,
- planning issues, such as planning horizons and filing deadlines,
- portfolio analysis,
- rule process and enforcement issues,
- the relationship of least-cost plans to Commission review of specific supply or demand response projects,
- the relevance of any changes in policies or requirements at the federal and state levels, and
- appropriate uses of least-cost plans.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

We encourage your attendance and participation in the stakeholder workshop. The workshop will be held **Friday, June 13, 2003**, in Room 206 at the Commission's headquarters, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Free parking is available. The Commission's address is:

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

If you cannot attend the workshop, you can arrange to dial into the Commission's conference bridge at (360) 664-3846. There are 11 lines available on a first-come first-served basis. You may reserve a line by calling Kippi Walker at (360) 664-1139.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the least cost plan rule must be filed with the Commission no later than **Friday, May 16, 2003** for consideration at the June 13, 2003, workshop. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public

access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at <records@wutc.wa.gov>. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (UG-030312)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments may be by mailing/delivering an electronic copy on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/030312>>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Graciela Etchart(360) 664-1310 or e-mail at <getchart@wutc.wa.gov>.

Your participation is welcomed via written comments and stakeholder workshops. Opportunity for further comment is anticipated. Information about the 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. UG-030312 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 S.W.
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. UG-030312. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary