

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF
RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: March 20, 2018
REVISED: March 22, 2018
DOCKET: UG-170929
REQUESTER: The Energy Project

WITNESS: Jing Liu
RESPONDER: Jing Liu
TELEPHONE: (360) 664-1292

REQUEST NO. 27:

Re: Testimony of Jing Liu, JL-1CT at 59:11

Please state the number of households who would receive reduced WEAf grants under Staff's rate discount proposal, and the percentage reduction in household WEAf grants.

CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSE:

█ customers would have received reduced WEAf grants under Staff's rate discount proposal using the backcast from the 2016-2017 program year dataset. The percentage reduction in WEAf benefits at the household level ranges from █% to █%. Please note that some households would receive increased WEAf benefits under Staff's bill discount proposal.

Please note that the above calculation assumes that the LIHEAP and Winter Help grants remained the same for all customers in the dataset. Under Staff's proposal, CAAs must provide customers with LIHEAP support if the customer is eligible and if LIHEAP is applicable, please see Exh. JL-1CT, 50:12 – 21. This requirement could potentially increase the number of customers who would get LIHEAP benefits on their Cascade gas bills. For those customers, their total assistance as applied to their gas bill would increase.

Based on Staff's backcast from the 2016-2017 program year dataset, the overall WEAf benefits would have had a █ percent reduction. Staff believes that this reduction is a result of more efficient distribution of funds and not because customers who would otherwise need aid, fail to receive it. So, Staff would agree that its proposal would reduce funding received by current customers by reducing over-subsidization, but the proposal would more efficiently distribute the low-income funding to serve more customers in need.