



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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October 5, 2022

NOTICE OF RECESSED OPEN MEETING
(Set for Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 9 a.m.)

Re: In the Matter of Utility Wildfire Preparedness, Docket U-210254

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On May 26, 2021, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) convened a recessed open meeting to hear from Washington state's regulated electric utilities about their preparedness for the 2021 wildfire season. Presentations from Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light (Pacific Power) included information on the utilities' fire mitigation strategies and communication plans with state, federal, and local emergency response agencies, and the public.

On November 2, 2021, the Commission held a recessed open meeting to hear from electric utilities about the effectiveness of the utilities' fire mitigation and communication plans during the 2021 wildfire season.

On April 27, 2022, the Commission again convened a recessed open meeting to hear from Washington state's regulated electric utilities about their preparedness for the 2022 wildfire season.

NOTICE OF RECESSED OPEN MEETING

The Commission intends to hear from regulated electric utilities about the effectiveness of the utilities' fire mitigation and communication plans during the 2022 wildfire season, lessons learned, and planned updates to their mitigation and communication plans at its recessed open meeting on November 3, 2022, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Commission's understanding of utility wildfire risk and planning would be aided by submission in this Docket of the utilities' written updates or changes made to their 2022

wildfire preparedness and communications plans and lessons learned in the 2022 wildfire season. The Commission further asks that Avista, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy respond to the following requests for information and questions in their responses and be prepared to discuss these at the recessed open meeting:

1. Experience with the 2022 wildfire season, including data and statistics related to:
 - The number of fires that occurred in the utility's service territory in the 2022 season.
 - The intensity of fires in the 2022 season.
 - Whether the utilities' operations were impacted by fires, and, if so, how and where.
 - Whether wildfires developed in areas defined as greater risk or in other areas designated as lesser risk.
 - Whether thresholds for use of the current set of fire mitigation tools (such as PSPS and dry land mode) are effective, if they have been working as intended, and if any new tools have been added or are needed.
 - Whether communication plans worked as intended and any gaps identified.
2. What strategies did the utility use or explore for this wildfire season to enhance situational awareness for its customers?
 - What partnerships has the utility cultivated with first responders, land managers, and emergency operations personnel in preparing for the 2022 wildfire season?
 - What communication channels and procedures are in place to coordinate planning and response efforts with these entities?
 - How were those partnerships leveraged in the utility's wildfire response?
 - What plans did the utility have in place to communicate with customers, including Highly Impacted Communities, Vulnerable Populations, medically vulnerable customers, and Access and Functional Needs customers, about wildfire risk for this season overall, as well as specific wildfire risks or events?
 - How effective was customer communication regarding wildfire events? Were there any lessons learned?
 - If communications were not distributed to all customers, please explain who was excluded and why.
 - What information did the utility provide to customers about the wildfire risk mitigation work it is performing?
 - Were there any additional changes to utility communication plans since those plans were filed in April 2022?
3. What strategies did the utility use or explore for this wildfire season to enhance situational awareness for utility operations?
 - What tools does the utility have available to respond to wildfire threats?
 - What changes, if any, have been made to operational tools in the utility's toolkit for responding to wildfire events or potential triggers of wildfire events since April?
 - Are thresholds/triggering events for the current set of tools effective? Have the tools been working as intended?

- Does the utility offer programs for customers to request vegetation management work if they identify trees or vegetation that is in contact with power lines? How successful are these programs?
 - Were there additional changes to utility wildfire operations plans in April 2022?
4. Were there additional lessons learned from the 2022 wildfire season?
 5. Are there any other anticipated changes for the 2023 wildfire season not mentioned above?

Please file updated wildfire plans and any supplemental information that includes all requested information in Docket UE- 210254 no later than Monday, October 25, 2022.

MEETING PARTICIPATION

The Commission will hold the recessed open meeting virtually, and Commission headquarters will not be open to the public for in-person participation. Interested persons may listen to the meeting by telephone by calling (253) 215-8782 and using conference ID 992 0075 8178# and Passcode: 759393#. To participate in the meeting via Zoom on a computer or mobile device, please use the following link: [click to join the meeting](#). If you wish to be placed on the interested parties contact list, please submit your request to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov.

If you wish to participate and need an interpreter, one will be provided at no cost to you. If you need an interpreter, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the meeting by calling (360) 664-1140 or by sending an email to Paige Doyle at paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov.

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for the recessed open meeting, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the workshop by calling (360) 664-1132 or by sending an email to human_resources@utc.wa.gov. For TTY service, please call the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-833-6384 or 711.

If you have questions regarding this recessed open meeting, you may contact Andrew Roberts, Regulatory Analyst, at andrew.roberts@utc.wa.gov or (360) 664-1101.

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary