

Docket number of this proceeding: U-240281

Commenting party's name: James Adcock, Electrical Engineer

The title and date of the comment or comments:

Comments of James Adcock Regards U-240281 10/23/2024

General Comments on These Proceedings:

We need to put these discussions in context:

Based on the Bressler "Mortality Cost of Carbon" paper, the "Average American Family of Four" kills one other person on the planet, over the course of their lifetimes, just from their GHG emissions.

Just One Washington State Utility is killing 4,000 to 5,000 people per year based solely on their GHG emissions.

Climate Scientists say by the end of this century \*all\* of the Douglas Fir forests of Washington State will be gone. Even the legislature recognizes that these forests are burning at a rate of 2% per year. Wildfires have caused huge loss of life in the PWN in decades past, and most recently in Hawaii. We should \*expect\* that an enormous wildfire will happen again in the PWN, with huge loss of life. And then what will Utilities say? What will UTC say? That they didn't see that this was coming???

It is not clear to me "where this is all going" in light of the upcoming elections and Initiatives.

If the Initiatives do not pass, then the question remains: "How are Washingtonians" – not just Utilities – actually supposed to respond to these requirements and the higher utility rates which will be required? Two examples from the "middle class residential ratepayers" scenario would obviously be to install residential solar, and/or heat pumps – but there does not seem to be any real State nor Utility planning to encourage or even necessary regulation to allow this to happen. For example, in some countries [Germany] installing a residential small solar array is as simple as having an anti-islanding solar controller, and then plugging in a standard extension cord from that controller into a standard household outlet to back-feed that power to the residential household! But, apparently, no thought has been given to how to actually make residential solar and heat pumps "really happen" in this state – independent of any incentives.

It would be unfortunately if some of the Initiatives result in "rollbacks" – but then that the enormous amount of work that has already gone into drafting Washington State regulations – by everyone – over the last decade were needlessly "lost" and had to be reinvented again. In particular, I am concerned about preserving the CETA regulation work that has already been done – the parts not repealed [if repealed] by Initiative that is. Thus, I do not agree with Utility recommendations that those sections of regulations should just be "thrown away." On the contrary, let us preserve them in their current form.

I repeat again my great concerns that in practice both Utilities and UTC are acting to prevent real meaningful public participation in Utility plans. One Utility in particular seems bent on engaging solely in “mock participation” – freezing out anyone, including Organizational Members -- who dare open their mouths to disagree with the Utility. Such is not becoming of a Democracy – with Utilities and UTC secrecy increasingly forming an Industrial/State Complex. I am particularly concerned about a “WHOOOPS 2.0” [WPPSS 2.0] where instead of making meaningful investments in low cost and fast solar and wind power generation, reducing emissions now, Utilities instead intend to waste decades and billions of ratepayer dollars on yet-another round of Utility Boondoggles. Or regulatory game-playing such as converting clean electricity to hydrogen to mix with natural gas – about a 30% round-trip efficiency – while falsely claiming both “clean electricity” and “clean natural gas” credits.

Prior to COVID we had real meaningful public participation meetings – however painful. But since COVID Utilities have been using remote-meeting technology to prevent any real discussions between the public and utilities.

I believe part of the reason that Utilities are now preventing such meaningful public participation is because Utilities intend to engage in decades-long-slow and enormously wasteful spending of the ratepayers’ pocketbooks on unproven hydrogen and new nuke technology – it is not ratepayer responsibility to pay for research on these new and unproven technologies – such is an imprudent use of our money.

As such, I oppose Utility proposed language to further make a mockery of “public participation” – we need real active two-way dialog between Utility employees, UTC staff, Public Council Staff, Compensated Organizational Representatives, and the individual ratepayer “stakeholders.” Make it a requirement that real “In Person” meetings happen again including individual “stakeholders” – with public back and forth debate and discussion between all of these parties – including the individual stakeholders who will be paying for all this.

I urge all participants, especially UTC, to take a step back and take a wider look at what is actually going on here. We need a clear vision of a “Clean Energy Future” and an actual “Clean Path Forward” – which is currently sorely missing. And that future must include the real active participation of the individual ratepayers forced to pay for it.

James Adcock, Electrical Engineer, MIT

Electrical Engineer / Ratepayer

5005 155th PL SE

Bellevue WA 98006

jimad@msn.com

425-562-0217