

Huey, Lorilyn (UTC)

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Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Records Management (UTC)
Cc: Michael Soman; Nick Manning; Kristina Soman-Faulkner
Subject: draft rule-making for CETA by UTC

Categories: LH

External Email

Commenting party: Michael Soman, MD, MPH, member WPSR (Climate Task Force)
Date of comment: 11/4/21
Title of comments: UTC draft rule to implement CETA is flawed

Dear Commissioners

I have spoken with two of you in the last 6 months about your role in regulating the private utilities (IOC's) in our state and in particular about how you might require PSE and the other IOC's to comply with the requirements of CETA.

As you know, the intent of CETA was to transform the electric system in Washington: this means not simply offsetting fossil and other polluting generated electricity, but actually replacing dirty electricity with clean, renewable and non-emitting generated electricity. The CETA law is clear that utilities must transition rapidly to 100% clean electricity. Requiring electricity from renewable resources to supply Washington customers is consistent with this explicit goal.

As a physician and grandfather, with a long-standing commitment to helping solve the climate crisis, I have some major concerns about the draft rule:

- **The UTC must revise its draft rule to eliminate the use of "retained Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)" – a term found nowhere in the statute nor in common usage.** The UTC also must eliminate all provisions of the draft rule that would allow a utility to rely on electricity that it has sold to meet its obligation to serve customers in Washington with clean energy. CETA means what it says: utilities must use clean energy to serve their Washington customers.
- In effect, these "RECs" seem to be a retroactive crediting system for utilities to allow them to meet targets while still using fossil fuels. Seemingly, any energy they generate or have generated in the past with renewable sources that meet the requirements in CETA for carbon neutrality will award them credits they can use to meet the 2045 requirements. This means they don't have to fully decarbonize because they will be able to meet the requirements in CETA with power they have already sold to offset their current emission
- From catastrophic wildfires to extreme heat to intense storms, the impacts of climate change are already harming Washington. And the harm that fossil fuel pollution causes surrounding communities has long been well documented. **CETA's clean energy requirement is essential to mitigating**

these harms. The UTC must revise its draft rule to give effect to CETA's clean energy requirements.

By the way, we do support the proposed draft rule's requirement that utilities must submit hourly data on retail sales; generation from federal facilities; sales for voluntary renewable programs, generation, and delivery from each owned facility and points of delivery for each power purchase; sale or exchange agreement; details on all sales, purchases and exchange agreements; and all purchases, sales, and exchanges conducted in organized markets in the annual clean energy progress report. This information should be required no matter how the rest of the proposed draft rule is changed.

Thanks for your work

Michael Soman, MD, MPH