## Docket No. UE-190652 - Vol. I

## Rulemaking to amend the Energy Independence Act (EIA)

July 28, 2020

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| BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION |  | 1 | LACEY, WASHINGTON; JULY 28, 2020 |
|  |  | 2 | 9:30 A.M. |
| RULEMAKING TO AMEND |  | 3 | --000-- |
|  |  | 4 | PROCEEDINGS |
| THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT |  | 5 |  |
| DOCKET NO. UE-190652 |  | 6 | CHAIR DANNER: Good morning, everyone. |
|  |  | 7 | Today is Tuesday, July 28th, 2020, and this is a |
|  |  | 8 | rulemaking adoption hearing in Docket UE-190652, and |
|  | TELEPHONIC ADOPTION HEARING, VOLUME I | 9 | that's the Energy Independence Act rulemaking to ensure |
| Pages 1-29 |  | 10 | that we incorporate changes that resulted from the |
|  |  | 11 12 | passage of CETA, or the Clean Energy Transformation Act, in 2019. |
| July 28, 2020 9:30 a.m. |  | 13 | I'm Dave Danner. I'm Chair of the |
|  |  | 14 | Commission. I'm joined by my colleagues, Commissioner |
| Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast |  | 15 | Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Jay Balasbas. |
|  |  | 16 | This meeting is being recorded. We also |
| 21 Woodland Square Loop Southeast Lacey, Washington 98503 |  | 17 | have a court reporter here, and so I would ask all |
|  |  | 18 | participants this morning to please identify themselves, |
|  |  | 19 | spell their names, and speak slowly and clearly. |
|  | REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358 | 20 | So with out further ado, Andrew Rector, I'm |
| Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840 |  | 21 | going to turn it over to you for a presentation and then |
|  |  | 22 | we will get into the conversation. So off to you. |
| Seattle, Washington 98101 |  | 23 | Thanks. |
| (800) 846-6989 \| National |  | $24$ | MR. RECTOR: Great, thanks, Chair Danner. I |
|  | (800) 846-6989 \|National www.buellrealtime.com |  | appreciate it. |
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| 1 | APPEARANCES COMMISSIONERS: | 1 | For the record, my name is Andrew Rector |
| 23 |  | 2 | with regulatory services. Spelling is A-n-d-r-e-w, |
|  | COMMISSIONERS: <br> DAVE DANNER, Chair <br> ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner | 3 | R-e-c-t-o-r. |
|  | JAY BALASBAS, Commissioner | 4 | So I have been heading up the EIA rulemaking |
| 4 |  | 5 | since late last year. Just a little bit of housekeeping |
|  | COMMENTS OFFERED BY: | 6 | for all attendees before we continue, l'd like to ask |
| 6 | ANN PAISNER, Public Counsel JONI BOSH, NWEC SHAWN BONFIELD, Avista JESSICA ZAHNOW, PacifiCorp DEBORAH REYNOLDS, Staff KARA DURBIN, Puget Sound Energy SHAWN COLLINS, Energy Project | 7 | you to please make sure that you mute yourself if you're |
| 7 |  | 8 | not talking. You can do so using the mute button if |
|  |  | 9 | you're calling in on Skype, or just calling in by phone, |
| 8 |  | 10 | please use star 6 on your phone to mute and unmute |
|  |  | 11 | yourself. If someone's phone is not on mute and there's |
| 9 |  | 12 | noise coming through the -- coming through the line, we |
| 10 |  | 13 | will put you on mute and you won't be able to speak |
| 11 |  | 14 | unless you call back in. |
| 12 | * * * * | 15 | So with that out of the way, before I go any |
| - |  | 16 | further, I'd just like to thank the excellent rulemaking |
|  |  |  | 17 | team that I worked on this -- this rulemaking with, |
| 16 |  | 18 | without whom none of this could have gotten done, and |
| 17 |  | 19 | those folks are Andrew O'Connell, Deborah Reynolds, Jeff |
| 18 |  | 20 | Roberson, Jennifer Snyder, Jim Woodward, Kate Griffith, |
| 20 |  | 21 | Kendra White, and Nikita Bankoti. And I'd also like to |
| 21 |  | 22 | thank all of the stakeholders who have stuck with us |
| 22 |  | 23 | throughout the rulemaking and provided a lot of great |
| 23 |  | 24 | comments for us to chew on. |
| 25 | $24$ | 25 | So as the Chairman said, this rulemaking |


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| 1 | came about after the passage of the Clean Energy | 1 | And for the court reporter, Shawn Bonfield, |
| 2 | Transformation Act, or CETA, in the 2019 legislative | 2 | S-h-a-w-n, last name B-o-n-fi-e-l-d. |
| 3 | session. CETA included several changes to Chapter | 3 | So thanks for the opportunity to provide |
| 4 | 19.285 of the Revised Code of Washington, and Staff | 4 | additional comments on the proposed draft rules. Avista |
| 5 | undertook this rulemaking to incorporate those edits to | 5 | appreciates the work that has went into the draft rules, |
| 6 | the Washington Administrative Code in Chapter 480.109, | 6 | but we would like to address just a couple items today. |
| 7 | which houses the EIA, and also to make a few other | 7 | First, we remained concerned with the change |
| 8 | updates to that same chapter. | 8 | from may to must as it relates to fully funding low |
| 9 | So we kick off the rulemaking with a CR-101 | 9 | income contribution in the first sentence of WAC |
| 10 | and draft rules in October of 2019. The draft rules | 10 | 480-109-100(10)(a). I won't restate our written |
| 11 | elicited 19 sets of comments from stakeholders. After a | 11 | comments that we filed back in November and April, but I |
| 12 | January technical workshop to consider how to | 12 | would like to draw attention to those. |
| 13 | incorporate a number of definitions from CETA into the | 13 | EI -- EIA statute directs a qualified |
| 14 | rules, the UTC released a CR-102 with proposed rules in | 14 | utility to identify its cost effective potential based |
| 15 | late March of 2020. | 15 | on the power council's methodology or the utility's own |
| 16 | The CR-102 received comments from seven | 16 | phasures [sic], values and assumptions. The proposed |
| 17 | stakeholders including Avista Corporation, PacifiCorp, | 17 | ruling, which appears to depart from the statute and the |
| 18 | Puget Sound Energy, Public Counsel, The Energy Project, | 18 | intent from CETA, was not to -- not additional or |
| 19 | the Northwest Energy Coalition, and Front and Centered. | 19 | expanded conservation achievement verification |
| 20 | From that set of comments, the Commission made several | 20 | requirements for qualifying utilities. It should be |
| 21 | nonsubstantive edits as well as one substantive edit to | 21 | noted utilities are meeting their conservation |
| 22 | the proposed rules. These edits were incorporated into | 22 | requirements under the EIA and should be sufficient to |
| 23 | a second CR-102, which we filed in early June of 2020, | 23 | demonstrate compliance with CETA as well. |
| 24 | and that round led to three sets of comments from Puget | 24 | The second item l'd like to address is WAC |
| 25 | Sound Energy, The Energy Project, and the Northwest | 25 | 480-109-200, related to the renewable portfolio |
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| 1 | Energy Coalition. | 1 | standard. Section 2, credit eligibility, requires that |
| 2 | So in conclusion, Staff recommends that the | 2 | all RECs used comply with the target year to be acquired |
| 3 | Commission adopts the proposed changes to WAC 480-109 | 3 | by January 1st, even for RECs that are generated in the |
| 4 | including the following minor edit that was suggested by | 4 | year following the target year, which are eligible for |
| 5 | stakeholders in the June proposed rules. | 5 | compliance. |
| 6 | In WAC 480-109-100, Subsection 10(a), Staff | 6 | We recognize this requirement has been |
| 7 | recommends replacing the words "may include" in the | 7 | included in the rules to date and is not new. It hasn't |
| 8 | second sentence with "does not prohibit." And this | 8 | been an issue in the past for Avista. We've had surplus |
| 9 | minor edit was noted in the adoption hearing memo posted | 9 | RECs to comply with our targets in the years when hydro |
| 10 | to the docket on July 21st. | 10 | may have not met expectations or number of RECs were |
| 11 | So that concludes my comments. I am | 11 | lower than anticipated. However, in 2020, we did have |
| 12 | available for questions now and throughout the hearing. | 12 | to pull Palouse Wind RECs from 2021 for purposes of |
| 13 | Thank you. | 13 | compliance, so it does raise a question for |
| 14 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. | 14 | consideration. |
| 15 | Commissioners, are there any questions for | 15 | Glenn Blackmon from the Department of |
| 16 | Mr. Rector? | 16 | Commerce also asked Commission Staff about this in an |
| 17 | Okay. Hearing none, why don't we then turn | 17 | email that was posted to the docket on July 20th. And |
| 18 | to those who would like to comment on our proposed rules | 18 | as Glenn pointed out, the provision requiring that all |
| 19 | today. I believe that Shawn Bonfield from Avista is | 19 | RECs be acquired by the start of the target year is not |
| 20 | wishing to comment. | 20 | one applied to the consumer-owned utilities nor is it |
| 21 | Are you on the line, sir? | 21 | required by statute. |
| 22 | MR. BONFIELD: Good morning, Chair Danner | 22 | So because it's not required by statute and |
| 23 | and Commissioners Balasbas and Rendahl. I am on the | 23 | not applicable to the consumer-owned utilities, I would |
| 24 | line and would like to address just a couple items if I | 24 | like to raise it as a question today. The requirement |
| 25 | could. | 25 | of having to acquire all RECs to comply with the target |


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| 1 | by January 1st may require utilities to have a surplus | 1 | appreciate you raising it. I think it is something |
| 2 | of RECs in hand on January 1st or count RECs from the | 2 | we'll -- we'll think about, but coming at such a late |
| 3 | following year in the event of bad hydro conditions or | 3 | date in the process, this may be something that -- can |
| 4 | renewable resource generation stations. | 4 | be something that a request for a waiver if necessary |
| 5 | An example of where this may have impacted | 5 | going forward, but I appreciate you bringing it to our |
| 6 | us if it wasn't required that we acquire that all | 6 | attention. |
| 7 | resources are REC'd by January 1 as with our Boulder | 7 | MR. BONFIELD: Thank you, and we understand. |
| 8 | solar community -- or excuse me, rephrase that, our | 8 | And I -- |
| 9 | Boulder solar resource that served our community solar | 9 | (Simultaneous talking.) |
| 10 | program. That program ended June 30th of this year, and | 10 | MR. BONFIELD: I was going to say we |
| 11 | we weren't sure what the plan was for that resource. | 11 | understand -- |
| 12 | It's a very small solar resource that was paid for by | 12 | (Simultaneous talking.) |
| 13 | that participant of the program, and in the first -- end | 13 | CHAIR DANNER: Go ahead, Mr. Bonfield. |
| 14 | of the first quarter of this year, we decided that we | 14 | MR. BONFIELD: Yeah, thank you. Thanks -- |
| 15 | would just be returning that resource back to our | 15 | thanks for the feedback, Commissioner Rendahl, and we -- |
| 16 | general power supply mix for all customers. | 16 | we understand in -- in reality going forward as we |
| 17 | So because that resource technically wasn't | 17 | acquire additional renewable energy resources, it -- EIA |
| 18 | acquired by January 21st, we cannot use the RECs from | 18 | may not be the RPS an issue even for consideration for |
| 19 | the small facility to comply with 2020. So we think | 19 | that matter, as Avista has a new wind resource coming |
| 20 | there's a -- there's a question to be considered as it | 20 | online potentially the end of this year. The amount of |
| 21 | doesn't -- this provision doesn't apply to consumer | 21 | renewable energy generation or RECs available to comply |
| 22 | utilities, it's not in the statute, and it prevents | 22 | with the 50 percent requirement should, I would assume, |
| 23 | utilities from using RECs that it may have acquired | 23 | hopefully not require us to ever have to worry about |
| 24 | during the target year to comply, especially in the | 24 | pulling RECs from a future year. It was just a nuance |
| 25 | event of bad hydro or changing conditions. If we have | 25 | that we recognized given our recent filing and based on |
|  | Page 10 |  | Page 12 |
| 1 | the ability to acquire RECs in the following year from | 1 | the comments provided from Glenn Blackmon at Commerce. |
| 2 | the target year and use those in place of generation | 2 | So thank you for the feedback. |
| 3 | that we had available to comply, it may also provide | 3 | CHAIR DANNER: So yeah, I -- I would echo |
| 4 | additional value to our customers. | 4 | what Commissioner Rendahl said, is that it does sound |
| 5 | So l'll leave it with that, and I'm | 5 | like this is -- is unlikely to be a major sore spot |
| 6 | available for questions if there are any. Thank you. | 6 | anytime soon, but if it does arise, it is something we |
| 7 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. | 7 | certainly could entertain a petition waiver if -- if |
| 8 | Are there questions for Mr. Bonfield? | 8 | that is necessary at that time. But we'll -- we'll take |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: This is Commissioner | 9 | this under advisement. |
| 10 | Rendahl, can you hear me? | 10 | All right. I heard someone else's voice |
| 11 | CHAIR DANNER: Yes, I can. Go ahead. | 11 | wishing to speak up on this matter, is that -- is there |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Great, finally. | 12 | someone who was trying to interject there? |
| 13 | So, Mr. Bonfield, thank you for your | 13 | MS. ZAHNOW: Yes -- yes, thank you, Chair |
| 14 | comments. So you said you raised this issue of the RPS | 14 | Danner. This is Jessica -- this is Jessica Zahnow with |
| 15 | date earlier in this rulemaking? | 15 | PacifiCorp. Can you guys hear me all right? |
| 16 | MR. BONFIELD: No, we did not. No, it | 16 | CHAIR DANNER: Yes, go ahead. |
| 17 | hasn't been one that has impacted us until we recently | 17 | MS. ZAHNOW: Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted |
| 18 | filed our 2020 RPS compliance report that it's posed a | 18 | to thank Shawn for his comments and -- and say that we |
| 19 | question for consideration. So it has not been an issue | 19 | definitely support -- |
| 20 | that we recognized previously. | 20 | (Simultaneous talking.) |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So this is the first | 21 | MS. ZAHNOW: I'm sorry? |
| 22 | time you've identified this issue for Staff and for -- | 22 | CHAIR DANNER: Can you -- can you spell your |
| 23 | for the Commission? | 23 | name for the court reporter, please? |
| 24 | MR. BONFIELD: It is. | 24 | MS. ZAHNOW: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, it's |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Well, I | 25 | Jessica, J-e-s-s-i-c-a, last name is Zahnow, Z , as in |


|  | Page 13 |  | Page 15 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | zebra, a-h, as in Henry, n-o-w. | 1 | It is not a requirement that you have purchased RECs |
| 2 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Go ahead. | 2 | that specific. So when you get to the end of the |
| 3 | MS. ZAHNOW: Yeah, so I-- again, I just | 3 | compliance period, right, you retire the RECs, you don't |
| 4 | wanted to thank Shawn for his comments, and, you know, | 4 | have to know that you got the RECs for Tuesday, |
| 5 | this has been an issue for PacifiCorp as well with last | 5 | January 4th, 2017, on January 1st of 2017; does that |
| 6 | year's -- or two years ago actually, RPS filing with an | 6 | make sense? It's not the explicit REC, it's the |
| 7 | accounting project. | 7 | contract for the RECs. |
| 8 | So kind of on the tail of Shawn's comments, | 8 | MS. ZAHNOW: Yeah, it does, and, you know, |
| 9 | which we -- which we support, I also want to ask a | 9 | actually I'm -- I'm sorry, go ahead. |
| 10 | clarifying question about the acquired language. So | 10 | (Simultaneous talking.) |
| 11 | something that came up for us was that the acquired | 11 | MS. REYNOLDS: Secondarily, if you need to |
| 12 | language referred only to the purchase of unbundled RECs | 12 | acquire additional RECs for compliance during that |
| 13 | or purchase of RECs versus RECs generated from | 13 | compliance period, that's what we're looking at. So |
| 14 | facilities that the utility owns or operates. So I just | 14 | when we're reviewing your initial report, we are looking |
| 15 | want to be really clear on the record that this acquired | 15 | at what you have acquired, so what you have contracts in |
| 16 | language by January 1st, is it applied to all resources | 16 | place for as of January 1st, and we do this in June |
| 17 | generating RECs included -- including those owned by the | 17 | because that's when the statute says you will tell us |
| 18 | utility or is it just RECs purchased in the market? | 18 | what you acquired January -- what you have under |
| 19 | CHAIR DANNER: Mr. Rector, do you want to | 19 | acquisition January 1st. |
| 20 | take that question? | 20 | But then our -- the way our program works, |
| 21 | MR. RECTOR: Sorry, I apologize. I'm | 21 | we do this secondary review a year and a half later or |
| 22 | looking for the correct section where the -- the date | 22 | nearly two years later where you actually tell us the |
| 23 | is -- is spelled out. Was -- that's in -- is it 200, | 23 | explicit resources that you used. |
| 24 | Sub 1? | 24 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Mr. Bonfield, did |
| 25 | MS. ZAHNOW: Shawn, do you have the cite | 25 | you -- |
|  | Page 14 |  | Page 16 |
| 1 | handy? | 1 | (Simultaneous talking.) |
| 2 | MR. BONFIELD: 200, Sub 2, I believe, | 2 | CHAIR DANNER: Mr. Bonfield, did you have |
| 3 | under -- yeah, 200, Sub 2 under credit eligibility I | 3 | something else -- |
| 4 | believe. | 4 | MR. BONFIELD: Yeah, I did, thank you. That |
| 5 | MR. RECTOR: Thank you. I see it. | 5 | makes sense to me in terms of how you're looking at it, |
| 6 | MS. REYNOLDS: This is Deborah Reynolds. | 6 | and I agree in terms of the process, and I did see that |
| 7 | CHAIR DANNER: Go ahead -- go ahead while | 7 | come out in the language in terms of the acquisition. |
| 8 | Andrew -- | 8 | And so my thinking was okay, so we -- Avista, for |
| 9 | MS. REYNOLDS: If I-- | 9 | example, had enough hydro and wind resources and biomass |
| 10 | CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, go -- go ahead. | 10 | available to meet our 2020 compliance by January 1st |
| 11 | MS. REYNOLDS: Yeah, if I understand the | 11 | with phone generation and contracts for resources. So |
| 12 | question correctly, Jessica, it is does -- does Staff | 12 | during that year, maybe 2020's a really poor hydro year, |
| 13 | believe that acquire applies to RECs or to resources or | 13 | maybe the wind doesn't blow as much as we think and we |
| 14 | to both; is that your question? | 14 | end up short. |
| 15 | MS. ZAHNOW: Yeah, that's correct, yeah. | 15 | And so what are our options if we're short |
| 16 | MS. REYNOLDS: Okay. So as Staff has | 16 | at the end of 2020? We know that we have to do |
| 17 | understood this in the past, that acquisition | 17 | something in 2021 to then still comply with that 2020 |
| 18 | requirement is that you have a contract in place or | 18 | target. And either we pull resources forward from 2021 |
| 19 | something, whether it is a contract with the resource or | 19 | into 2020 with that we -- we propose in this year's |
| 20 | a contract for unbundled RECs is -- is immaterial, and | 20 | report or potentially we can acquire additional RECs in |
| 21 | we recognize that the number of RECs actually delivered | 21 | 2021 that may be cheaper than the resources we had |
| 22 | in that contract is likely to vary. It, in fact, will | 22 | available on January 1 of the target year. |
| 23 | vary. | 23 | And so if you can acquire something at a |
| 24 | And so the acquisition requirement is merely | 24 | lower price to help comply with your 2020 target because |
| 25 | to have a contract instrument in place at the beginning. | 25 | you're replacing what maybe you thought you had used |

review and comment over the past several months. We appreciate that.

Really just have a couple of brief comments to make. I'll note we're generally comfortable with the rule language as it stands today. I will certainly take back the REC discussion that we -- that Avista in past has raised and -- and run that by some of our folks too to think that through a bit more. But for today, I'll just make a couple brief comments that are also reflected in our written comments filed in May and subsequently in July.

First, we -- we appreciate the Commission reissuing the CR-102 in this proceeding to make that substantive change that Andrew mentioned, modifying the definition of low income. We think that's important and that defining low income broadly and flexibly at this point including both 200 percent of federal poverty level as well as up to 80 percent area of median income, or AMI, whichever's greatest, we think this allows utilities the flexibility to customize the eligibility of their program in a way that best fits the needs of their customers. And we think in some cases that may mean eligibility that's a bit higher than 200 percent of federal poverty level. So in some areas where that makes sense, and so we just appreciate the Commission

Page 20
with something different, then that's additional value to our customers that we can derive. And I didn't -- to me, I don't read that as coming out in the rules as possible when it says we must acquire all generation and RECs to comply with the target year by January 1 of that target year versus having flexibility in the following year if needed.

MS. REYNOLDS: Right, and so I think you're -- the area you're discussing is down in the section of the rule that refers to what you do with the -- with the I believe it's called the compliance report, and that's where it describes how you will -how you will respond to what actually happened. Staff does recognize that what you have under contract on January 1st, that the actual number of RECs is going to vary.

CHAIR DANNER: Ms. Zahnow, did you have anything you wanted to add?

MS. ZAHNOW: Yeah, I don't want to belabor it, but -- but I would just ask that, you know -- I -- I continue to agree with Shawn, and I think it will continue to be a timing issue and that we just ask that -- that you consider both the statute and the regs and -- and kind of really thoughtfully look at the -the timing issue. But thank you very much for -- for
taking our comments.
CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for -for participating this morning, and we will take those under advisement.

Commissioners, is there questions on this issue for Ms. Reynolds or Mr. Bonfield or Mr. Rector?

COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: No, just that maybe there needs to be some conversation after this workshop to make sure everyone fully understands what's -- what's in the rules.

CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, agreed.
All right. Thank you.
Kara Durbin, are you on the line?
MS. DURBIN: I am. Can you hear me?
CHAIR DANNER: Yes, thank you.
MS. DURBIN: Thank you, Chair Danner. Good morning and good morning, Commissioners Rendahl and Balasbas. For the record, my name is Kara Durbin, spelled K-a-r-a, D-u-r-b-i-n, on behalf of Puget Sound Energy. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I will be brief.

We certainly appreciate all the workshop dialogue, some of which as -- as Andrew noted, happened in person at the earlier part of this year in January, and all the opportunities this year for stakeholder
making that change and -- and giving utilities that -that flexibility.

On a related note with respect to prioritizing customers who have a higher energy burden, I would just note that we still maintain there may be some implement challenges with our energy assistance program, at least as they're currently structured and administered today. You know, that said, we recognize this is an important focus area of CETA, and we look forward to further guidance from the Commission and, you know, acknowledge that how our assistance programs are implemented today may change over time as we look at ways to place more programmatic emphasis on the energy burden and those customers that do have a higher energy burden. So we look forward to more discussion with the Commission stakeholders and our partnering agencies on how to do that.

The second point I just want to make is with respect to the low income conservation language in the rule, and we certainly appreciate the changes that were made in the CR-102 clarifying that that obligation to fully fund low income conservation does include the ability for our -- our agencies to leverage other funding sources in combination with the utility funds. As Andrew noted, there was one minor edit

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| 1 | made in the current rule language. I mean, I would say | 1 | support for the revision that defines low income to |
| 2 | that we preferred the language that was incorporated | 2 | reflect the maximum limit in CETA and defined as the |
| 3 | previous in the CR-102, and we don't necessarily think | 3 | higher of either 80 percent area median income or 200 |
| 4 | that those clarifying edits are really necessary, but | 4 | percent of the federal poverty level adjusted for |
| 5 | we -- we can certainly live with this language. | 5 | household size. |
| 6 | We're -- we're fine with it. So thank you very much for | 6 | And second, we would like to highlight WAC |
| 7 | your time this morning. | 7 | 480-109-060(14) for the definition of energy assistance |
| 8 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. And I | 8 | need, a threshold for energy burden at 6 percent of |
| 9 | want to repeat the comments I made in another rulemaking | 9 | annual household income used to pay annual home energy |
| 10 | workshop that we had not too long ago, and that is just, | 10 | bills. After discussion with the UTC Staff and other |
| 11 | you know, as we're working through all of these CETA | 11 | stakeholders, Public Counsel accepts this language. |
| 12 | rules, I think what we're on is an evolutionary path. | 12 | And third, Public Counsel supports the |
| 13 | There's some things that we're doing for the first time, | 13 | revised language regarding low income weatherization in |
| 14 | we're going to figure them out, and if we have to make | 14 | WAC 480-109-100(10)(a). We view this as permitting |
| 15 | course corrections along the way, we will do so as we | 15 | utilities to leverage all available funding streams for |
| 16 | learn more. | 16 | that low income weatherization. |
| 17 | But, you know, this is not necessarily one | 17 | So thank you for the opportunity for -- to |
| 18 | and done, although I ask everyone to comply with | 18 | participate today in the adoption hearing, and Mr. Dahl |
| 19 | whatever rules are in effect at the time, but -- but | 19 | and I are available to answer any questions that the |
| 20 | certainly, you know, we -- we do recognize that we're | 20 | Commission may have for us. |
| 21 | all on a learning curve here and we're just going to | 21 | CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very |
| 22 | comply with the statutes and -- and try to make the best | 22 | much. |
| 23 | choices as we go forward and we'll make adjustments if | 23 | Commissioners, are there any questions for |
| 24 | necessary. | 24 | Public Counsel? |
| 25 | Are there any questions for Ms. Durbin, | 25 | Okay. Hearing none, thanks for your |
|  | Page 22 |  | Page 24 |
| 1 | Commissioners? | 1 | participation this morning. |
| 2 | All right. Hearing none, thank you very | 2 | Are there others who wish to comment this |
| 3 | much. | 3 | morning? |
| 4 | Let me ask if there's others on the line who | 4 | MR. COLLINS: Good morning, Chairman. This |
| 5 | wish to make comments this morning? | 5 | is Shawn Collins with The Energy Project. Can you hear |
| 6 | MS. PAISNER: Hi, this is Ann Paisner with | 6 | me? |
| 7 | Public Counsel. We would like to just -- | 7 | CHAIR DANNER: Yes, good morning. |
| 8 | CHAIR DANNER: Yes, -- yes, go ahead, and, | 8 | MR. COLLINS: Good morning. For the record, |
| 9 | again, will you spell your name for the court reporter? | 9 | my name is Shawn Collins, S-h-a-w-n, C-o-l-l-i-n-s, and |
| 10 | MS. PAISNER: Yes, first name's Ann, A-n-n, | 10 | I'm the director of The Energy Project. I just wanted |
| 11 | and last name is Paisner, P-a-i-s-n-e-r. I'm an | 11 | to thank Commission, companies, and stakeholders for the |
| 12 | assistant attorney general in the Public Counsel Unit of | 12 | robust process and briefly mention two areas of -- of |
| 13 | the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, and | 13 | the rulemaking here. |
| 14 | with me on the phone today is Corey Dahl, who is a | 14 | One is echoing the definition of low income |
| 15 | regulatory analyst with Public Counsel. | 15 | under 480-109-060. Energy Project is in support of the |
| 16 | We just would like to express our | 16 | definition including 200 percent of federal poverty |
| 17 | appreciation for this process and thank the Commission | 17 | level and 80 percent of AMI, whichever is greater. |
| 18 | for the opportunity to provide comments, both written | 18 | Additionally, I want to voice support for |
| 19 | and on the record today. We appreciate the thought and | 19 | 480-109-110, Sub A with respect to the most recent edit |
| 20 | effort that went into the rulemaking process. We also | 20 | there, which includes the do not prohibit language. We |
| 21 | would like to express our support for the draft rules as | 21 | feel like that will allow agencies to be able to |
| 22 | a whole and would like to highlight three areas in | 22 | leverage federal, state, and other funds to get this |
| 23 | particular. | 23 | work completed and to clarify for -- for utilities and |
| 24 | So the first -- first item in the definition | 24 | agencies the role for utilities providing us funding |
| 25 | of WAC 480-109-060(22), we would like to express our | 25 | sources. |

So with those comments, that is -- concludes my...

CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.

Are there questions for Mr. Collins?
All right. Hearing none, thank you very much for your participation this morning.

Are there others on the call who wish to participate?

MS. BOSH: This is Joni Bosh with Northwest Energy Coalition.

CHAIR DANNER: Good morning. Go ahead.
MS. BOSH: Okay. I wasn't sure you could hear me. I punched [sic] before. This is -- my name is Joni, J-o-n-i, Bosh, B-o-s-h, with the Northwest Energy Coalition. I will echo the same comments that Shawn Collins just made. We're pleased to see the edit that was made to 110(a) on the programs and the definition correction that's in low income.

I think some of the other suggestions we had maybe in the future we'll look at again, but we're supportive of the rules as they are. And thank you very much for having this opportunity to participate.

CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.
Any questions for Joni Bosh?

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All right. Hearing none, thank you.
Is there anyone else on the call who wishes to make comments before the Commission?
Going once --
MR. BONFIELD: Chairman Danner, Shawn Bonfield for Avista Utilities, and I would like to make one quick clarification. I -- I did -- I misspoke earlier on Avista not bringing up the acquisition discussion we had. We did address that in our comments filed in April. I have them in front of me, but in -in the moment, I overlooked that, and so I just wanted to clarify that we did raise that issue back in April. Thank you.
CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for that correction. Very good.
So all right. We will take all the comments this morning under advisement. Let me make one more call for comments if there's anyone who wishes to participate this morning? All right. Hearing nothing, I will, with my colleagues, go back, we will take this matter under advisement, we will get these rules out in due course.
I too want to do a shout-out to the rulemaking team, all of the -- the names that Andrew mentioned this morning. I think the team has done a
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MR. RECTOR: I would just say I appreciate the Commissioners' recognition of the -- the rulemaking team efforts on this. And then I wanted to make one quick note as Ms. Durbin brought up additional guidance in regards to CETA Section 12, which is in RCW 19.405.120. I'd invite all stakeholders to follow Docket UE-200629 as we'll be addressing some of those questions there. There is nothing in that docket at this point, but the stakeholders are invited to -- to follow that docket and it will be getting updates soon.

CHAIR DANNER: All right.
MR. RECTOR: That's all I had.
CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you,
Mr. Rector. Mr. Rector, your connection was just a little bit garbled, but the -- the message to -- to stakeholders to keep an eye out for Docket 200629, so the issues that we've discussed today will be returning.

So with -- with nothing more to come before us, we are adjourned. Thank you, everyone.
(Adjourned at 10:08 a.m.)

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