Carole Washburn
Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S Evergreen Park Dr SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

July 10, 2003

RE: Docket No. A-010648

Dear Ms. Washburn,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new procedural rules chapter 480-07 WAC. At this time, the Coalition is commenting solely on proposed WAC 480-07-900, which addresses open public meetings and agendas. The proposed rule refers to publication and distribution of open meeting agendas, but does not specify how those materials will be distributed. We strongly recommend revising the proposed rule to specifically provide for distribution of open public meeting agendas by electronic mail to any individual or organization that requests that form of distribution. Further, individuals and organizations without e-mail should be provided an opportunity to receive those materials regularly via first class mail.

Formerly, the UTC utilized electronic mail (electronic_document_distribution@wutc.wa.gov) to notify interested parties about open meeting agendas. Terminating that method of communication adversely affected the ability of interested parties to monitor Commission activities. We strongly encourage taking actions to ensure maximum public participation in Commission decision-making processes. Ample notification of meetings and agenda items is the first critical step in making this happen.

Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dixon Senior Policy Associate NW Energy Coalition