



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503
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July 8, 2024

NOTICE OF RECESSED OPEN MEETING
(Set for Monday, July 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.)

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) will hold a recessed open meeting in this docket on July 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., to hear from regulated electric utilities about their communication plans for the 2024 wildfire season, effectiveness of the plans at the beginning of the season, any lessons learned from prior plans, and ongoing updates to the mitigation and communication plans.”

The Commission further asks that Avista, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy respond to the following questions and requests for information in their responses and be prepared to discuss these at the recessed open meeting:

Communication Plans

1. Are current communication plans working as intended? Have any gaps been identified already this wildfire season?
2. How are communications reaching non-English speakers, deaf, blind, and hard-of-hearing customers?
3. Explain in detail how your utility is partnering with local emergency managers, first responders, fire districts, neighboring utilities, other critical infrastructure providers (e.g., healthcare, telecom), and the state’s Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office (EREMO). Have you shared, in writing, your communication plans with the above list of partners? How are the communication channels and procedures working among these entities? Are there any lessons learned so far?
4. To date, how have communication plans been utilized to communicate with customers, including Highly Impacted Communities, Vulnerable Populations, and medically

vulnerable customers this wildfire season overall? Have these plans identified specific wildfire risks or events?

5. How are you measuring the effectiveness of communication to your customers regarding wildfire mitigation activities, preparedness and response coordination?
 - a. Are there any lessons learned so far?
 - b. If communications were not distributed to all customers, please explain who was excluded and why.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

6. Have you finalized your PSPS plan? If so, have you published it for the public to review and understand its potential scope? Have you provided a copy to the EREMO to support the utility in addressing downstream impacts?
7. Explain in detail what resources you are providing to customers who will be impacted by a PSPS or emergency de-energization. How is this effort being coordinated and communicated to your customers?
8. Can you explain in detail your communication plans for a PSPS, including estimates of the outage duration and time for customer restoration?
9. What analysis did your utility use to determine your high-risk areas when issuing a PSPS?
10. How will your utility document the impact of a PSPS on reliability and cost of operation?
11. How will your utility document and assess the effectiveness of a PSPS in reducing the risk of ignition and the safety of customers and responders?

Insurance Plans

12. Please provide a narrative response on whether the utility currently has adequate insurance coverage for potential liability associated with wildfires. In this narrative, please provide information on changes in the cost of coverage and how your insurance provider is calculating risk. Note: The current litigated cases pertaining to wildfire do not allow for discussions on specific insurance costs or the effect of wildfire risk on borrowing costs.

MEETING PARTICIPATION

The Commission will hold this recessed open meeting in person and virtually via Zoom. The in-person meeting will be held at Commission Headquarters, Commission Hearing Room (Room 11), 621 Woodland Square Loop S.E., Lacey, Washington. To participate by phone, call (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID 851 5065 5309, and Passcode 159348. Interested persons may comment at the meeting or may listen to the meeting via Zoom by calling (253) 215-8782 and using

Meeting ID: 816 1703 6134 and Passcode: 078982. To participate in the meeting using Zoom on a computer or mobile device, [click here to join the meeting](#).

If you want to be included on the interested persons' contact list, please submit your request to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov and include which docket number and company you are interested in. The docket numbers are at the top of this notice and are case numbers the Commission uses to keep track of various filings.

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodation 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 meeting 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 (800) 833-6384 or 711.

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) 664-1149 or by sending an email to Stacey Brewster at stacey.brewster@utc.wa.gov.

If you have questions regarding this recessed open meeting, you may contact Jacque Hawkins-Jones, Deputy Director, Energy – Rates and Services, at jacque.hawkins-jones@utc.wa.gov or (360) 664-1292.

JEFF KILLIP,
Executive Director and Secretary