

From: [Smith, Ryan \(UTC\)](#)
To: [Records Management \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: FW: UTC Natural Gas Decarbonization - concerns regarding effectiveness of public process
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 11:06:23 AM

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02/27/23 14:36:37

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 Records Management

Please convert to pdf and add to the docket.

-----Original Message-----

From: Faker, Lisa (UTC) <lisa.faker@utc.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Johnson, Miesha (UTC) <miesha.johnson@utc.wa.gov>; Smith, Ryan (UTC) <ryan.smith@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: UTC Natural Gas Decarbonization - concerns regarding effectiveness of public process

Can you please have these added to Docket no. 210553.

Please let me know if there should be a distribution list or an easier way to have comments added to docket numbers. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Albert <donna.albert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 3:43 PM
To: UTC DL Commissioners <Commissioners@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: UTC Natural Gas Decarbonization - concerns regarding effectiveness of public process

External Email

Dear Commissioners — I attended Wednesday's UTC Natural Gas Decarbonization workshop. I asked whether there would be opportunity to review a draft report, and what the schedule was for that (this question was also asked in the January workshop). The consultant did not reply clearly, but it seems they are not planning adequate time to send out a draft that incorporates comments, then a follow up with discussion and revision, before a final report. I will call UTC staff directly to ask again about the schedule.

Please review the comments made by others besides me since the January workshop, several of which independently arrived at points similar to mine. You may find these comments by others helpful in understanding the nature of my concerns, because other commenters did take the time to identify and describe flaws in the limited information provided so far by the consultant.

Here are my written comments as sent to Samantha Doyle on Jan 10:

Samantha - Thank you for the important work you do at UTC. As a former state employee, I appreciate your public service.

I attended the SSG workshop intended for the Advisory Group about a week or so ago. I couldn't attend the one I think was intended for the public — I believe the content was the same. I'm a retired engineer, trying to participate in this Natural Gas Decarbonization workshop process.

I am unable to find a draft report by SSG, and unable to make useful comments. My main concerns:

There was detailed and excellent work done in the WA State Dept of Commerce 2021 Energy Strategy, incorporating many public comments, which does not appear to be the basis of SSG's work.

If I understand your deadlines, a final report is expected soon. Because I have not seen a detailed draft on which to make useful comments, I have been unable to give my input. The Miro board is great for brainstorming at early stages, but not for collecting specific responses to a technical report.

I believe when developed and analyzed, some alternatives I saw in the SSG presentation will not result in sufficient or economical decarbonization of services currently provided by natural gas, but without details I would have to make too many assumptions in order to write comments. For that reason, you do not have my comments on this yet.

ALL of the alternatives described in the report must describe economical and effective decarbonization strategies that will result in complying with state GHG limits. Your starting point for this is the 2021 Energy Strategy.

In this Natural Gas Decarbonization workshop process, I expected to see multiple practical strategies and pathways developed to implement the electrification of most services currently provided by natural gas (other than electricity generation) - each one with scope, funding methods, and decarbonization schedules, and environmental and equity considerations. There is so much that needs to be worked out and thought through, especially the environmental and equity aspects of various strategies. I see none of that. How can legislators be expected to implement vague and undefined high-level decarbonization pathways, with none of these practical considerations laid out for them?

I'm very concerned we will fail to plan and implement effective, timely and equitable decarbonization of the services currently provided by natural gas. Getting this right is much more important than meeting the deadline for releasing the final report.

Sincerely,
Donna Albert, PE (retired), MCE, LEED-AP Montesano, WA

Sent from my iPhone