



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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DATE: November 06, 2019

TIME: 12:36 PM

WSR 19-23-005

Agency: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Subject of possible rule making: In Docket UE-190698, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has initiated this rulemaking to incorporate statutory changes made to WAC 480-100-238 since 2006, including in Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5116, the Clean Energy Transformation Act (E2SSB 5116), and to consider other policy and process changes to create more efficient rules that adapt to a changing energy landscape. In 2006, the Commission adopted WAC 480-100-238, which requires investor-owned electric utilities to engage in long-term, integrated resource planning (IRP) processes. In 2016, the Commission initiated a rulemaking in Docket U-161024, in part to consider whether additional rules were necessary to implement recent legislation, to clarify how recent advances in the energy industry should be treated in the IRP, and to consider other general process and policy improvements. However, that rulemaking was not completed before the legislature made changes, in 2019, to integrated resource planning requirements through 2SSB 5116. The Commission has terminated the rulemaking in Docket U-161024 and has incorporated work developed in Docket UE-161024 in this rulemaking.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.160, RCW 19.280, RCW 19.405]

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: The Commission has not substantially revised its integrated resource planning (IRP) rules since 2006, and the rules should be updated to reflect amendments the legislature enacted to the underlying statute subsequent to 2009. The Commission must also incorporate by January 1, 2021, changes the Washington Legislature made to RCW 19.280 during the passage of E2SSB 5116. Furthermore, recent advances in the energy industry, such as the rapid growth of distributed generation and the development of energy storage technologies, have created modeling challenges for the IRP process that the Commission may want to clarify in its rules. The Commission began addressing these policy and procedural issues in its 2016 rulemaking, and intends to continue that process in this rulemaking.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: The Washington State Department of Commerce (Department) must ensure that consumer-owned utilities also meet the planning requirements as set for in E2SSB 5116. The Commission and the Department are coordinating their processes for implementing the requirements in E2SSB 5116.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

Negotiated rule making

Pilot rule making

Agency study

Other (describe) The UTC uses a collaborative rulemaking process that includes stakeholder workshops, formal comments, and draft rules.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

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Other:

Additional comments:

Date: November 6, 2019

Signature:

Name: Mark L. Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Title: Executive Director and Secretary