



PROPOSED RULE MAKING (RCW 34.05.320)

CR-102 (7/10/97)

Do NOT use for expedited adoption

Agency: WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

X Original Notice

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 99-08-052.

Supplemental Notice to WSR

Continuance of WSR

(a) Title of rule: (Describe Subject) Chapter 480-90 WAC Gas Companies--Operations. Rules establish requirements for natural gas utilities.

Purpose: To conduct a general revision of the rules and to implement the requirements of Executive Order 97-02, requiring agencies to review significant rules for Need; Effectiveness and Efficiency; Clarity; Intent and Statutory Authority; Cost and Fairness. This included reviewing whether current rules provided the results they were originally intended to achieve and whether the rules were consistent with laws and with appropriate and lawful policies.

Other Identifying Information: Commission Docket No. UG-990294

(b) Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 80.01.040 General, RCW 80.04.160 Rules and Regulations.

Statute being implemented:

(c) Summary: See (j) below.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed rule revisions appropriately improve the effectiveness of the rules, and ensure that they are serving their intended purpose. The proposed revisions are a result of four stakeholder workshops held in June and October 1999 and May 2000, written comments filed, and discussions with stakeholders and staff.

(d) Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for: Office Location Telephone
1. Drafting... James M. Russell, Policy Specialist, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1318

2. Implementation... Carole J. Washburn, Secretary, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1174

3. Enforcement... Carole J. Washburn, Secretary, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1174

(e) Name of proponent (person or organization) Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Private Public Governmental

(f) Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None

(g) Is rule necessary because of: Federal Law? Federal Court Decision? State Court Decision? If yes, ATTACH COPY OF TEXT Citation:

(h) HEARING LOCATION: Commission Hearing Room Second Floor, Chandler Plaza, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Date: March 14, 2001 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact Pat Valentine by March 1, 2001 TDD (360) 586-8203 or (360) 664-1133

Submit written comments to: Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission PO Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

FAX (360) 586-1150 By January 24, 2001

DATE OF INTENDED ADOPTION: March 14, 2001

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT) CAROLE J. WASHBURN

SIGNATURE

TITLE SECRETARY

DATE

(j) Short explanation of rule, its purpose, and anticipated effects:

All provisions currently codified in chapter 480-90 WAC are under review in Docket No. UG-990294. The review considers whether substantive changes or additional rules are required. The proposal recommends repealing all existing rules in order to allow the chapter to be more effectively organized. Current rules have been reviewed to consider whether they provide the results that they were originally intended to achieve and whether the rules are consistent with laws and with appropriate and lawful policies. New rules have been added to ensure clear communication of policies, processes, and procedures or to provide complete information important to regulated companies and the customers they serve.

Eighty-five rules are being proposed for amendment, repeal, or adoption.

Organization of the Chapter. Chapter 480-90 WAC has been reorganized in five parts (General Rules, Consumer Rules, Financial Records and Reporting Rules, Gas Standards and Metering Rules, and Adoption by Reference Rule) in order to facilitate its reading by the users.

General Rules. These rules contain information referred to in other sources, such as, but not limited to: statutes, Commission policies, Commission orders, and Interpretative statements. These sources are not always easily available to the public. Adopting rules in this Chapter makes the information readily available. Cross-references to the other sources makes it easier for users to research issues further should they wish to do so. Two new rules have been added to the General Rules part: proposed WAC 480-90-008, Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-90, and proposed WAC 480-90-018, Severability. One rule, current WAC 480-90-061, Contracts for service, is proposed to be moved to chapter 480-80 WAC.

Consumer Rules. Rules that refer to consumer issues have been reorganized and redrafted for clarity, as well as to meet consumers' current needs and to reflect existing commission practices. Two new rules have resulted from splitting current rules into compatible subject matters: WAC 480-90-133, Reconnecting service after disconnection and WAC 480-90-143, Winter low-income payment program. Additionally, two new rules are proposed, WAC 480-90-118, Nonresidential service deposit requirements and WAC 480-90-153, Disclosure of private information. Finally, proposed rule WAC 480-90-123, Refusal of service, is the result of combining current rules WAC 480-90-056, Refusal of service and WAC 480-90-121, Responsibility for delinquent accounts.

Financial Records and Reporting Rules. These rules have been redrafted for clarity and to reflect current Commission practices. Two new rules are proposed; WAC 480-90-208, Financial reporting requirements, and WAC 480-90-233 Purchased gas adjustment. WAC 480-100-208, Financial reporting requirements, is the result of separating the reporting aspects from current WAC 480-90-031, Accounting. WAC 480-90-233, Purchased gas adjustment, is proposed to adopt standards for timing, reporting, and the appropriate interest rate for purchased gas adjustments.

Gas Standards and Metering Rules. These rules have been redrafted for clarity and updating with technical standards and industry practices.

Adoption by Reference. A new rule, WAC 480-90-999, Adoption by reference, is proposed.

Does proposal change existing rules? **YES** **NO** **If yes, describe changes:** See Item J above.

(k) Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement. A copy of the statement may be obtained by writing to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Records Center, Docket No. UG-990294

P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, WA 98504-7250

telephoning: (360) 664-1234

faxing: (360) 664-1150

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

(l) Does RCW 34.05.328 apply to this rule adoption? **YES** **NO**

Please explain: The Commission is not an agency to which RCW 34.005.328 applies.