



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • www.utc.wa.gov

February 16, 2018

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL DRAFT RULES AND OPPORTUNITY TO FILE
WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Thursday, March 1, 2018)
AND
NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.)**

RE: Rulemaking regarding the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's jurisdiction and regulation of community solar companies, Docket UE-171033.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On October 18, 2017, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5939, which became effective July 7, 2017. The Commission filed the CR-101 in Docket UE-171033.

ESSB 5939 creates a framework for Commission regulatory oversight of community solar companies. A community solar company is defined as a person, firm, or corporation, other than an electric utility, that owns a community solar project and provides related services to project participants. ESSB 5939 requires that community solar companies must annually register with the Commission before engaging in business in Washington State or applying for certification from the Washington State University extension energy program. The bill also authorizes the Commission to adopt rules for:

- Suspending or revoking a community solar company's registration with the Commission;
- Establishing the community solar companies' responsibilities for complying with consumer protection rules;
- Annual reporting requirements; and
- Collection of an annual registration fee and regulatory fees.

On October 19, 2017, the Commission issued a notice of opportunity to file written comments regarding the Commission's broad rulemaking authority to adopt rules for community solar companies described in ESSB 5939. In addition, a workshop was set for January 10, 2018. On December 22, 2017, the Commission issued a notice rescheduling the workshop for March 6, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

The Commission solicits feedback on informal draft rules prepared for discussion at the March 6, 2018, workshop. The informal draft is not a formal proposed rule.

All documents submitted or issued by the Commission in this matter are available on the Commission's website located at: www.utc.wa.gov/171033.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

If you are unable to attend the workshop and prefer to provide written comments to the informal draft rules, written comments may be filed with the Commission no later than 5p.m., on March 1, 2018. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. You may submit comments via the Commission's Web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (Docket UE-171033)
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a thumb drive, CD, or DVD in .pdf format (created using Adobe Acrobat or comparable software) or in Microsoft Word. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at www.utc.wa.gov/171033.

If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may email staff lead Bridgit Feeser at Bridgit.feeser@utc.wa.gov or contact by phone at (360) 664-1111.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Interested persons are invited to attend a stakeholder workshop on **March 6, 2018, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington**. At the workshop, Commission staff will review and discuss the informal draft rules with the stakeholders.

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234
- Email the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov
- Mail written comments to the address below

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket UE-171033 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
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STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary