



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Subject of possible rule making: The Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) commences this inquiry to consider whether changes to WACs 480-100-128(6)(k) and 480-90-128(6)(k), which state that utility company representatives dispatched to disconnect service must accept payment to prevent disconnection, are warranted. This rulemaking has been assigned Docket U-131087.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 80.01.040 and RCW 80.04.160.

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power requested an exemption from WAC 480-100-128(6)(k), citing safety concerns and the availability of alternative methods of payment for its customers. Staff, Public Counsel, and the Energy Project believe that any potential safety concerns are outweighed by potential consumer harm, and that alternative methods for payment are largely unavailable to low-income consumers. This inquiry is being undertaken to gather more information from regulated companies related to safety incidents, disconnections prevented by collecting payment at the door, and data on banking options and internet access for low-income consumers.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:

N/A

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

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

The Commission will ask for initial written comments, schedule one or more workshops, and will provide the opportunity to provide additional written comments on draft rules and proposed CR-102 prior to adoption.

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

Interested persons may file comments with the Executive Director and Secretary, Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington, 98504-7250, telephone (360) 664-1174; Fax (360) 586-1150, email at records@utc.wa.gov, or through the Commission's Web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing by 5:00 p.m., **Thursday, August 1, 2013**. For specific information regarding this rulemaking, please see the attachment to this form.

DATE
June 28, 2013

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Steven V. King

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Acting Director and Secretary

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 28, 2013
TIME: 8:41 AM

WSR 13-14-060

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
CR-101 - ATTACHMENT
DOCKET U-131087

Interested persons may contact the Executive Director and Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7250, 360-664-1174 (Fax: 360-586-1150).

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Written comments may be submitted to the Commission at the address given above and should be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 1, 2013**, for consideration at the **August 15, 2013**, stakeholder workshop.

Electronic copies. 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. Comments may be submitted 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 (U-131087)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments may be by mailing/delivering an electronic copy on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/131087>. If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document.

Opportunity for further comment is anticipated. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may (1) call the Commission's Records Center at 360-664-1234, (2) e-mail the Commission at [<records@utc.wa.gov>](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov), or (3) mail written comments to the address above to the attention of Steven V. King, Acting Executive Director and Secretary. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket U-131087 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. Questions may be addressed to Rayne Pearson, (360) 664-1103, or rpearson@utc.wa.gov.

NOTICE

TO CONTINUE RECEIVING NOTICES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RULEMAKING -- The Commission wants to ensure its mailings are sent to persons who are interested in the topic and want to receive that information. **ANY PERSON WHO COMMENTS** will continue to receive notices and information. If you do not submit comments but wish to remain on the mailing list for this rulemaking, please advise the Records Center by any one of the following methods: (1) send a note with your name, address (or a copy of your mailing label), and telephone and fax numbers referencing Docket U-131087, and the words "Please keep me on the mailing list"; or (2) E-mail your name, address, telephone and fax numbers, referencing Docket U-131087, and the words "Please keep me on the mailing list" to <records@utc.wa.gov>. Please note that all information in the mailings will be accessible through the Commission's Internet web site at <<http://www.utc.wa.gov/131087>>. **THOSE INTERESTED PERSONS WHO DO NOT RESPOND MAY NOT RECEIVE FURTHER MAILINGS OR INFORMATION ON THE RULEMAKING.**