



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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February 16, 2018

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Set for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2018)

AND

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2018)

RE: Commission Policy on Customer Choice for Smart Meter Installation
Docket U-180117

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) is gathering information and reviewing existing practices concerning the deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technologies and related customer impacts. At this time, the Commission seeks the perspective of investor-owned companies and interested persons specifically related to the policy of customer choice for smart meter installation (opt-in/opt-out). The Commission intends to open a separate docket to address other policy issues related to AMI installation, including, but not limited to, data privacy, remote disconnection, and customer notifications. Stakeholders and interested persons are invited to provide comments to the Commission limited to the topic of customer choice by Thursday, March 8, 2018. The Commission also invites interested persons to attend a workshop scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2018, to discuss policies regarding AMI customer choice.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

To facilitate the development of its policy on smart meter installation choice, the Commission requests stakeholder feedback on the following questions.

Smart Meter Installation Opt-In/Opt-Out

1. Should companies be required to offer customers the choice to opt-out of smart meter installation at their premises? Alternatively, should customers affirmatively opt-in?
2. Should companies be required to offer all customer classes the choice to opt-out or opt-in for smart meter installation?
3. What company estimates, if any, have already been developed for how many customers would choose to opt-out or opt-in for smart meter installation?

Smart Meter Benefits

4. What challenges do the companies face based on different levels of opt-in and opt-out (*e.g.*, 1 percent, 5 percent, 25 percent) and what smart grid benefits are either reduced or eliminated at these levels?
5. For those customers who select to opt-out of, or decline to opt-in to, smart meter installation, what types of services or benefits would they be forgoing?

Costs

6. What types of costs are associated with offering an analog/existing meter opt-out option?
7. Are costs a function of the number of customers choosing to opt-in or opt-out?
8. Should all costs associated with the opt-out choice be paid by the individual customer making that election or should some portion of those costs be allocated to all ratepayers and/or to company shareholders?

Fees

9. What fees (one-time/recurring) should be assessed to customers who elect to opt-out and should the fees be assessed on a per-meter or per-location basis?
10. If a monthly fee component is included, should there be a limited duration for companies to recover the incremental costs associated with the customer's choice to retain an analog/existing meter?
11. If a one-time or up-front fee is required, should the companies be required to offer a payment plan?

12. If recurring opt-out fees are assessed with each meter reading, should alternative meter reading schedules be adopted to reduce the opt-out fees paid by the customer (*e.g.*, bi-monthly, quarterly, or annually with budget billing)?
13. Should fees differ based on whether the customer is selecting to opt-out of a smart meter for a single service (*e.g.*, electric or natural gas) or both services?
14. Should there be a fee imposed on customers who elect to opt-out and later desire to have a smart meter installed?
15. Should opt-out fees be a separate line item on a customer's bill?

Options

16. Should more than one opt-out option be offered to customers who do not wish to have a wireless smart meter (*e.g.*, a digital non-communicating meter)? If so, should the cost differ based on the type of meter selected?
17. Should customers with smart meters be offered the opportunity to relocate the smart meter to another location on their premises? If so, should the customer pay the cost of relocation?

Customer Communication

18. What form(s) of communication should the companies employ to advise customers of their smart meter installation options, and what type of information should be communicated?

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Written comments in response to this Notice and the questions listed above must be filed with the Commission no later than **5 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 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. 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-180117).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

Comments may also be submitted by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later format on a flash drive or CD and must include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on its website all comments that are provided in electronic format. The website is located at the following URL address:

<http://www.utc.wa.gov/180117>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically, the Commission will accept a paper document.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

In addition to filing written comments, interested persons are invited to attend a workshop to discuss smart meter installation choice on **March 15, 2018, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

The Commission seeks input from a variety of stakeholders on these issues. If you have questions about this inquiry or wish to request time on the workshop agenda, please contact Amy Andrews, the Commission's Accounting Policy Advisor, at (360) 664-1304, or by email at amy.andrews@utc.wa.gov.

If you wish to receive further information on this matter you may (1) call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234 or, (2) e-mail the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket U-180117.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary