



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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July 26, 2021

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Scheduled for August 9, 2021, at 9 a.m.)

and

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By 5 p.m., Friday, August 13, 2021)

RE: Relating to the Commission’s examination of energy decarbonization impacts and pathways for electric and gas utilities to meet state emissions targets, Docket U-210553

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

In the 2021-23 Omnibus Operating Appropriations Act, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) received funding to “examine feasible and practical pathways for investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to contribute their share to greenhouse gas emissions reductions as described in RCW 70A.45.020 [state law].”¹ As part of its examination, the Commission must identify and consider the impacts of energy decarbonization on residential and commercial customers and electric and natural gas utilities. The results of the examination must be reported to the appropriate legislative committees by June 1, 2023.

The Commission is holding a public workshop on **August 9, 2021, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.** to gather early stakeholder input to inform the Commission’s examination. The Commission is also accepting public comments. Comments received by **5 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021**, will be included in the Commission’s initial review. As described in more detail below, the Commission anticipates additional rounds of stakeholder engagement.

¹ Senate Bill 5092, Sec. 143(4).

WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

The workshop will be held virtually. Parties may participate by telephone, but participation via Microsoft Teams will make it easier to facilitate the discussion.

Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#) on Microsoft Teams.

Join by phone:(253) 372-2181, Conference ID: 584 034 920# ([+1 253-372-2181,,584034920#](#))

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m.** Commissioner Remarks
- 9:15 a.m.** Commission's Planned Approach to the Pathways Analysis
- 9:30 a.m.** Stakeholder Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Commission requests comments in response to the following questions.

1. Section 143(4) of the Appropriation Act includes the following required considerations as part of the Commission's examination:
 - a. How natural gas utilities can decarbonize;
 - b. The impacts of increased electrification on the ability of electric utilities to deliver services to current natural gas customers reliably and affordably;
 - c. The ability of electric utilities to procure and deliver electric power to reliably meet that load;
 - d. The impact on regional electric system resource adequacy, and the transmission and distribution infrastructure requirements for such a transition;
 - e. The costs and benefits to residential and commercial customers, including environmental, health, and economic benefits;
 - f. Equity considerations and impacts to low-income customers and highly impacted communities; and
 - g. Potential regulatory policy changes to facilitate decarbonization of the services that gas companies provide while ensuring customer rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.²

Subject to budget and data constraints, what, if any, additional considerations should the Commission include as part of its examination?

2. Besides any additional considerations provided above, what else do you think the Commission should consider during the development of the study and consultant engagement?

² Senate Bill 5092, Sec. 143 (4).

3. Please provide references that may be relevant to the Commission's examination of practical and feasible decarbonization strategies, including resources evaluating the impacts of the strategies. Examples of relevant resources may include, but are not limited to, publicly available studies and reports as well as documentation of community listening sessions and equity analysis frameworks.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission gives notice of the opportunity to submit comments by **5 p.m., Friday, August 13, 2021.**

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-250(3), written comments must be submitted in electronic form, specifically in searchable .pdf format (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software). As provided in WAC 480-07-140(5), those comments must be submitted via the Commission's web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing. If you are unable to submit documents via the portal, you may submit your comments by email to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov or by mailing an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or compact disc that includes the filed document(s). Comment submissions should include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (Docket U-210553).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/210553>.

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

FUTURE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS AND COMMENTING PERIODS

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about any workshops and other aspects of the Commission's examination in this Docket, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. Persons filing comments in response to this Notice will receive future communications the Commission issues in this docket. If you do not file comments but wish to receive such information you may contact the Commission's Records Center by telephone at (360) 664-1139 or by email at records@utc.wa.gov and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket U-210553.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket U-210553 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
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

OTHER INFORMATION

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for this workshop, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the workshop by calling 1-360-664-1132 or by sending an email to human_resources@utc.wa.gov. For TTY service, please call the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384.

If you wish to participate and need an interpreter, one will be provided at no cost to you. If possible, please inform the Commission of which language you will need interpretation services for at least one business day prior to the meeting by calling (360) 664-1140, or by sending an email to paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov.

If you have questions regarding the workshop or opportunity to comment, you may contact staff lead Kendra White at (360) 701-5363, or by email at kendra.white@utc.wa.gov.

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary