

April 5, 2001

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS  
(Wednesday, April 25, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP  
(Monday, April 30, 2001)**

RE: Utility General -Tariffs, Chapter 480-80 WAC  
Docket No. U-991301

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

On March 14, 2001, the Commission approved the repeal of the customer notice rules from Chapter 480-80 Commission General – Tariffs, and the adoption of customer notice rules in individual industry chapters – WAC 480-90 Natural Gas Operations, 480-100 Electric Operation and 480-120 Telecommunications Operations. This action followed the last request for comments and the stakeholder workshop held on February 28, 2001.

Staff has prepared another draft of proposed customer notice rules based on discussions at the last workshop. The Commission requests your written comments. In addition to the opportunity to submit written comments, you are invited to attend a stakeholder workshop. At this workshop, Staff will discuss the draft rules and provide an opportunity for further comment.

The draft customer notice rules are available for inspection on the Commission's web site at <[www.wutc.wa.gov/991301](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/991301)>. The Commission will send a paper copy of the draft customer notice rules, if requested. See information below about contacting the Commission.

The draft customer notice rules include the following:

- 480-090-193 - Customer notice requirements (natural gas)
- 480-100-193 - Customer notice requirements (electric)
- 480-120-043 - Customer notice requirements (non-competitive telecommunications)

Staff has prepared two alternatives for each rule. As discussed at the February workshop each alternative includes provision for customer notice for formal hearings formerly included in the draft rule 480-080-125 - Formal hearing customer notice.

Alternative 1: This approach includes general guidance on when notice is to be provided prior to Commission action. It also includes a provision that, if the Commission does not have sufficient information from customers to determine the fairness of a filing, the Commission may suspend the tariff revision to allow additional time for customer notice and comment.

Alternative 2: This alternative requires that, for specific types of tariff revisions, each customer receive a minimum of 21 days prior notice.

In addition, the following rules are also available for review and comment:

480-120-X15 - Customer notice requirements - competitive telecommunications companies or services

480-121-X04 - Customer notice requirements - petition for competitive classification of a service.

### **STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

We encourage your attendance and participation in the stakeholder workshop. The workshop will be held **Monday, April 30, 2001**, in Room 206 at the Commission's headquarters, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Free parking is available. The Commission's address is:

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

If you need additional information please call Fred Ottavelli at (306) 664-1297 or e-mail him at [fottavel@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:fottavel@wutc.wa.gov).

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Written comments may be submitted to the Commission at the address given above and should be filed with the Commission no later than **Wednesday, April 25, 2001**.

In addition to specific comments on the proposed rules we welcome written comment on which of the alternatives described above would work better.

**Electronic copies.** The Commission also requests, but does not require, that comments be provided in electronic format to facilitate quotations from the comments, to enhance public access, and to reduce the need for additional paper copies. Please help us by sending an electronic copy with your paper filing on a 3-1/2 inch, IBM-formatted, high density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format, reflecting the pagination of your original. Also send us the text in your choice of .doc (Word 97 or later) or .wpd (Wordperfect 6.0 or later) and include all of the following information on the label of the diskette:

- \* The docket number of this proceeding (U-991301)
- \* The commenting party's name
- \* The title and date of the comment or comments; and
- \* The type of software used

Please use the three-letter extension noted above for all electronic files. You may also send your comments by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at [<records@wutc.wa.gov>](mailto:records@wutc.wa.gov); if you choose this means of submitting comments, include all of the information requested above

for the diskette label. 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.wutc.wa.gov>>.

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@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:records@wutc.wa.gov)>, or (3) mail written comments to the address above to the attention of Carole J. Washburn, Secretary. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. U-991301 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list.

### NOTICE

**If you don't want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Secretary in one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket No. U-991301. If you do not do this, you will not receive further information about this rulemaking.**

Sincerely,

Carole J. Washburn  
Secretary