

July 9, 2002

**NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION  
OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (CR-102)  
(Wednesday, August 14, 2002)**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS  
(Tuesday, July 23, 2002)**

RE: Commission's Solid Waste, Gas, Electric, and Water Company rules establishing the interest on deposits collected from customers and WAC 480-100-148, Service responsibility.  
Docket No. A-020405

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

Beginning March 2001, the Treasury Department discontinued the 52-week Treasury bill auctions. The Commission can no longer calculate interest based upon the 52-week Treasury bills. Commission Staff has completed a draft of the proposed rules establishing the interest on deposits collected from customers in the solid waste, gas, electric, and water chapters.

Staff proposes that utilities that collect customer deposits must pay interest on those deposits calculated at the rate for the one-year Treasury Constant Maturity calculated by the U.S. Treasury, as published in the Federal Reserve's Statistical Release H.15 on January 15 of each year. Staff also proposes removing the requirement "The Commission will advise the . . . each year of the specific rate by mail" since the new rate will be a reference rather than a calculation. The rules included in this proposal are:

- WAC 480-70-411(6)(a), Establishing credit and deposits
- WAC 480-90-113(9)(a), Residential deposit requirements
- WAC 480-90-118(6)(a), Nonresidential deposit requirements
- WAC 480-100-113(9)(a), Residential deposit requirements
- WAC 480-100-118(6)(a), Nonresidential deposit requirements
- WAC 480-110-335(6)(a), Establishment of credit and deposits

Language in the above rules has been redrafted to parallel language across the four industries. These revisions do not change the substance of the rules.

A draft of WAC 480-100-148, Service responsibility, is also included. The proposal deletes language in subsection (2)(d) to clarify current language that may unintentionally prevent electric utilities from suspending services for reasonable periods in order to repair meters.

The proposed rules have been drafted based on comments received and are available for inspection on the Commission's web site at [www.wutc.wa.gov/020405](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/020405). The Commission will send a paper copy of the draft rules or will send the proposal via electronic mail, if requested.

The proposed rules will be presented to the Commission on **Wednesday, August 14, 2002**, for approval to file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102). The open meeting will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second floor, Chandler Plaza, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W., Olympia, Washington. Your oral comments on the rule proposals will be welcomed at this meeting.

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Written comments may be submitted to the Commission at the address below and should be filed with the Commission no later than **Tuesday, July 23, 2002**. If you need additional information please call Sharyn Bate at (306) 664-1295 or e-mail her at [sbate@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:sbate@wutc.wa.gov).

**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. Please also send us the text in your choice of .doc (Word 97 or later) or .wpd (Wordperfect 6.0 or later). Please include all of the following information on the label of the diskette:

- \* The docket number of this proceeding (A-020405)
- \* 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, please 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 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 below. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. A-020405 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

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

**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. A-020405. If you do not do this, you will not receive further information about this rulemaking.**

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary