

Washington Renewable Portfolio Standards Working Group Consensus Report

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Companies: Energy (Washington Investor Owned Utilities: Avista, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy)

Staff: Rebecca Beaton, Utilities Infrastructure Manager
David Nightingale, Senior Engineering Regulatory Specialist
Deborah Reynolds, Conservation and Energy Planning Assistant Director
Frona Woods, Assistant Attorney General

Background

Initiative 937, Washington's Energy Independence Act (EIA) codified as RCW 19.285 has been the catalyst for an increased level of program implementation, scrutiny, and prominence of renewable energy requirements to meet the current and future needs of the region's electric customers. The EIA and the related administrative rules were the basis for consensus conclusions.

Introduction

On June 1, 2012, the first Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) progress reports must be filed at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission by Washington investor-owned utilities (IOU's) Avista, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy.

The process was led by commission staff. The RPS workgroup members included representatives from Commission staff; IOU's; the Department of Commerce; the Office of the State Auditor; the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General's office; Oregon Department of Energy; California Department of Energy; Snohomish County Public Utility District; Tacoma Power; Northwest Energy Coalition; and Renewable Northwest Project.

Supporting the RPS workgroup recommendations were analyses conducted by the Technical Working Group whose members include Commission staff David Nightingale and Rebecca Beaton and Department of Commerce staff Charles Murray, Meg O'Leary, Howard Schwartz, Peter Moulton, and Tony Usibelli.

This document and the attachments are the consensus outcome of a lengthy and detailed process employed by participants through a series of eight workshops conducted at the Commission offices in Olympia, Washington and additionally, multiple issue-specific teleconference meetings. The workshops were facilitated by Commission staff addressing an extensive number of topics related to EIA and associated agency rules.

This report provides the working group view of what has been accomplished to date, the participants, and consensus documents developed to meet the Commission's filing requirements related to RPS.

Outstanding Issue

The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) is an independent, renewable energy tracking system for the region covered by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. WREGIS tracks renewable energy generation from units that register in the system using verifiable data and creates renewable energy certificates for this generation. WREGIS Certificates can be used to verify compliance with state regulatory requirements. The outstanding issue with Washington RPS compliance reporting remains the lack of a WREGIS administrator in Washington. The Department of Commerce selected WREGIS as the renewable energy credit (REC) tracking system but has not assigned an administrator for WREGIS, due in part to separate authorities between private (WUTC regulated) and public (Department of Commerce and Office of State Auditor) utilities. To date, Commerce has not designated anyone to make sure that a particular renewable energy credit in the WREGIS system satisfies the requirements of Washington law.

Workshops

Eight workshops occurred on March 24, 2011; May 10, 2011; June 21, 2011; July 26, 2011; September 20, 2011; November 15, 2011; December 8, 2011; and January 31, 2012.

Documents

- Attachment 1: RPS Workgroup Members
- Attachment 2: RPS Timeline
- Attachment 3: RPS Defined Report Filing
- Attachment 4: RPS Hydro Methodology
- Attachment 5: RPS Report Tool Summary
- Attachment 6: RPS Report Tool