



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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July 25, 2023

**NOTICE OF CHANGE TO ELECTRIC INTEGRATED
RESOURCE PLAN PROCESS**

RE: Relating to changes to the Commission's electric integrated resource plan process

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has historically issued acknowledgment letters in response to integrated resource plans (IRPs) filed by electric utilities. These acknowledgment letters are not required by statute or Commission rule. This notice is to inform electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs), the public, and interested parties that the Commission is discontinuing its practice of issuing acknowledgment letters for electric utility IRPs in all cases.

Prior to the passage of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), acknowledgment letters served first to acknowledge that the utility had met the requirements of state law and Commission rules in the preparation and submission of the plan, and second to document the Commission's guidance and assessment of a utility's IRP in the absence of any requirement for a litigated process or approval. CETA, however, requires the Commission to evaluate Clean Energy Implementation Plans (CEIPs) and provides a process for Commission review of CEIPs and CEIP updates, including the option for adjudication.¹ Under this process, the Commission must issue an order approving, rejecting, or approving with conditions the utility's proposed targets.

Under CETA, the CEIP must be "consistent with the utility's long-range integrated resource plan"² and "informed by the investor-owned utility's clean energy action plan,"³ which is developed as part of an electric IOU's IRP. Therefore, any issues that interested parties may have related to an IRP can be litigated and decided by the Commission as part of a CEIP proceeding. With a new process in place, the Commission has determined that issuing an acknowledgment letter is duplicative. As part of the Commission's effort to reduce unnecessary administrative burden and duplicative processes, we are discontinuing our practice of issuing acknowledgment letters for electric IRPs in all cases.

¹ WAC 480-100-645.

² RCW 19.405.060(1)(b)(iii).

³ RCW 19.405.060(1)(b)(i).

No other aspect of Commission practice related to electric IRPs will change. The Commission will still receive and consider comments from the public on IRPs and convene recessed open meetings to discuss the plans. The Commission may also share written comments on IRPs with utilities in individual cases if it determines such comments are necessary and appropriate. Interested persons and parties can expect that in all cases the Commission will continue to review IRPs closely and provide any necessary feedback or guidance at the recessed open meetings. Finally, we note that this change in practice does not require electric IOUs to seek an exemption from WAC 480-106-040(1)(b).

The Commission is committed to improving the transparency of long-term planning in the evolving regulatory landscape. We are currently reviewing the natural gas IRP process and will communicate changes, if any, to regulated companies and interested persons.

STAY INFORMED OF THIS PROCEEDING

Information related to IRP proceedings, including comments filed by interested persons, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. Persons filing comments will receive future communications the Commission issues in these Dockets. 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.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to the relevant electric IRP Docket 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

If you have questions regarding this proceeding or the information contained in this Notice, you may contact the Deputy Assistant Director of Conservation and Energy Planning, Kathi Scanlan, at (360) 522-6813, or by email at kathi.scanlan@utc.wa.gov.

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary