



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

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

*(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203*

October 30, 2019

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC  
IMPACT STATEMENT (SBEIS) QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**(By 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019)**

**and**

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**  
**(Set for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2019)**

Re: Rulemaking to modify existing consumer protection and meter rules to include Advanced Metering Infrastructure  
Docket U-180525

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On July 10, 2018, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to modify existing consumer protection and meter-related rules to accommodate regulated utility deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technologies. The Commission filed the CR-101 in Docket U-180525.

The Commission solicited and received comments in September 2018 on the CR-101, distributed discussion draft rules for comment in December 2018, held a public comment hearing on February 21, 2019, and held a workshop on March 13, 2019. The Commission distributed revised draft rules for comment on August 14, 2019 and received comments on the revised drafts on September 16, 2019.

Commission staff (Staff) has prepared a matrix summarizing the latest comments and Staff's responses and has proposed further revisions to the draft rules. These documents are posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/180525>. The Commission will conduct a workshop to address issues raised in the comments and requests information from stakeholders on the small business economic impact of the draft proposed rules.

## COMMENTS ON SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Commission requests that affected companies provide information concerning whether the draft revised rules create additional costs for your company. The cost information you provide concerning these draft rules will assist the Commission to assess the possible costs of the proposed rule revisions and to determine whether a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) is required.

Washington's Regulatory Fairness Act, chapter 19.85 RCW, is intended to focus an agency's attention on the economic impact of proposed rules on affected businesses, involve affected businesses in developing rules, and minimize any disproportionate impact of the rules on small businesses.

Before adopting a rule that will impose more than minor costs on an industry, the Commission must analyze the compliance costs for **both large and small** businesses (including lost sales or revenue), involve small businesses in the development of the rule, take feasible steps to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses, and prepare an SBEIS. A "small business" is any profit-making entity that has 50 or fewer employees.

The Commission requests that companies submit to the Commission **no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019**, their analysis of whether the draft rules impose a cost impact on the company. Please be sure to include your company name, company contact person, contact phone number and email address and the number of people your company employs. For each draft rule for which you identify a cost impact, please provide, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Identify the rule number, *i.e.*, WAC 480-07-160 or 480-07-420, of the draft proposed rule that you identify as having a cost impact;
2. Identify whether there is any change from the current rule to the draft proposed rule that creates an **additional** cost impact on the company;
3. Explain why there will be a cost impact on the company;
4. Provide a detailed analysis of how you calculated the cost impact of each draft rule you identify as having a cost impact; and
5. Identify any draft proposed rule that may create a cost savings to the company compared to the current rule.

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-250(3), responses to the SBEIS questionnaire 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](http://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](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov) or by mailing or delivering 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 (U-180525).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

The Commission will post all written comments on its website at the following URL address: [www.utc.wa.gov/180525](http://www.utc.wa.gov/180525).

### **STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

Interested persons are invited to attend a stakeholder workshop on **Thursday, December 19, 2019, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in the Commission's Richard Hemstad Hearing Room, 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, Washington.** The comment matrix Staff has prepared identifies the issues the Commission will address during the workshop, and Staff will prepare an agenda in advance of the workshop.

The Commission encourages interested persons to attend the workshop in person. However, if any persons are unable to attend the workshop in person, they may participate remotely in one of two ways: (1) via telephone by calling (360) 407-3810 and entering the conference ID 9524028 when prompted, or (2) via Skype through the following URL: <https://lync.wa.gov/utc.wa.gov/meet/aldcalendar/12K3FDC0>.

If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact staff leads, Bridget Feeser, at (360) 664-1111 or by email at [bridget.feeser@utc.wa.gov](mailto:bridget.feeser@utc.wa.gov), or Greg Kopta, at (360) 664-1355, or by email at [gregory.kopta@utc.wa.gov](mailto:gregory.kopta@utc.wa.gov).

MARK L. JOHNSON  
Executive Director and Secretary