

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF
RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: July 26, 2017
DOCKETS: UE-170033/UG-170034
REQUESTER: The Energy Project

WITNESS: Jason L. Ball
RESPONDER: Jason L. Ball
TELEPHONE: (360) 664-1279

REQUEST NO. 6:

RE: Testimony of Jason L. Ball, Exhibit JLB-1T, at 23:8-9.

Mr. Ball states that one of the advantages of the Staff's proposed rate structure is that it "[p]rovides an avenue to introduce residential demand charges and unbundled rates in the future." Please provide:

- a. Citation to any Commission order, rule, policy or interpretive statement that discuss or expresses support for the adoption of residential demand charges or unbundled rates in Washington, or recommends that Staff propose such changes.
- b. Any testimony by Mr. Ball or other Staff witnesses in this or a prior case providing a justification for the adoption of residential demand charges or unbundled rates.
- c. A list of any UTC dockets in which regulated utilities have requested approval of residential demand charges or unbundled rates.

RESPONSE:

Objection. To the extent The Energy Project is asking Staff to research publicly-available Commission orders and summarize those documents, the request is overly burdensome and the requested information is obtainable from other sources that are more convenient, less burdensome, and less expensive. Commission orders, rules, policy or interpretive statements, Staff's filed-testimony, and UTC dockets in which regulated utilities have requested approval of residential demand charges or unbundled rates are publicly available to any interested party, including The Energy Project. Without waiving the above objections:

Demand Charges

- a,b,c. Staff is unaware of any Commission order, rule, policy, interpretive statement, testimony, or docket that refers to residential demand charges. This is primarily because the technology to implement residential demand charges (Automatic Metering Infrastructure) has only recently been considered for installation by various companies. Without this technology it is impossible to propose demand charges for residential customers.

Unbundled Rates

- a. Please refer to Attachment A to Staff's Response to The Energy Project's Data Request No. 6 – Washington Electric Utility Service Quality, Reliability, Disclosure

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and Cost Report filed with the Washington State Legislature by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in compliance with Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2831 on December 1st 1998.

Among other things, ESSH 2831 (1998) required utilities:

Except as provided in section 4 of this act, by September 30, 1998, every electric utility shall unbundle. At a minimum, an electric utility shall include in such unbundling the accounting treatment for generation and energy supply, delivery services separately identifying transmission, distribution, and control area services, metering and billing...

- b. Staff has been unable to locate any testimony by any staff member proposing unbundled residential rates from 2001 to the present.
- c. Staff has been unable to locate any docket in which a utility requested unbundled residential rates from 2001 to the present.