

From: janelindley@earthlink.net
To: [UTC DL Records Center; Griffith, Kate \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kevin Jones](#)
Subject: Fw: Comments Relating to Public Participation Docket UE-191023
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 5:07:44 PM
Attachments: [Comments Relating to Public Participation.docx](#)

Hi Kate,

I mistakenly send my comments to comments@utc.wa.gov, maybe other people did too.

Kevin - thank you for bringing my attention to this. I hope it's not too late.

Best,

Jane Lindley
Act 4 Climate
Bainbridge Island

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: "janelindley@earthlink.net"
Sent: Sep 11, 2020 3:07 PM
To: comments@utc.wa.gov
Subject: Comments Relating to Public Participation Docket UE-191023

**Comments Relating to Public Participation
within the 2nd Draft Rules IRP and CEIP
Docket UE-191023**

Sept 11, 2020

(Note: our edits are in red, below and attached.)

**WAC 480-100-630 Public participation in an integrated resource
plan (IRP).**

A utility's consultations with commission staff and public participation are essential to the development of an effective integrated resource plan (IRP) and two-year progress report.

The utility must inform, consult and involve stakeholders, as defined by the International Association for Public

~~Participation (IAP2), demonstrate and document how it considered public input~~ in the development of its IRP and two-year progress report ~~as well as demonstrate and document how it considered public input through the advisory group process and other public participation~~. Examples of how a utility ~~may~~ must incorporate public input include: using modeling scenarios, sensitivities, and assumptions stakeholders proposed; indicating whether and how the utility used public input; and communicating to stakeholders about how the utility used public input in its analysis and decision-making, including explanations for why any public input was not used.

All demonstrations, documentation, explanations and examples must be supported by sufficient credible data, as determined by the Commission.

(1) The utility must consult with stakeholders in advance of developing the timing and extent of meaningful and inclusive public participation identified in work plans for IRPs and two-year progress reports. As part of its work plans, the utility must provide a link to its website which must be

accessible to the public. The website must be updated in a timely manner and contain the following information:

(a) Video archives of all video conferences, and related

chat-box comments. Meeting summaries and materials for advisory group meetings, including materials for future meetings;

(b) A current schedule of advisory group meetings and significant topics to be covered, actively updated by the company, with meeting materials made available and changes highlighted;

(c) Information on how the public may participate in advisory group meetings; and

(d) Public comments received to date, including responses communicating how input was considered or used.

(2) The utility must make available completed presentation materials for each advisory group meeting at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

(3) The commission will hear comment on the draft IRP at a public hearing scheduled after the utility files its draft IRP. The commission will accept comments in electronic and any

other available formats, as outlined in the commission's notice for public meeting and opportunity to comment.

(4) The commission will hear comment on the final IRP at a public hearing scheduled after the utility files its final IRP. The commission will accept comments in electronic and any other available formats, as outlined in the commission's notice for public meeting and opportunity to comment. If the UTC is unable to conduct a FINAL IRP Hearing, the UTC should still require utilities to accept and respond to, on the utility website, public inputs and advisory group technical inputs on the FINAL IRP, fully explaining any rationale the utility used in the event any of these inputs are not included in the FINAL IRP analyses or document.

(5) The utility must file with the commission completed presentation materials at least five (5) business days prior to the public meeting.

(6) The utility must make all of its data inputs and files available in native file format and in an easily accessible format. Non-confidential contents of the IRP, two-year

progress report, and supporting documentation must be available for public review. Utilities may make confidential information available by providing it to the commission pursuant to WAC 480-07-160. Utilities ~~should~~ must minimize their designation of information in the IRP as confidential.

Such designation is subject to determination by the commission. Nothing in this subsection limits the protection of records containing commercial information under RCW 80.04.095.

WAC 480-100-655 Public participation in a clean energy implementation plan (CEIP).

A utility's consultations with commission staff and public participation are essential to the development of an effective CEIP, biennial update, and compliance reports. The utility must demonstrate and document how it considered public input in the development of its CEIP, biennial update, and compliance reports through the advisory group process and other public participation. Examples of how a utility may incorporate public input include: using modeling scenarios,

sensitivities, and assumptions stakeholders proposed;
indicating whether and how the utility used public input; and
communicating to stakeholders about how the utility used
public input in its analysis and decision-making, including
explanations for why any public input was not used. All
demonstrations, documentation, explanations and examples must
be supported by sufficient credible data, as determined by the
Commission.

(1) **Advisory groups.** The utility must involve all relevant
advisory groups in the development of its CEIP, its biennial
update, and compliance reports, including established low-
income, conservation, and resource planning advisory groups.
The utility must also create and engage an advisory group as
part of the process of ensuring the equitable distribution of
energy and non-energy benefits and reduction of burdens to
vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities as
required in WAC 480-100-610(4)(c)(i), as outlined in
subsection (2) of this section.

(a) The utility must convene advisory groups at regular
meetings open to the public during the planning process. A

utility must notify advisory groups of company and commission public meetings scheduled to address its CEIP, biennial update, and compliance reports.

(b) The utility must document public input gathered through advisory group meetings and other channels and demonstrate how the utility considered the public input. To the extent public input was considered but not incorporated into the final plan, the utility ~~should~~ must document and demonstrate how the public input was considered in the process, including explanations for why any public input was not used..

(c) Engaging with conservation, resource planning, low-income, and other advisory groups for the purposes of developing the CEIP does not relieve the utility of the obligation to continue to convene and engage these groups for their individual topical duties. This section does not supersede existing rules related to those groups.

(d) Nothing in this section limits utilities from convening and engaging public advisory groups on other topics, such as a distributed energy resources advisory group, necessary for the development or implementation of a CEIP, its biennial update,

and compliance report.

(e) Participation in an advisory group does not restrict groups and individuals from commenting on CEIP filings before the commission.

(2) **Equity advisory group.** A utility must maintain and engage an external equity advisory group of stakeholders to advise the utility on equity issues including, but not limited to, vulnerable population designation, equity indicator development, data support and development, and recommended approaches for the utility's compliance with WAC 480-100-610(4)(c)(i).

(a) The utility must encourage and include the participation of environmental justice and public health advocates, tribes, and representatives from highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations in addition to other relevant groups.

(b) A utility must meet regularly with its equity advisory group during the CEIP development and implementation. A utility must provide reasonable advance notice of all equity advisory group meetings.

(3) **Presentation materials available.** The utility must make

available completed presentation materials for each advisory group meeting discussing the CEIP at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting pursuant to subsection (5)(g)(i) of this section.

(4) **Draft CEIP for review.** The utility must provide a draft of its CEIP to its advisory groups and available to the public for comment two (2) months before it files the CEIP with the commission. At a minimum, the draft CEIP must include all the elements required under WAC 480-100-640 and to the extent practicable all appendices and attachments.

(5) **Participation plan and education.** The utility must involve stakeholders, as defined by the IAP2, in developing the timing and extent of meaningful and inclusive public participation throughout the development and duration of the CEIP, including outreach and education serving vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities. On or before March 1 of each odd-numbered year, a utility must file with the commission a participation plan that outlines its schedule, methods, and goals for public participation both during the development of its CEIP and throughout the implementation of the plan. The

utility must include the following in its participation plan:

(a) Timing, methods, and language considerations for seeking and considering input from:

(i) vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities for the creation of or updates to indicators and weighting factors for the utility's compliance with WAC 480-100-610(4)(c)(i);

and

(ii) all customers, including vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities, for the creation of or updates to indicators and weighting factors for the utility's compliance with WAC 480-100-610(4)(c)(ii) and (iii);

(b) Identification of barriers to public participation, including but not limited to language, cultural, economic, or other factors, and strategies for reducing barriers to public participation;

(c) A proposed schedule of formal and informal public meetings or engagement, including advisory group meetings;

(d) A list of significant topics that will be discussed;

(e) Plans to provide information and data in broadly understood terms through meaningful participant education;

(f) The date the utility will share the draft CEIP with advisory groups;

(g) The date the utility will file the final CEIP with the commission; and

(h) A link to a website accessible to the public and managed by the utility, to which the utility posts and makes publicly available the following information:

(i) Video archives of all video conferences, and related chat-box comments. Meeting summaries and materials for advisory group meetings, including materials for future meetings;
~~meeting summaries and materials for all relevant meetings, including materials for future meetings;~~

(ii) a current schedule of advisory group meetings and significant topics to be covered, and links to register for the meeting;

(iii) information on how the public may participate in CEIP development, including advisory group meetings; and

(iv) final plans, biennial updates, and compliance reports, posted within 30 days of final commission action.

(6) **Public comment summary.** As part of the filing of its CEIP

with the commission, a utility must provide a summary of public comments received during the development of its CEIP and the utility's responses, including whether issues raised in the comments were addressed and incorporated into the final CEIP, and documenting the reasons for rejecting public input. The summary must include a final, holistic review of the CEIP by the utility's equity advisory group. The utility must include the summary and equity group review document as an appendix to the final CEIP.

(7) **Customer notices.** Within ~~10~~ five (5) business days of filing the utility's CEIP, the utility must send notices to customers informing them of Chapter 19.405 RCW, briefly summarizing the utility's CEIP, including a web link that navigates to the full CEIP, and informing customers of how they may comment on the utility's filing. The notice must include:

- (a) The date the notice is issued;
- (b) The utility's name and address;
- (c) A statement that the commission has the authority to approve the CEIP, with or without conditions, or reject the

CEIP;

(d) A description of how customers may contact the utility if they have specific questions or need additional information about the CEIP; and

(e) Public involvement language pursuant to WAC 480-100-194(4)

(j).

(8) **Review of customer notices.** The utility must submit to the commission for review a copy of customer notices five (5) business days before the utility finalizes notices to send to customers.

(9) **Availability of data.** The utility must make all of its data inputs and files available in native file format and in an easily accessible format. Non-confidential contents of the CEIP, biennial update, and compliance reports, and supporting documentation must be available for public review. Utilities may make confidential information available by providing it to the commission pursuant to WAC 480-07-160. Utilities should minimize their designation of information in the CEIP as confidential. Nothing in this subsection limits the protection of records containing commercial information under RCW

80.04.095.

WAC 480-100-625 Integrated Resource Plan Timing.

Unless otherwise ordered by the commission, each electric utility must file an integrated resource plan (IRP) with the commission by January 1, 2025, and every ~~four~~ two years thereafter.

(1) IRP work plan. Not later than fifteen months prior to the due date of its IRP, the utility must file a work plan that includes advisory group input and outlines the content of the IRP and expectations for the subsequent two-year progress report. The utility must include the following in its work plan:

- (a) The methods for assessing potential resources;
- (b) The due date and proposed schedule for completing its conservation potential assessment, as outlined in WAC 480-109-100(2), and its demand response potential assessment, both of which will serve as inputs to the integrated resource plan;
- (c) A proposed schedule of meetings for the utility's resource planning advisory group and equity advisory group, as

established in WAC 480-100-655(2), for the IRP;

(d) A list of significant topics, consistent with WAC 480-100-620, that will be discussed at each advisory group meeting for the IRP;

(e) The date the draft IRP will be filed with the commission;

(f) The date the final IRP will be filed; and

(g) A link to a website accessible to the public and managed by the utility, to which the utility posts and makes publicly available the information identified in WAC 480-100-630(1).

(h) The proposed method the utility will use to evaluate advisory group technical inputs, including the approach used to achieve consensus on incorporation of advisory group technical inputs in the integrated resource plan analyses.

Submitted by:

Elyette Weinstein
Kevin Jones, Vashon Climate Action Group
Jane Lindley, Act 4 Climate

Act 4 Climate

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