



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)

October 15, 2013

**NOTICE OF RECESSED OPEN MEETING**  
**(To be held Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.)**  
**and**  
**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS**  
**(By 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2013)**

RE: Investigation of the costs and benefits of distributed generation and the effect of distributed generation on utility provision of electric service;  
Docket UE-131883

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Due to the growth of distributed generation (DG) of electric power in Washington and other states, there is significant discussion at the state and national level about the costs and benefits of DG, and the effect of DG on utility provision of electric service. For example, the California Public Utilities Commission recently released a draft Net Energy Metering Evaluation report.<sup>1</sup> The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) is interested in understanding these issues with respect to investor-owned utilities in the state of Washington. Recognizing that Washington's electric energy landscape is different than in other states, the Commission is interesting in examining the effects of DG, including that of net-metering on the relationship between revenue from rate schedules and between revenue derived from individual customers within a rate schedule.

To better understand the effects of DG, the Commission has scheduled a workshop as a recessed open meeting on **Wednesday, November 13, 2013**. To evaluate the costs,

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<sup>1</sup> California Public Utilities Commission, *Draft California Net Energy Metering Evaluation* (September 26, 2013), available at [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Solar/nem\\_cost\\_effectiveness\\_evaluation.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Solar/nem_cost_effectiveness_evaluation.html).

benefits and effects of DG on the provision of electric service in Washington, the Commission requests that electric utilities in the state, particularly investor-owned utilities, and interested parties, submit written comments with the Commission by **Wednesday, November 6, 2013**, on the issues identified above and include the following information:<sup>2</sup>

1. The total number of net metering customers, the total capacity of installed generation of the net metering customers as of October 31, 2013, on the company's system, and the company's net metering cap as of January 1, 2014.
2. A description of DG interconnected to the company's distribution system that is not enrolled in the net metering program, including the aggregated capacity for each generation type as of October 31, 2013.
3. Aggregated on a company-wide basis, the number of net metering credits that expired under RCW 80.60.030(5), on April 30 in 2011 and 2012, and the aggregate number of net metering credits awarded per month in 2011 and 2012.

While the Commission may identify additional topics for discussion at the workshop, but please be prepared to discuss the following topics during the workshop:

1. Studies by Washington utilities or other states that estimate the costs and benefits, and the method to value the costs and benefits of DG for the company and its ratepayers.
2. The aggregate amount of energy that flows from a utility's net metering customers onto the distribution system on a daily, monthly, or annual basis when the customer's load is less than its generation, regardless of the number of bill credits issued.
3. Whether the utility has identified feeder lines where DG could provide technical benefits, and if so, whether the utility would make that information publicly available through maps or other formats.
4. Whether the company has a strategy to participate in DG services on a regulatory or non-regulatory basis, and if so, what statutes or rules would need to be addressed to implement that strategy.

### **RECESSED OPEN MEETING**

The Commission will discuss these issues, comments and data provided, and will allow time for interested persons and stakeholders to provide feedback on the issues and ideas

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission is not requesting confidential information in this inquiry. If an interested person believes information responsive to this inquiry is confidential, please contact Yochi Zakai, by email at [yzakai@utc.wa.gov](mailto:yzakai@utc.wa.gov) or by calling (360) 664-1207, to clarify the information in question.

listed above at a recessed open meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, November 13, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** at the Commission's headquarters, Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. The Commission will issue an agenda for the workshop in the week prior to the workshop.

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

The Commission requests written comments and information in response to this notice. Written comments must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2013.** The Commission requests that the responses be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, reduce the need for paper copies, and facilitate quotations from the submissions. You may submit comments via the Commission's Web portal at [www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing) or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov). You must include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (UE-131883).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 2010 or later, a flash drive, or CD. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov).

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document. If you have questions regarding this Notice, you may contact Yochi Zakai, by email at [yzakai@utc.wa.gov](mailto:yzakai@utc.wa.gov) or by calling (360) 664-1207.

STEVEN V. KING  
Executive Director and Secretary