

11/12/20 08:55

State Of WASH
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

From: [Elyette Weinstein](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Docket UE-190698 and Docket UE-191023: Comments on Current Rule Draft
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:57:30 PM

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

November 11, 2020

In RE: Docket UE-190698 and Docket UE-191023.

Comments Regarding Public Participation Limitations of the Latest Rule Draft in the Above-referenced Proceeding

By Elyette M. Weinstein

The public participation statements in the latest draft of the proposed rules in the above-referenced proceeding limit IRP and CEIP planning phase participation to "advisory groups." This limitation bars input from individuals that utilities normally don't hear from. Such individuals may not be members of any organization. Nonetheless, they may have original, timely and valuable ideas to contribute. To bar such individuals from IRP or CEIP planning forecloses chances that their new ideas and innovations can be presented at this key foundational planning phase.

Moreover, such individuals may be directly affected by the proposed IRP or CEIP. In such cases, the proposed participation limitation nonetheless bars them from participation in the planning stage. Consequently, this exclusionary policy can work anti-democratically.

This exclusionary policy also undermines transparency. The proposed limitation can effectively exclude individual ratepayers or affected residents in favor of "insider" members of exclusive hand-picked "advisory groups" that will make or influence decisions without public scrutiny.

As an individual ratepayer, I exhort the Utilities and Transportation Commission to protect my right to participate in the planning stages of the IRP and CEIP processes. Please restore the public participation language of the previous draft of the rules at issue. Allow democracy and transparency to work.

Thank you for considering my comments.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." -- James Baldwin