



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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July 20, 2022

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL WORKSHOP  
(Set for Monday, August 29, 2022, at 1 p.m.)**

and

**NOTICE OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK FUNDING  
AND REQUEST FOR CASE CERTIFICATION  
(By Friday, September 30, 2022, at 5 p.m.)**

Re: Rulemaking to consider potential long-term changes and improvements to customer notice, credit, and collection rules, including permanent elimination of late fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, and deposits, Docket U-210800

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On March 18, 2022, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider potential long-term changes and improvements to customer notice, credit, and collection rules, including the permanent elimination of late fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, and deposits. The Commission filed the CR-101 in Docket U-210800. That same day, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments (March 18 Notice), which invited interested persons to file written comments and respond to a series of questions designed to inform the Commission's inquiry. The Commission received written comments from 11 interested parties.

On August 29, 2022, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) will convene a virtual workshop to address comments filed in response to the March 18 Notice. Workshop discussions will focus on initial comments. The Commission will issue a notice and agenda prior to the workshop identifying additional topics for discussion.

**THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that it will convene a virtual workshop in this matter on August 29, 2022, beginning at 1 p.m.** Although persons may participate by telephone, participation by computer or mobile application will make it easier to facilitate the

workshop, which will include a visual presentation and interactive discussion. To participate via Zoom, [click here to join meeting](#).<sup>1</sup>

To participate by phone, call (253) 215-8782, and enter Meeting ID 833 0942 4915# and the Passcode: 106727#.

## **PARTICIPATORY FUNDING.**

There may be financial assistance available for qualifying organizations to participate in this proceeding.<sup>2</sup> Qualifying organizations must represent broad customer interests, and include but not limited to organizations that represent low-income customers, commercial customers, industrial customers, vulnerable populations, or highly impacted communities.<sup>3</sup>

On February 24, 2022, the Commission approved an interim participatory funding agreement for qualifying organizations.<sup>4</sup> A copy of the interim agreement is available [here](#).

In 2022, a maximum of \$300,000 in program spending was made available from each electric or natural gas utility. The Commission may change the amount of program spending in future years.<sup>5</sup>

Organizations interested in applying for funding in this docket should follow the steps outlined in the interim agreement, which include (1) filing an agreement signature page in Docket U-210595, if one has not already been filed, and (2) filing a Notice of Intent to Seek Funding and Request for Case Certification in this docket (Docket U-210800) by September 30, 2022. Additional steps for seeking funding are outlined in the interim agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/83309424915?pwd=empYVzk4RElKZTFJVldlZGpldzIzQT09>.

<sup>2</sup> Docket U-210800 is an energy regulatory proceeding as contemplated by RCW 80.28.430, which requires energy utilities to provide financial assistance to certain organizations participating in regulatory processes before the Commission, and as contemplated by the Commission's Policy Statement in Docket U-210595, which provides high-level guidance for the implementation of RCW 80.28.430.

<sup>3</sup> RCW 80.28.430(1). The Commission prioritizes vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities (Prioritized Organizations) and has set aside at least one-third of each utility's funding cap for such Prioritized Organizations. The Commission provides for the interim payment of expenses incurred by these Prioritized Organizations during regulatory proceedings in order to support their participation, a lowered threshold for their eligibility such that it is easier for them to qualify for funding, and continued outreach to and training for these Prioritized Organizations to understand the opportunities provided by participatory funding.

<sup>4</sup> *In re Petition of Puget Sound Energy, et. al., for an Order Approving and Interim Participatory Funding Agreement Between Puget Sound Energy, et. al.*, Docket U-210595, Order 01 Approving Agreement with Modifications (Feb. 24, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> The Commission determines the amount of financial assistance, if any, that may be provided to any organization; the way the financial assistance is distributed; the way the financial assistance is recovered in a utility's rates; and other matters necessary to administer the agreement. Agreements for participatory funding must prioritize organizations that represent highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.

**THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that persons interested in applying for participatory funding must file a Notice of Intent to Seek Funding and Request for Case Certification in this docket by 5 p.m. on September 30, 2022.**

The Commission will review all Notices of Intent to Seek Funding and Requests for Case Certification, and will approve them, approve them with modifications, or reject them based on the public interest considerations outlined in the Commission's Policy Statement and in the approved interim agreement.

For more information, please see [Docket U-210595](#), including the Commission's [Policy Statement on Participatory Funding for Regulatory Proceedings](#) and to [Order 01](#).

### **MEETING PARTICIPATION**

If you wish to participate and need an interpreter, one will be provided at no cost to you. If you need an interpreter, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the meeting by calling (360) 664-1140 or by sending an email to [paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov](mailto:paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov).

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for the meeting, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the workshop by calling (360) 664-1132 or by sending an email to [human\\_resources@utc.wa.gov](mailto:human_resources@utc.wa.gov). For TTY service, please call the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-833-6384 or 711.

If you have questions regarding this Docket or the upcoming workshop, you may contact Andrew Roberts at [andrew.roberts@utc.wa.gov](mailto:andrew.roberts@utc.wa.gov) or (360) 664-1101.

*/s/ Amy Andrews on behalf of*  
AMANDA MAXWELL  
Executive Director and Secretary