



SERVICE DATE

JAN - 4 2001

STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

January 3, 2001

**OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON PROPOSED
RULES
(January 24, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION HEARING
(March 14, 2001)**

RE: Docket No. UE-990473
Electric Companies Rulemaking: 480-100 WAC

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

This letter is to inform you of the progress made toward rulemaking for Electric Operations, and to provide notice of an opportunity to file written comments on the proposed rule and participate in the formal rule adoption hearing.

On December 13, 2000, the Commission authorized the filing of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) with the Code Reviser. This action begins the final part of the rulemaking process, which includes a written comment period, a public adoption hearing, and a decision by the Commission.

NOTICE is hereby given of the opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed rules not later than 5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 24, 2001. The draft rules, as filed with the Code Reviser, are available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov. The Commission will send you a paper copy of the draft rules or will send the proposal via electronic mail, if you ask. Please see the information at the end of this letter describing how to reach the Commission.

Electronic copies. The Commission also requests, but does not require, that comments be provided in electronic format to facilitate quotations from the comments, to enhance public access, and to reduce the need for additional paper copies. Please help us by sending an electronic copy with your paper filing on a 3-1/2 inch, IBM-formatted, high density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format, reflecting the pagination of your original. Please also send us the text in your choice of .doc (Word 97 or later) or .wpd (Wordperfect 6.0 or later). Please include all of the following information on the label of the diskette:



- * The docket number of this proceeding (UE-990473)
- * The commenting party's name
- * The title and date of the comment or comments; and
- * The type of software used

Please use the three-letter extension noted above for all electronic files. You may also send your comments by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at [<records@wutc.wa.gov>](mailto:records@wutc.wa.gov); if you choose this means of submitting comments, please include all of the information requested above for the diskette label. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at [<http://www.wutc.wa.gov>](http://www.wutc.wa.gov).

NOTICE is also hereby given of the opportunity to attend the public hearing and make oral comments about the proposal for the adoption of the proposed rules at 9:30 AM, Wednesday, March 14, 2001. This public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W., Olympia, Washington.

Questions: If you have questions about this Notice about the rulemaking process, or this rulemaking in particular, you may contact Graciela Etchart. She may be reached by mail at the address on this Notice, or by e-mail at getchart@wutc.wa.gov, or by calling 360-664-1310.

Sincerely,



for CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary

Enclosure



PROPOSED RULE MAKING
(RCW 34.05.320)

SERVICE DATE

JAN - 4 2001

CR-102 (7/10/97)

Do NOT use for expedites adoption

Agency: WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Original Notice

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 99-08-105.

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

(a) Title of rule: (Describe Subject) Chapter 480-100 WAC Electric Companies. Rules establish requirements for electric companies.

Purpose: To conduct a general revision of the rules and to implement the requirements of Executive Order 97-02, requiring agencies to review significant rules for Need; Effectiveness and Efficiency; Clarity; Intent and Statutory Authority; Cost and Fairness. This included reviewing whether current rules provided the results they were originally intended to achieve and whether the rules were consistent with laws and with appropriate and lawful policies.

Other Identifying Information: Commission Docket No. UE-990473

(b) Statutory authority for adoption:

RCW 80.01.040 General, RCW 80.04.160 Rules and Regulations.

Statute being implemented:

(c) Summary: See (j) below.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed rule revisions appropriately improve the effectiveness of the rules, and ensure that they are serving their intended purpose. The proposed revisions are a result of four stakeholder workshops held in June and October 1999 and May 2000, written comments filed, and discussions with stakeholders and staff.

(d) Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for:

Office Location

Telephone

1. Drafting... Graciela Etchart, Utility Rate Research Specialist, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1310

2. Implementation... Carole J. Washburn, Secretary, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1174

3. Enforcement... Carole J. Washburn, Secretary, 1300 S. Evergreen Pk Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504 360-664-1174

(e) Name of proponent (person or organization)

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Private

Public

Governmental

(f) Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:
None

(g) Is rule necessary because of:

Federal Law? Yes No If yes, ATTACH COPY OF TEXT
Federal Court Decision? Yes No Citation:
State Court Decision? Yes No

(h) HEARING LOCATION:

Commission Hearing Room
Second Floor, Chandler Plaza,
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Date: March 14, 2001 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Assistance for persons with disabilities:
Contact Pat Valentine by March 1, 2001

TDD (360) 586-8203 or (360) 664-1133

Submit written comments to:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

FAX (360) 586-1150 By January 24, 2001

DATE OF INTENDED ADOPTION: March 14, 2001

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

JAN 2 2001

TIME 2:35 AM

WSR 01-02-083 PM

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT) CAROLE J. WASHBURN

SIGNATURE *Carole Washburn*

TITLE SECRETARY

DATE 1/2/01

(j) Short explanation of rule, its purpose, and anticipated effects:

All provisions currently codified in chapter 480-100 WAC are under review in Docket No. UE-990473. The review considers whether substantive changes or additional rules are required. The proposal recommends repealing all existing rules in order to allow the chapter to be more effectively organized. Current rules have been reviewed to consider whether they provide the results that they were originally intended to achieve and whether the rules are consistent with laws and with appropriate and lawful policies. New rules have been added to ensure clear communication of policies, processes, and procedures or to provide complete information important to regulated companies and the customers they serve.

Ninety-one rules are being proposed for amendment, repeal, or adoption.

Organization of the Chapter. Chapter 480-100 WAC has been reorganized in five parts (General Rules, Consumer Rules, Financial Records and Reporting Rules, Metering Rules, and Safety and Standards Rules) in order to facilitate its reading by the users.

General Rules. These rules contain information referred to in other sources, such as, but not limited to: statutes, Commission policies, Commission orders, and Interpretative statements. These sources are not always easily available to the public. Adopting rules in this Chapter makes the information readily available. Cross-references to the other sources makes it easier for users to research issues further should they wish to do so. Three new rules have been added to the General Rules part: proposed WAC 480-100-008, Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-100, proposed WAC 480-100-018, Severability, and proposed WAC 480-100-999, Adoption by reference. One rule, current WAC 480-100-061, Written contracts for service, is proposed to be moved to chapter 480-80 WAC.

Consumer Rules. Rules that refer to consumer issues have been reorganized and redrafted for clarity, as well as to meet consumers' current needs and to reflect existing commission practices. Two new rules have resulted from splitting current rules into compatible subject matters: WAC 480-100-133, Reconnecting service after disconnection and WAC 480-100-143, Winter low-income payment program. Additionally, two new rules are proposed, WAC 480-100-118, Nonresidential service deposit requirements and WAC 480-100-153, Disclosure of private information. Finally, proposed rule WAC 480-100-123, Refusal of service, is the result of combining current rules WAC 480-100-056, Refusal of service and WAC 480-100-116, Responsibility for delinquent accounts.

Financial Records and Reporting Rules. These rules have been redrafted for clarity and to reflect current Commission practices. One new rule, WAC 480-100-208, Financial reporting requirements, is the result of separating the reporting aspects from current WAC 480-100-031, Accounting.

Metering Rules and Safety and Standards Rules. These rules have been redrafted for clarity and updating with technical standards and industry practices. Proposed rule WAC 480-100-318, Meter readings, multipliers, and test constants, is the result of combining current rules WAC 480-100-126, Meter reading and WAC 480-100-156, Multipliers and test constants. Proposed rule WAC 480-100-338, Accuracy requirements for electric meters is the result of combining current rules WAC 480-100-141, Accuracy of watt-hour meters and WAC 480-100-146, Accuracy of demand meters.

Does proposal change existing rules? YES NO If yes, describe changes: See Item J above.

(k) Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement. A copy of the statement may be obtained by writing to:
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Records Center, Docket No. UE-990473
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
telephoning: (360) 664 1234 faxing: (360) 664 1150

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

(l) Does RCW 34.05.328 apply to this rule adoption? YES NO

Please explain: The Commission is not an agency to which RCW 34.005.328 applies.