

December 19, 2005

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Monday, January 9, 2006)**

RE: *Standards for Interconnection to Electric Utility Delivery Systems*
Docket No. UE-051106

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On August 12, 2005, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider establishing regulations to govern the interconnection of customer-owned generation facilities to investor-owned electric utility delivery systems. The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/051106.

A number of interested persons filed comments with the Commission on October 14, 2005. Among those comments was a proposal made jointly by the investor-owned utilities and a broad group of public utilities ("load-serving utilities") regarding uniform technical and procedural standards for interconnections of facilities up to 25 kW capacity. The load-serving utilities also proposed a process to develop such standards for interconnection of facilities of capacity higher than 25 kW.

The Commission convened a workshop on December 2, 2005, to further address the comments and proposal by the load-serving utilities and the other comments received. During and subsequent to the workshop the Commission received additional written comments and proposals through December 12, 2005.

The workshop discussion and written comments indicate that all stakeholders including the utilities wish the Commission to act quickly to develop and adopt an interconnection rule for facilities with a capacity of no more than 25 kW. Drawing on the written comments and the discussion at the workshop, Commission Staff have completed a discussion draft of new regulations to govern interconnection with electric generators with a generating capacity of not more than 25 Kilowatts of nameplate capacity. The

draft rule is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/051106.

The Commission invites comments on the draft rule. After review of such comments the Commission's intention is to move expeditiously to file a proposed rule (CR-102) with the Code Reviser by January 18, 2006. *Accordingly, we encourage interested parties to examine the draft rule carefully and to file written comments promptly, no later than January 9, 2006.*

In the past the Commission has scheduled a staff presentation of the rule that will be proposed through a CR-102 notice as an Open Meeting agenda item. The Commission has provided an opportunity for comment on the proposed rule at that Open Meeting. Because stakeholders are being given the opportunity to provide comments on this draft, and to also provide written or oral testimony on the proposed rule after the CR-102 is issued, the Commission will not schedule an Open Meeting discussion of the CR-102 notice for this rulemaking. The Commission is extremely interested in the views of all stakeholders regarding interconnection rules, but believes eliminating the extra Open Meeting step will allow for a more expeditious process.

A memorandum summarizing the comments received to date and how those comments are addressed in the draft rule and in this rulemaking schedule is available at the Commission's web site www.wutc.wa.gov/051106.

The Commission intends to schedule additional workshops and opportunities for written comment regarding interconnection of consumer-owned generating facilities of capacity greater than 25 kW. The schedule for these processes will be announced by further notice in this Docket.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the draft rule must be filed with the Commission no later than **Monday, January 9, 2006**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@wutc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (UE-051106)
- 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 97 or later. Include all of the information

requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at [www/wutc.wa.gov/051106](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/051106).

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Dick Byers at (360) 664-1209 or e-mail at <dbyers@wutc.wa.gov>.

Opportunity for further comment is anticipated. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- (1) call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234,
- (2) e-mail the Commission at <records@wutc.wa.gov>, or
- (3) mail written comments to the address below.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. UE-051106 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list(s). The Commission's mailing address is:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary