

May 21, 2010

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE STATEMENTS OF ISSUES
AND WRITTEN COMMENTS**

(Statements of Issues by Friday, June 11, 2010)

(CR-101 Comments by Thursday, July 22, 2010)

(Reply Comments by Thursday, August 5, 2010)

And

NOTICE OF TWO WORK SESSIONS

**(To be held Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. and
Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.)**

RE: Inquiry on Regulatory Treatment for Renewable Energy Resources
Docket UE-100849

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

On May 19, 2010, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to examine whether the Commission should consider adopting new regulations relating to the acquisition of renewable resources by Washington's investor owned electric utilities.

Specifically, the Commission will review and discuss:

1. The progress of investor-owned utilities in meeting the renewable portfolio standards (RPS) set by the Energy Independence Act (Initiative 937), RCW 19.285;
2. Whether the existing statutory and regulatory frameworks impede compliance with RPS requirements;
3. Whether the statutory and regulatory frameworks should encourage acquisition of renewable resources in excess of that required by the RPS;
4. Whether the Commission should consider adopting rules or new regulatory practices that would provide incentives for utilities and customers to acquire renewable resources; and,

5. Whether the Commission should propose any legislative changes relative to incentives for acquisition of renewable resources by utilities and customers.

This Inquiry will be open-ended in nature, so that no stakeholder should be limited in the issues it may wish to raise or in the comments it may make. However, the Commission intends to include in the Inquiry consideration of externalities associated with non-renewable resources that may impact utility and Commission decision-making, the impact of encouraging acquisition of renewable resources on other ratemaking practices including evaluation of a utility's rate of return, and the impact of further development of renewable resources on consumer rates.

The CR-101 is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at <www.utc.wa.gov/100849>. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the CR-101 mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

The Commission invites interested parties to participate in this proceeding according to the following schedule:

June 11, 2010	Deadline for "Statements of Issues and Positions" interested parties wish the Commission to consider in the process. These statements will be posted on the Commission's website and then discussed at the first public work session.
June 22, 2010	First Work Session, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room in Olympia.
June 30, 2010	Commission provides interested persons a consolidated "List of Issues" that will serve to structure written comments.
July 22, 2010	Comments in response to the Statement of Inquiry (CR-101), using the consolidated List of Issues.
August 5, 2010	Reply Comments due.
August 18, 2010	Second Work Session, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room in Olympia.

At the conclusion of this process, the Commission will decide what further action to take, including whether to request further comments, schedule further work sessions, or take some action, by rule or otherwise, or to articulate policy on the subjects of this proceeding.

The “Statements of Issues and Positions” requested to be submitted by June 11, 2010, is intended to ensure that the Commission is aware of all issues that the parties wish to address. Issues statements should be structured to include:

- a) Description of Problem: A statement citing regulatory or statutory provisions or practices that may make it difficult for a utility to reach its RPS goals or to acquire renewable energy resources.
- b) Description of Possible Solution: Clearly discuss recommended policy, rule or legislative solution(s) to the cited problem.
- c) Summary of Associated Issues: Identify any impacts on other regulatory practices, impacts on consumer rates, or any other issues associated with either the described problem or possible solution.

Issues will be discussed and refined during the first work session on June 22, 2010. On June 30, 2010, the Commission will distribute a consolidated list of issues to interested persons for use in their comments. Comments are to be submitted to the Commission by July 22, 2010, and in the second Work Session scheduled for August 18, 2010.

COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS

At the first work session, the Commission will lead a discussion that will focus on the Statements of Issues and Positions submitted and provide an opportunity for all participants to comment on the filed statements and to add new issues for discussion.

The Commission has scheduled one other work session, the details of which will be included in a future notice. Other work sessions may be scheduled as necessary.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The schedule for this Inquiry is set forth above. The Commission requests that any Statement of Issues and Initial and Reply comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing responses, to reduce the need for paper copies and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted via the Commission's Web portal (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). Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding: UE-100849
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is to mail/deliver an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, using Adobe Acrobat pdf format or in Word 97 or later format. 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 [<http://www.utc.wa.gov/100849>](http://www.utc.wa.gov/100849).

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Danny Kermod at (360) 664-1253 or e-mail at [<dkermod@utc.wa.gov>](mailto:dkermod@utc.wa.gov).

Your participation is welcomed via written comments and participation in any stakeholder work sessions. 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:

- Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234.
- E-mail the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov.
- Mail written comments to the address below.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket UE-100849 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

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

NOTICE

If you do not want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Executive Director and Secretary in a manner described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket UE-100849. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. DANNER
Executive Director and Secretary