



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

May 22, 2015

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Monday, June 22, 2015)
and
NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Set for Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.)

Re: Rulemaking to Consider Adoption of Rules Relating to Rail Safety,
Docket TR-151079

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On May 20, 2015, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider rules within WAC 480-62 to update railroad annual reporting requirements on financial responsibility and safety standards for private crossings and to provide opportunities for first-class cities to opt in to the Commission crossing safety program. The Commission filed the CR-101 under Docket TR-151079.

The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's website at www.utc.wa.gov/151079. 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 regulates public safety issues of railroads operating within Washington. Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1449, Chapter 274, Laws of 2015, adopts financial responsibility reporting requirements that railroads hauling crude oil must include in the annual reports they submit to the Commission. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Commission to enforce safety standards for private crossings and enables first-class cities to opt in to the Commission's rail crossing safety program.

The Commission is seeking written comments from interested persons related to rules to enhance the transportation of hazardous materials in Washington. Responses to the following questions would be most helpful to the Commission:

1. What is your definition of a reasonably likely worst-case spill of oil?
2. What is a reasonable per-barrel cleanup and damage cost of spilled oil?
3. What risk factors should the Commission consider in establishing safety standards on private crossings?

The Commission invites initial written comments on these and other issues related to developing rules to improve rail safety. The Commission will conduct a workshop on July 8, 2015, to address these issues.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the CR-101 inquiry must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, June 22, 2015**. 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. You may submit comments via the Commission's Web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket numbers of this proceeding (Docket TR-151079).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or compact disk including the filed document(s). Parties must furnish electronic copies in MS Word 6.0 (or later) supplemented by a separate file in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) 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 www.utc.wa.gov/151079.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically the Commission will accept a paper document. If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact staff lead, Jason Lewis, at (360) 664-1206, or by email at jlewis@utc.wa.gov.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

In addition to filing written comments, interested persons are invited to attend a stakeholder workshop on **Wednesday July 8, 2015, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.** At the workshop, Commission staff will review and discuss comments with the stakeholders.

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website 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
- Email the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov
- Mail written comments to the address below

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket TR-151079 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 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 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 one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket TR-151079. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary