



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 15, 2021

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(Response due Friday, April 9, 2021, by 5 p.m.)

RE: Notice of Inquiry into Reducing the Administrative Burden in Support of the Commission's Ongoing Inquiry into the Adequacy of the Current Regulatory Framework
Docket U-210151

TO ALL ENERGY UTILITIES:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) initiates this inquiry into reducing the administrative burden to review the recurring filings utilities are obligated to file with the Commission by statute, rule, or order. The Commission's interest is to identify these filings, and, working with utilities and stakeholders, determine which of these filings are no longer necessary or could be consolidated.

The Commission recognizes that this initiative may have relevance to topics the agency has begun addressing in Docket U-180907, which the Commission initiated on November 7, 2018. Topics addressed in Docket U-180907 included adequacy of traditional rate-base, rate-of-return regulation, and the potential use of alternative frameworks, such as performance-based regulation, multi-year rate plans, or other flexible regulatory mechanisms.

The work in Docket U-180907 has been delayed for numerous reasons. While the Commission desires to continue these discussions in light of the continually changing energy landscape, recently enacted legislation, and requests for continued work from utilities and stakeholders, several legislative initiatives have been proposed that may impact how we proceed. We do not intend for our actions in that docket or this notice to interfere with any pending legislation. Accordingly, we will focus our initial efforts on the potential to reduce the administrative burden, both on the Commission and regulated utilities, by reducing or eliminating certain required utility filings until the end of the 2021 legislative session. Once the legislative session

concludes, we will resume addressing the broader issues in Docket U-180907, and if appropriate, may consolidate the topics of this docket with those in Docket U-180907.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

The Commission requests that utilities provide information regarding recurring filings that are required by statute, rule, or Commission order. We request each utility to complete the *Utility Filings* template, provided as Attachment A to this Notice, so the Commission is better able to compile a comprehensive listing of required filings. Following responses to the Notice, the Commission will provide an opportunity for stakeholder feedback to assist the Commission in determining which filings may no longer be useful, with the understanding that the path to addressing these outdated or unnecessary filings may require different resolutions (*e.g.*, those required by statute rather than by rule or Commission orders).

Utility responses to this Notice are requested no later than **5 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021**. The Commission requests that utilities submit the provided template in electronic format to allow Commission Staff to compile a comprehensive list. Completed templates may be submitted 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 number of this proceeding (U-210151).
- The utility name.
- The title and date of the response.

Questions may be directed to Brad Cebulko, Senior Policy Advisor, at (360) 259-5315 or bradley.cebulko@utc.wa.gov.

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary