



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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December 2, 2024

**NOTICE OF CONTINUANCE**

RE: *Commission-led Policy Statement to Address the Application of Equity and Justice in Commission and Regulated Companies' Processes and Decisions in Docket A-230217.*

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

On September 29, 2023, the Commission initiated Docket A-230217 by issuing a Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments (Notice). The Notice outlined the four tenets of energy justice,<sup>1</sup> recent legislative changes requiring the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) to advance equity and modify the way its regulated entities conduct business,<sup>2</sup> and a scope of work that included interim policy statements addressing each of the four tenets of energy justice.<sup>3</sup>

On April 30, 2024, the Commission held its first workshop to discuss the implementation of procedural justice within the context of utility regulation as well as industry best practices and included a public comment period.

Following the Procedural Justice workshop, the Commission posted a Work Plan detailing the schedule of future work in this docket, culminating in an integrated final Policy Statement and Action Plan by March 30, 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> Procedural Justice, Recognition Justice, Distributive Justice, and Restorative Justice as developed by the [University of Michigan Energy Equity Project](#).

<sup>2</sup> This legislation includes the Clean Energy Transformation Act, RCW 19.405, and the Multi-Year Rate Plan (MYRP) statute, RCW 80.28.425, RCW 80.28.430. While the UTC, as an independent regulatory commission, is not covered by Executive Order 22-04, which requires executive cabinet level state agencies to implement Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism (PEAR) plans, the Commission is nonetheless working to develop and implement PEAR plans to further promote equity, diversity, and inclusion at the agency.

<sup>3</sup> The initial notice estimated a two-year timeframe to complete these four Policy Statements by March 2026.

While the Commission understands the importance and critical nature of this anticipated guidance, the Commission has determined it needs to adjust the schedule of the work in this proceeding until the first quarter of 2025 to re-evaluate and clarify the scope of work required. We want the result of this proceeding to provide clear guidance to utilities on specific actions we expect them to take to meaningfully advance equity and energy justice goals.

Over the next few months, the Commission will re-evaluate the cadence and scope of the initially proposed four policy statements to more accurately reflect the resources available to both the Commission and interested parties. Since this is a critical endeavor that impacts companies, rate payers, and interested parties, and because the timing of this effort is important to all, the Commission plans to review the schedule dedicated for such consequential guidance.

Since the Commission issued its preliminary guidance on equity,<sup>4</sup> we have been heartened by the utilities' continued efforts to reduce energy burdens and advance equity issues in their Multi-Year Rate Plan (MYRP) and Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) dockets, as well as in the Commission's Performance Based Ratemaking (PBR) dockets. The Commission acknowledges the commitment the utilities have shown to promote equity in their services and operations, and we expect this commitment will continue.

### **STAY INFORMED**

Information related to this proceeding, including comments filed by interested persons, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. Persons filing comments will receive future communications the Commission issues in this Docket. If you do not file comments but wish to receive such information you may contact the Commission's Records Center by telephone at (360) 664-1139 or by email at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov) and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket A-230217.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket A-230217 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  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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<sup>4</sup> See *WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation*, Docket UG-210755 Order 09 ¶ 58 (August 23, 2022)

If you have any questions regarding this proceeding or the information contained in this Notice, you may contact either Andrew Sellards, Energy Policy Advisor at (360) 664-1112 or [Andrew.Sellards@utc.wa.gov](mailto:Andrew.Sellards@utc.wa.gov) or Aaron Cahen, Energy Policy Advisor at (360) 489-2666 or [Aaron.Cahen@utc.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Cahen@utc.wa.gov).

JEFF KILLIP,  
Executive Director and Secretary