



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

**Subject of possible rule making:** The subject of this inquiry is to consider whether the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) should develop a new rule and/or modify existing rules in WAC 480-90 (Gas Companies) and WAC 480-100 (Electric Companies) to address problems with inaccurate energy usage metering, which results in retroactive billing of electric and natural gas customers. This inquiry addresses key concerns of both the companies and Commission staff regarding reducing the length of retroactive bills while recognizing: (1) equipment breaks; (2) some customers do not notify the company immediately upon moving in; and (3) companies may not have complete control over how quickly these issues can be identified without significantly increasing costs that would ultimately be borne by all ratepayers. This rulemaking has been assigned Docket U-144155

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 80.01.040 and RCW 80.04.160

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** The Commission is responsible for protecting consumers by ensuring that investor-owned utility services are fairly priced, available, reliable, and accurate. Consumers have a right to timely and accurate bills each month. It is reasonable to expect utilities to identify and correct stopped meters, as well as, unidentified energy usage within a reasonable timeframe. Initial data provided by the utilities indicate that customers are continuing to receive retroactive bills for periods in excess of six months, and in some cases, more than 12 and 24 months. A rulemaking would establish common standards for all the regulated energy utilities.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**

N/A

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**


- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) The Commission will ask for initial written comments and conduct such other process as necessary to gather the information necessary to determine whether rules should be proposed or modified.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Interested persons may file comments with the Executive Director and Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington 98504-7250; Telephone (360) 664-1174; Fax (360) 586-1150, Web portal at [www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing); or through email at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov); by 5:00 p.m., March 23, 2015.

\*For specific information regarding opportunities for written comments and to ensure receipt of further information concerning this rulemaking, please see the attachment to this form.

<b>DATE</b> February 18, 2015
<b>NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)</b> Steven V. King
<b>SIGNATURE</b> 
<b>TITLE</b> Executive Director and Secretary

<b>CODE REVISER USE ONLY</b>
OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER STATE OF WASHINGTON FILED
<b>DATE: February 18, 2015</b>
<b>TIME: 10:23 AM</b>
<b>WSR 15-05-082</b>

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**CR-101 - ATTACHMENT**  
**DOCKET U-144155**

Interested persons may contact the Executive Director and Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7250, 360-664-1174 (Fax: 360-586-1150).

**WRITTEN COMMENTS AND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

The Commission has scheduled a stakeholder workshop in this rulemaking for **May 20, 2015, beginning at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. Written comments may be submitted to the Commission at the address given above and should be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, March, 23, 2015**, for consideration at the May 20, 2015, stakeholder workshop.

Electronic copies. 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 via the Commission's web portal at [www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://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 (U-144155)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments may be by mailing/delivering an electronic copy on a flash drive, compact disk, or 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later version. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's website all comments that are provided in electronic format. The website is located at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/144155>. If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document.

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 website 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) email the Commission at [<records@utc.wa.gov>](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov), or (3) mail written comments to the address above to the attention of Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket U-144155 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. Questions may be addressed to Roger Kouchi (360) 664-1101, or email at [rkouchi@utc.wa.gov](mailto:rkouchi@utc.wa.gov).

## NOTICE

**TO CONTINUE RECEIVING NOTICES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RULEMAKING** -- The Commission wants to ensure its mailings are sent to persons who are interested in the topic and want to receive that information. **ANY PERSON WHO COMMENTS** will continue to receive notices and information. If you do not submit comments but wish to remain on the mailing list for this rulemaking, please advise the Records Center by any one of the following methods: (1) send a note with your name, address (or a copy of your mailing label), and telephone and fax numbers referencing Docket U-144155, and the words "Please keep me on the mailing list"; or (2) E-mail your name, address, telephone and fax numbers, referencing Docket U-144155, and the words "Please keep me on the mailing list" to <[records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)>. Please note that all information in the mailings will be accessible through the Commission's Internet web site at <<http://www.utc.wa.gov/144155>>. **THOSE INTERESTED PERSONS WHO DO NOT RESPOND MAY NOT RECEIVE FURTHER MAILINGS OR INFORMATION ON THE RULEMAKING.**