

DRAFT

(Legislative Version)

Draft Integrated Resource Planning Requirements for Electric Utilities

WAC 480-100-238 Integrated Resource Planning. (1) Purpose. Each electric utility regulated by the commission has the responsibility to meet its load with a lowest reasonable cost mix of resources. In furtherance of that responsibility, each electric utility must develop an "integrated resource plan".

(2) Definitions.

(a) "Integrated resource plan" or "plan" means a plan describing the mix of generating resources and improvements in the efficient use of electricity that will meet current and future needs at the lowest reasonable cost to the utility and its ratepayers.

(b) "Lowest reasonable cost" means the lowest cost resulting from an exhaustive and detailed analysis of all alternative sources and mixes of supply, considerations of market-volatility risks of generating and demand-side resources, and of system reliability and operational risks.

(3) Content. At a minimum, integrated resource plans must include:

(a) A range of forecasts of future demand using methods that examine the effect of economic forces on the consumption of electricity and that address changes in the number, type, and efficiency of electrical end-uses.

(b) An assessment of technically feasible improvements in the efficient use of electricity, including load management, as well as an assessment of currently employed and new policies and programs needed to obtain the efficiency improvements.

(c) An assessment of technically feasible generating technologies. .

(d) A comparative evaluation of generating resources and improvements in the efficient use of electricity based on a consistent method for calculating cost-effectiveness.

(e) The integration of the demand forecasts and resource evaluations into a long-range (i.e., of a duration appropriate to the life of the resources considered for acquisition) integrated resource plan describing the mix of resources that will meet current and future needs at the lowest reasonable cost to the utility and its ratepayers.

(f) A short-term (e.g., two-year) plan outlining the specific actions to be taken by the utility in implementing the long-range plan.

(4) Timing. Unless otherwise ordered by the commission, each electric utility must submit an IRP within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission. Not later than 16 months prior to the due date of a plan, the utility must provide a work plan for Commission review.

(5) Work plan. The work plan must outline the content of the integrated resource plan to be developed by the utility and the method for assessing potential resources. Consultations with commission staff and public participation are essential to the development of an effective plan. The work plan must also outline the timing and extent of public participation and must be conducted in consultation with staff.

(6) All integrated resource plans must include a progress report that relates the new plan to the previously filed plan.

(7) The Commission will consider the information reported in the integrated resource plan, along with other available information, at a public hearing on the plan and when it evaluates the performance of the utility in rate and other proceedings.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 01-11-004 (Docket No. UE-990473, General Order No. R-482), § 480-100-238, filed 5/3/01, effective 6/3/01.]