

[Service Date July 2, 2004]

July 2, 2004

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO SMALL BUSINESS
ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT SURVEY (SBEIS)
(Due by July 16, 2004)**

Re: Financial Reporting Rules
Docket No. A-021178 and TO-030288

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Commission Staff is conducting a survey to assess the incremental costs and benefits of the draft financial reporting rules. The draft rules and the SBEIS survey form are posted on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/021178 and www.wutc.wa.gov/030288. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the proposed draft rules and SBEIS survey, please contact the Commission's records center at 360-664-1234.

Responses to SBEIS Survey. The Commission requests that companies provide information concerning whether the draft financial reporting rules developed by Commission Staff for chapters 480-480-70 (Solid Waste and/or Refuse Collection Companies), 480-73 (Pipeline Companies), 480-90 (Gas Companies), 480-92, (Low-Level Radioactive Waste), 480-100 (Electric Companies), 480-110 (Water Companies), and 480-120 (Telecommunications Companies) create additional costs for your company. The cost information you provide concerning these draft rules will assist the Commission in assessing the possible costs of the rules and determining whether a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) is required.

Washington's Regulatory Fairness Act, chapter 19.85 RCW, is intended to focus an agency's attention on the economic impact of proposed rules on affected businesses, involve affected businesses in developing rules, and minimize any disproportionate impact of rules on small businesses.

Before adopting a rule that will impose more than minor costs on an industry, the Commission must analyze the compliance costs for **both large and small** businesses (including lost sales or revenue), involve small businesses in the development of the rule, take feasible steps to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses, and prepare an SBEIS. A “small business” is any profit-making entity that has 50 or fewer employees.

The Commission requests that companies submit to the Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 16, 2004**, their responses to the survey.

Interested persons may submit their responses to the SBEIS survey in any of the following ways:

- By e-mail to records@wutc.wa.gov;
- On a 3-1/2-inch IBM formatted diskette, in ASCII text, .pdf format, Word 97 or later, or WordPerfect version 5.1 or later. (Responses should be labeled with the docket number of this proceeding (A-021178 or TO-030288) and the responder's name and type of software used.); or
- A paper copy of the responses.

SBEIS survey responses delivered by mail or courier should be addressed to: Executive Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504-7250.

Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including SBEIS survey responses, will be posted on the Commission's web site at <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/021178> and <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/030288> as it becomes available.

The Commission appreciates your prompt consideration and response in this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Fred Ottavelli at 360-664-1297, or fottavel@wutc.wa.gov or Sharyn Bate at 360-664-1295, or sbate@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary